

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

PMC-8

Nuku'alofa, Tonga • 10, 11, 14 September 2026

Eighth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-8)

Weather Ready for a Secured and Sustainable Pacific

10, 11, 14 September 2026 | Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Agenda Item 21.4: Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) Pacific

Purpose:

The purpose of this Information Paper is to provide the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) with an update on the contribution of the Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) Pacific Programme funded by European Union to strengthening climate services across the region; highlight key interventions and implementation lessons; and outline priorities towards the conclusion of the Programme on 30 November 2027.

With ClimSA scheduled to conclude before the next meeting of the PMC, PMC-8 provides an important opportunity to reflect not only on what the Programme has delivered, but also on what will remain with Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and the region after ClimSA has ended.

Objectives:

- Highlight key ClimSA investments and the difference these are making at national and regional levels.
- Share implementation lessons that can help inform the design and delivery of future investments supporting Pacific NMHSs.
- Outline the remaining priorities to November 2027 and the arrangements required to sustain ClimSA investments beyond project closure.

Background:

ClimSA Pacific commenced on 1 June 2021 and is implemented by SPREP in close collaboration with Pacific NMHSs, regional organisations, technical partners and sector stakeholders. The Programme seeks to strengthen the climate services value chain, from observations and climate data through regional systems and technical capability to climate products, sector engagement and the use of climate information in decision-making. Following an approved no-cost extension, the Programme will conclude on 30 November 2027.

While ClimSA provides regional support to Pacific NMHSs, direct national interventions have focused particularly on Samoa, Kiribati, Tonga and Nauru, with additional targeted support provided to other countries, including Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. As the Programme enters its final implementation period, the focus is on completing outstanding investments, consolidating gains and ensuring that the infrastructure, systems, capability and partnerships established through ClimSA can continue beyond the life of the Programme.

From Investment to Impact

Moving from assessment to implementation

One important approach under ClimSA has been to move beyond identifying needs and gaps. Pacific NMHSs continue to participate in assessments, reviews and technical studies that are important in identifying areas requiring improvement. However, identifying a need does not necessarily resolve it. Implementation requires resources, technical support and country ownership.

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ClimSA has therefore sought, where possible, to connect identified country needs with dedicated resources for implementation. This has included investments in observing infrastructure, climate data rescue and digitisation, drought preparedness, Quality Management Systems, climate services for agriculture and fisheries, communication systems, national climate forums and capacity development.

The lesson: future climate-service investments should, where possible, provide resources not only to identify what needs to be done, but also to enable NMHSs to act on the recommendations.

Bringing investment closer to NMHSs

Regional coordination, project management and specialist technical expertise remain essential to the delivery of regional programmes. However, ClimSA has sought to ensure that this support translates into tangible capability, infrastructure and services at the national level. The focus has therefore been not only on the people implementing the Programme, but on what remains with NMHSs when the Programme ends.

A good example is the investment in national observing systems. ClimSA has supported new Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) across Samoa, Kiribati and Tonga, together with the rehabilitation of existing stations in Samoa. The infrastructure investment has been accompanied by specialised technical training for national technicians covering factory acceptance, installation, commissioning, troubleshooting and maintenance.

This approach recognises that an AWS installed in a country is only the beginning. Long-term value depends on trained people, maintenance, calibration, spare parts, communications and national operational resources. ClimSA is therefore aligning major infrastructure investments with longer-term regional arrangements, including Weather Ready Pacific.

Related story: <https://www.pacificrcc.net/news/reading-sky-how-new-automatic-weather-stations-are-protecting-pacific-food-families-and>

Strengthening Pacific capability to support the Pacific

ClimSA has also sought to make greater use of technical capability already available within the Pacific. This includes regional and country support through Fiji Meteorological Services for climate data rescue and digitisation; training on climate data management; the Basic Instruction Package for Meteorological Technicians (BIP-MT); postgraduate scholarships; ICT scripting; Knowledge Brokers; Quality Management System support; and technical attachments.

This Pacific-to-Pacific approach provides an opportunity to retain knowledge and expertise within the region, build relationships between NMHSs and reduce long-term dependence on external technical assistance.

The lesson: where technical capability already exists within Pacific NMHSs and institutions, Pacific-to-Pacific technical cooperation should increasingly be considered as a preferred implementation option.

Related story: <https://www.facebook.com/FijiMetService/posts/strengthening-weather-services-in-the-pacific-fiji-meteorological-service-delive/1500987068737358/>

From climate information to decisions

Infrastructure and data are only useful if they ultimately contribute to services that people can use. ClimSA has therefore invested across the climate-services value chain. At the regional level, this includes support to the Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICO), the Pacific Regional Climate Watch, climate-impact information and the Pacific Regional Climate Centre Network. At country level, ClimSA has supported National Climate Outlook Forums, agriculture and fisheries products, drought preparedness, maritime services, public communication tools and plans to introduce climate tools such as Climate Station and Climate Servicer.

Examples include agriculture climate products in Samoa, fisheries climate services in Kiribati and Samoa, drought preparedness work across several countries, and national and regional climate outlook forums that bring climate-service providers together with users.

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The lesson: climate services work best when users are part of developing the service, rather than simply receiving a product at the end.

Related story: <https://www.pacificrcc.net/news/kiribati-convenes-fourth-national-climate-outlook-forum-marking-four-years-sustained-climate>

Building regional systems that can outlive the project

One of ClimSA's most important regional contributions has been its investment in strengthening the Pacific Regional Climate Centre Network (Pacific RCC-Network). The Programme has supported RCC governance, systems, products, training and the RCC website, alongside regional mechanisms including PICO and other User Interface Platforms. ClimSA has also invested in climate information systems, the Regional Climate Watch and Pacific climate-impact tools.

The importance of these investments is that they are not intended to operate as stand-alone ClimSA activities. The objective is to strengthen regional mechanisms that continue to support Pacific NMHSs after project financing has ended. PICO provides a good example: ClimSA did not create PICO; rather, it invested in strengthening and improving an existing Pacific mechanism that is institutionally anchored under PMC and the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership.

Related story: <https://www.pacificmet.net/news/el-nino-likely-mid-2026-pacific-islands-climate-outlook-forum-18-warns>

Sustainability starts before the project closes

The final phase of ClimSA is not only about completing activities. It is also about asking a more difficult question: what happens on 1 December 2027?

ClimSA's approach to sustainability has focused on embedding investments within existing Pacific governance arrangements, strengthening national ownership and aligning longer-term climate-service investment with the regional framework beyond ClimSA. An important example is Kiribati, where the Kiribati Meteorological Service has drafted a Cabinet paper seeking national endorsement and budget allocation for the sustainability of ClimSA-funded investments. This is an important step towards moving from project ownership to national ownership.

This is particularly important for physical infrastructure. ClimSA's investments in AWS, ocean observing buoys and digital climate-service systems are intended to operate well beyond the life of the Programme, but this will require continuing maintenance, technical capability and national and regional support.

Related story: <https://sprep.org/news/eu-funded-climsa-hands-over-usd695000-climate-services-package-to-samoa-met>

Investing in Pacific Climate Services

Move from assessment to implementation. Assessments remain important, but their value is greater where there is a pathway and resources to implement agreed recommendations.

Put investment closer to the NMHS. Regional coordination and technical expertise are necessary, but they should ultimately translate into stronger national infrastructure, capability and services.

Invest in people together with infrastructure. Equipment alone does not create a sustainable service. Training, maintenance arrangements, spare parts, data management and operational resources need to be considered as part of the investment.

Use Pacific capability where it exists. Pacific-to-Pacific technical cooperation can strengthen regional expertise, institutional relationships and longer-term self-reliance.

Coordinate regional support. The same NMHS officers are often supporting several regional projects and training programmes at the same time. Better coordination of assessments, training, technical assistance and country engagement will help reduce duplication and "training fatigue".

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Plan sustainability before the final year. National ownership, operational budgets, maintenance arrangements and regional institutional support need to be considered while project resources are still available.

From PMC-8 to November 2027

The remaining period of ClimSA will focus on completing and consolidating approved regional and national interventions. Priority areas include completing outstanding AWS and ocean buoy installations; progressing Quality Management System work in Tonga and Kiribati; advancing drought early-warning support; strengthening national climate forums; completing remaining capacity-development activities; progressing data rescue and digitisation; and finalising sustainability arrangements.

The Programme is targeting implementation of all approved activities as it moves towards full delivery and closure in November 2027.

Final-period principle: Complete the investment; strengthen ownership; and leave countries and regional mechanisms in a position to continue the work after ClimSA.

Looking Beyond ClimSA

ClimSA will close on 30 November 2027. The climate-service needs that the Programme has been supporting will not.

The longer-term measure of the Programme's success will therefore not only be how many activities were completed or how much funding was delivered by November 2027. It will be how much of what was established continues to function after ClimSA has closed.

This includes observing infrastructure that remains operational; climate records that remain accessible; Pacific technical expertise that continues to be shared; climate products that continue to respond to user needs; national climate forums that continue to convene; and regional mechanisms such as PICO and the Pacific RCC-Network that continue to support NMHSs.

For the full ClimSA story: This Information Paper highlights only some of the interventions and lessons from ClimSA Pacific. PMC Members are encouraged to view the [ClimSA Pacific Annual Report 2025–2026](#) for the wider account of country and regional interventions, results and progress towards November 2027.

Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- I. **Note** the progress and contribution of ClimSA Pacific in strengthening climate services at national and regional levels, and the Programme's final implementation period to 30 November 2027.
- II. **Recognise** the investments made through ClimSA and encourage NMHSs and relevant national authorities to progressively integrate the operation, maintenance and continuation of ClimSA-supported infrastructure, systems and services into national planning and budget processes.
- III. **Encourage** future regional climate and meteorological projects to maintain an appropriate balance between regional technical support (staff and operations cost) with National/Country interest and investment as the priority and, where assessments identify agreed priority gaps, to provide a clear pathway and resources for implementation.
- IV. **Encourage** greater use of Pacific-to-Pacific technical cooperation where appropriate, prioritising the existing expertise available within Pacific NMHSs and regional institutions.
- V. **Encourage** stronger coordination among regional programmes supporting NMHSs, particularly in relation to assessments, technical assistance, training and country engagement, to minimise duplication and pressure on limited national human resources.
- VI. **Encourage** regional projects and programmes to strengthen project management competency within NMHSs, so countries are better equipped to manage and sustain project-funded investments and progressively take greater ownership of their implementation.

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- VII. **Encourage** the implementation lessons from ClimSA - particularly country ownership, implementation following assessment, investment in national people alongside infrastructure, maintenance and early sustainability planning - to inform the design of future investments supporting Pacific NMHSs.