

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 22.3: Coordinating Communications to Support Communities

Purpose:

1. Provide updates on communications and knowledge brokering activities undertaken in the Pacific Region to support the NMHS community, aligned to the current Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy.
2. Seek approval from the Pacific Meteorological Council for a Knowledge Brokers and Communications Community of Practice (CoP) for Pacific NMHSs, with secretariat functions to be provided by the Climate Science and Information Programme at SPREP.

Background

Updates since PMC-7:

1. PMC-7 Outcome: Request partners support SPREP and the fundraising efforts of other development partners to help amplify the voice of Pacific NMHS for a resilient inclusive Pacific through the range of communications and media capacity building and profiling activities.
Update: Establishment of the Pasifika Met News E-Newsletter.
2. PMC-7 Outcome: Recommend SPREP to assess the relevance of initiating a community of practice for communications professionals and knowledge brokers in the meteorology and hydrology domain.

Update: Capacity development initiatives focused on improving science communication and knowledge brokering have been funded and implemented by SPREP, (through the Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications Programme (ClimSA) Pacific), with the completion of 2 sub-regional trainings and 2 in-country (Samoa and Kiribati) training for Climate and Weather Officers on knowledge brokering skills.

A decision paper was presented to five countries (Samoa, Kiribati, Naoero, Tonga and Fiji) during the ClimSA Steering Committee Meeting. Following discussions, changes were made and the paper endorsed, with the recommendation that the paper be presented to the PMC for endorsement by all members.

3. PMC-7 Outcome: Request SPREP to continue capacity building activities of Pacific NMHSs, such as the Mana Classes for effective communications to all audiences of their work for a resilient inclusive Pacific.
Update: Since PMC-2 in 2013, SPREP has organised and delivered the Media Mana Class Workshops for independent media, NMHS directors and communications officers. Since PMC-7, there have been two Media Mana Class Workshops delivered by SPREP, and supported by SPC (through the Climate and Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific).

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4. PMC-7 Outcome: Recommend SPREP continue exploring new partnerships resulting in new platforms to amplify the voice of Pacific NMHSs across a vast and wide audience for a resilient inclusive Pacific.

Update: SPREP, through its Communications Division, has entered into a partnership with Radio New Zealand, which included an internship with them in which Meteorology news content was a focus, and broadcast to their audience of well over a million and across the Pacific.

5. Recruitment of six (6) Communications Officers funded by the Climate and Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific (COSPPac).

Media and Communications Training

Supporting the Pacific NMHS: SPREP's Communications and Media Capacity-Building Programme

Since 2013, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has maintained media capacity-building as a standing component of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) cycle, convening a dedicated training for journalists and, increasingly, National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (NMHS) communications officers ahead of each PMC meeting.

The training content has developed progressively over the past decade, from foundational media-meteorology liaison in 2013 to more structured skills development encompassing broadcast writing, social media content production, interview technique, and engagement with mainstream media outlets. This reflects SPREP's continued efforts to ensure the training remains responsive to an evolving media landscape.

The rationale underpinning this programme is that National Meteorological and Hydrological Services hold the scientific and technical capability to generate forecasts, warnings and climate information, while the media provides the reach required to deliver that information to the last mile, particularly to remote and under-served Pacific communities that NMHS budgets and infrastructure cannot directly access. Over time, the scope of this capacity-building has extended beyond core weather and climate communication to encompass loss and damage reporting, disaster risk management communications, and ocean science communication.

Given SPREP's institutional role as Secretariat to the Pacific Meteorological Council and its long-standing, direct working relationship with NMHS Directors and communications staff across the region, SPREP has been well positioned to lead the trainings, drawing on its familiarity with both the subject matter, regional weather, climate, and disaster risk communication and the audience it serves.

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Media Mana Class Trainings Delivered by SPREP for PMC

Year	PMC / Event	Location	Notes
2011	PMC-1	Majuro, Marshall Islands	No media training yet. Trainings began at PMC-2.
2013	PMC-2	Nadi, Fiji	SPREP's first media capacity-building activity, funded by the Government of Australia.
2015	PMC-3	Nuku'alofa, Tonga	"Regional Media Training Workshop," held 15–17 July 2015, ahead of PMC-3.
2017	PMC-4	Honiara, Solomon Islands	"Pacific Islands Media and Meteorological Services Training," began 9 August 2017, over 20 journalists, ahead of PMC-4 (14–17 August).
2019	PMC-5	Apia, Samoa	Mana Class held ahead of PMC-5 (7–9 August 2019) was delivered jointly by RNZ Pacific and Pacific Environmental Journalism Network designed for Met Directors.
2023	PMC-6	Denarau, Nadi, Fiji	No Media Mana Class held due to a COVID-related gap in the training cycle. PMC-6 itself proceeded, but the media component did not.
2024	PMC-7	Port Vila, Vanuatu	Two-day "Media and Communications Mana Class," 11–12 September 2024, Warwick Le Lagon.
2026	PMC-8	Nuku'alofa, Tonga	"Pacific Media Mana Class," 8–9 September 2026, Tanoa Hotel, jointly delivered with SPC and funded by COSPPac

Trainings Outside the PMC Cycle

In addition to the training delivered as part of the PMC cycle, SPREP has organised media capacity-building activities linked to other regional forums. In September 2018, a Media Mana Class was held in Pago Pago, American Samoa, for media practitioners and community college journalism students, ahead of the Pacific Risk Management 'Ohana (PRiMO) Conference. This session focused on climate resilience and Pacific risk management and formed one of five pre-conference trainings delivered in the lead-up to PRiMO.

Mana Media Masterclass at the Eighth Pacific Meteorological Council Meeting in Tonga (8 - 9 September, 2026)

Attendees	Country
David Pawa	Frontline Pacific, Pacific Regional
Elenoa Baselala	PacNews/PINA, Pacific Regional
Everest Hala	Tonga National University, Tonga
Ezra Toara	Vanuatu Daily Post, Vanuatu
Inoke Rabonu	Fiji Sun, Fiji
Isitolo Siale	Tonga Meteorological Service, Tonga
Jake Wise	The Fiji Times, Fiji
Jeniorita Tuivai	Tonga Broadcasting Commission, Tonga
Jeremy Gwao	Tavuli News, Solomon Is
Jessica Tuaga	Tuvalu Broadcasting Corporation, Tuvalu

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Justina Kawi	PNG National Weather Service, Papua New Guinea
Keilini Ve'a	Tonga National University, Tonga
Maman Boikawai	Kiribati Meteorological Service, Kiribati
Molly Teun	Office of the President, Kiribati
Simoea Tiute	Tuvalu Meteorological Service, Tuvalu
Talaia Mika	Cook Islands News, Cook Is
Viliame Tawanakoro	Islands Business, Pacific Regional

The Media Masterclass at the 8th Pacific Meteorological Council and 4th Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMC-8/PMMM-4), held 10–16 September 2026, aimed to strengthen participants' understanding of weather, climate and ocean services and the role of NMHSs, while building practical skills in plain-language science reporting, interviewing and story development. The training was led by SPREP, and co-delivered by SPREP and SPC, with funding from COSPPac.

The Masterclass also prepared the Pacific News Team to deliver timely, accurate coverage of PMC-8 and PMMM-4 for audiences across the region, and to build lasting networks between Pacific media, Met services, and regional and global weather and climate experts.

Throughout Coverage Week, the Pacific News Team provided daily reporting on proceedings, mentored by SPREP and SPC communications staff and Pacific news editors, with story assignments, filing protocols and editorial arrangements confirmed on Day 2 of the Masterclass.

Pasifika Met New E-Newsletter

As a direct request from PMC-7, the newly established Climate Science and Information Programme at SPREP, the Pasifika Met News was launched in March 2026 as a monthly platform to amplify Pacific climate science, showcase the work of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, and connect the people and stories behind the region's weather and climate services.

With six issues published, the numbers reflect an engaged and growing professional audience and a newsletter that is finding its place in the Pacific climate science communications landscape. The short presentation accompanying this paper summarises what we know so far, what the data tells us, and where we go from here.

Projects Supporting NMHS Communications and Knowledge Brokering

ClimSA Pacific Support for Knowledge Brokerage and Communications

ClimSA Establishes Knowledge Brokers Curriculum and CoP for NMHS Officers (non-communications personnel)

A core objective ClimSA's support to the Pacific NMHS is to support the conversion of science to services, and to equip NMHS technical officers with the skills to translate complex climate information into accessible, actionable content for diverse audiences, including government decision-makers, farmers, fishers, disaster managers, and the general public.

Effective climate communications is a critical but historically underfunded component of the climate services value chain, and one that ClimSA Pacific has deliberately prioritised.

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To this end, ClimSA Pacific designed a Knowledge Brokers in Climate Services Training curriculum covering three key areas:

- The climate services value chain and how communications fits within it
- Digital communications skills including social media, visual design, and content creation using accessible tools such as Canva
- Knowledge brokerage principles including audience analysis, translating technical information, and building feedback loops between providers and users

The curriculum has now been delivered across two of the three Pacific sub-regions, as shown in the table below. The Polynesia sub-regional training is planned for 2026. Upon its completion, all three Pacific sub-regions will have received the Knowledge Brokers curriculum, with participants from a minimum of 14 Pacific Island countries' technical meteorological personnel trained as knowledge brokers in climate services.

Training	Countries / Participants	Total	Female %	Male %
Melanesia Sub-Regional Knowledge Brokers Training	Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu (Honiara, SI 19-23 May 2025)	19	47%	53%
Micronesia Sub-Regional Knowledge Brokers Training	FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, RMI, Tuvalu (Pohnpei, FSM 15-19 September 2025)	25	38%	63%
Polynesia Sub-Regional Knowledge Brokers Training	Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau and others (Location TBC Planned 2026)	TBC	TBC	TBC
TOTAL (2 sub-regions completed)	10 countries across 2 sub-regions	44	42%	58%

A notable outcome of the Melanesia training was the informal establishment of a cross-country peer network among participants, who continued to exchange content ideas, resources, and communications strategies after the training ended. This organic response to the training underscored both the demand for sustained peer support and the practical value of connecting NMHS communications officers across the region. The Micronesia training similarly generated strong peer engagement, with participants from six countries sharing approaches to climate communications for coastal and outer-island communities.

COSPPac Support for Media and Communications

Recruitment of NMHS science communication officers with COSPPac support. A total of six Science Communications Officers has been recruited by COSPPac for the following NMHSs:

- Fiji Meteorological Service – Mr. Lenaitasi Cavuilati
- Kiribati Meteorological Service – Mr. Maman Boikawai
- Solomon Islands Meteorological Service – Mr. Lloyd Tahani
- Papua New Guinea Meteorological Service – Ms. Justina Kawi
- Tonga Meteorological Service – Mr. Isitolo Siale
- Cook Islands Meteorological Service – Mr. Tinomana Naea

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6. Niue Meteorological Service – Ms. Helen Tukutama

Secondment of NMHS communication officers at SPC

Throughout 2025 and 2026, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) Science Communications Officers from across the Pacific were provided with an opportunity to undertake short-term secondments with the SPC COSPPac Communications team at the SPC office in Suva, Fiji.

The secondments were designed to provide communications officers with practical, hands-on experience and an opportunity to strengthen their capacity to communicate complex meteorological and climate information to a wider audience in ways that are clear, accessible, engaging and relevant. The secondments were conducted in several rounds, involving communications officers from Tuvalu in March 2025; Fiji, Kiribati and Solomon Islands in September and October 2025; and Tonga and Papua New Guinea in February 2026.

A key focus of the secondments was strengthening the ability of NMHS communications officers to translate technical scientific information, including weather, climate and seasonal forecast information, into clear and easy-to-understand messages for different audiences. The secondments also provided practical training and experience in a range of communications and digital media skills, including the effective use of social media platforms, developing engaging video content, creating visually appealing communications materials, and using Canva to produce graphics, infographics and other digital products.

COSPPac Communications Community of Practice

A Communications Community of Practice (CoP) has been established to bring together Science Communications Officers from Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) with the COSPPac Communications team. The CoP provides a regular platform for communications officers to connect, share experiences and practical knowledge, discuss common challenges, and learn from each other's approaches to communicating weather, climate and scientific information.

The CoP meets every two months, providing an ongoing space for professional development and peer-to-peer learning beyond the short-term communications secondments. Meetings are structured around practical topics that are directly relevant to the work of NMHS communications teams and are informed by the needs and interests of participating officers.

Topics covered to date have included developing effective communications strategies and plans; identifying and using key performance indicators (KPIs) to monitor and report on two-way communications and audience engagement; and sharing lessons learned, challenges and successes from previous communications campaigns and activities.

The CoP also provides an opportunity for members to share examples of communications products and campaigns, exchange ideas and approaches, and seek advice from colleagues across the region. This helps officers learn from one another and identify approaches that can be adapted and applied within their own NMHSs.

Remote support for NMHS Science Communications Officers

Remote support has been provided in addition to the in-person secondments and the Community of Practice. One-on-one virtual sessions have been provided to Science Communications Officers from Palau, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu with a focus on making more effective use of Canva as a communications and design tool.

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Media Masterclass at the Second Pacific Islands Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Management in Palau (3 – 7 November, 2025)

Attendees	Country
Talaia Mika	Cook Islands
Viliame Tawanakoro	Fiji
Inoke Rabonu	Fiji
Apenisa Waqairadovu	Fiji
Aqela Susu	Fiji
Sibete Ietaake	Kiribati
Maman Boikawai	Kiribati
Yetta Aliven	Marshall Islands
Oyal Ngirairikl	Palau
Leilani Raklai	Palau
Laurel Marewibuel	Palau
Elilai Rengiil	Palau
Ngeldei Tulop	Palau
Moiwai Andreas	Palau
Jeremy Gwao	Solomon Islands
Nelson Anaia	Solomon Islands
Seneti Popua Aho	Tonga
Eleala Avaniteke	Tuvalu
Simoea Tiute	Tuvalu
Ezra Toara	Vanuatu
Genezy Will Ilolahia	New Zealand

The Media Masterclass at the Second Pacific Islands Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Management in Palau (3 – 7 November 2025) aimed to strengthen media networks' access to NDMO and NMHS offices and enhance communication skills among science and policy stakeholders to effectively reach wider audiences through print, broadcast, social media and video, with participation from Tuvalu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, RMI, Fiji and Palau.

Weather Ready Pacific Programme Support for Media and Communications

The Weather Ready Pacific Programme (WRPP) has also supported in-country communications capacity building for Pacific NMHSs. On 24 March 2026, WRPP delivered a one-day communications training for Niue Meteorological Services, equipping staff with practical skills to communicate weather and climate information to their communities.

The WRPP Communications Strategy was subsequently endorsed at the 4th Steering Committee Meeting on 1 June 2026, providing a shared framework to guide the Programme's ongoing communications and knowledge brokering support across the Pacific. WRPP has also finalised a communications strategy for the Pacific, intended to guide other NMHSs in developing their own national communications strategies.

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Opportunity for a Communications and the Knowledge Brokers Community of Practice

These outcomes present a clear opportunity: to formalise this emerging network as a structured Knowledge Brokers Community of Practice (CoP) within and across Pacific NMHSs, providing an institutional home for continued peer learning, content sharing, and collaborative product development beyond the life of the current projects.

The proposed Community of Practice would operate as follows:

Element	Proposed Arrangement
Purpose	To sustain and deepen the communications and knowledge brokerage skills developed through the Media Mana Class Trainings held since PMC-2; to foster peer learning and content sharing among NMHS communications officers across the Pacific; and co-develop accessible, replicable communications products for use at national and regional levels.
Membership	Open to all NMHS officers who have completed any of the Media Mana Class Training, the ClimSA Knowledge Brokers curriculum, and any other Communications Training delivered to NMHSs by SPREP and SPC.
Meeting Cadence	Bi-monthly virtual meetings (minimum). Outputs to be shared via the SPREP platforms and pacificmet.net and Pacific RCC platforms (where relevant). Where possible, face-to-face sessions to coincide with PICOFs and PMC meetings.
Governance	Bi-monthly virtual meetings to be chaired on a rotating basis by a member NMHS representative. Secretariat support provided by SPREP – CSI Communications Team. Terms of Reference to be reviewed bi-annually.
Products	Members to co-develop at least one shared communications product per quarter (template, social media kit, or bulletin). Products to be hosted on pacificmet.net and distributed through the Pasifika Met Newsletter.
Sustainability	The CoP to be anchored within the Climate Science and Information Programme, to ensure continuation beyond project closures. Hosting and coordination costs to be absorbed within SPREP's ongoing Communications and CSI Communications and Knowledge Management mandate.

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Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the contributions made by SPREP Communications to support the Pacific Meteorological Council and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in the Pacific with media and communications training.
 - **Note** the contributions made by ClimSA Pacific toward developing the capacity and establishing a Knowledge Brokers Community of Practice for National Meteorological Services in the Pacific, in the absence of dedicated Communications Officers.
 - **Note** the contributions made by COSPPac toward resourcing six Pacific NMHSs with dedicated Communications Officers and 6 NMHSs with secondments and support for the Media Mana Class Trainings.
 - **Note** the contributions made by Weather Ready Pacific Programme toward developing a communications strategy to support National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in the Pacific and supporting Niue Meteorological Services.
 - **Endorse** the Pacific NMHS Knowledge Brokers and Communications Community of Practice, with the Secretariat support function provided by SPREP's CSI Programme.
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