

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

14 September 2026 | Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Agenda Item 23.3: Strengthening the Operational Resilience of Pacific NMHSs through Business Continuity Management

Purpose:

1. To update the Council on progress since PMC-7 and present priorities for advancing Business Continuity Management (BCM) in Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs).
2. To seek the Council's endorsement of the proposed strategic directions and its support for a corresponding commitment by the Fourth Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-4).

Objectives:

1. Integrate BCM into relevant regional and national strategies, governance and operational planning.
2. Expand BCM capacity through WMO Regional Training Centres and existing WMO training materials and modules.
3. Strengthen regional cooperation, peer-to-peer assistance and access to appropriate funding mechanisms.

Background:

1. Pacific NMHSs provide time-critical weather, climate, water and ocean information and warning services. Small teams, geographic isolation, dispersed islands and dependence on limited infrastructure can magnify the effects of natural hazards, power and telecommunications failures, cyber incidents and other disruptions on service delivery.
2. BCM enables an organization to identify its critical services and dependencies, assess risks and impacts, establish continuity and recovery arrangements, exercise its plans and improve them over time. It complements quality management, risk management, crisis management and organizational resilience.
3. At PMC-7 in 2024, Working Paper 11.3 introduced WMO BCM guidance and encouraged Members to incorporate BCM into operational practices. PMC-8 provides an opportunity to move from awareness towards coordinated and sustainable implementation in the region.

Progress since PMC-7:

1. Business Continuity Management: Guidelines for WMO Members (WMO-No. 1361) provides a step-by-step approach, templates and examples tailored to NMHS functions and is available in the six official languages of WMO.
2. Following the completion of the WMO Task Team on BCM in August 2026, its principal deliverable—an eight-module e-learning course—is being integrated into the WMO Education and Training Moodle platform and tested ahead of its launch. The course is complemented by practical resources, including a BCM policy template and business impact analysis guidance, to support Members' implementation.
3. WMO is preparing the transition to an Advisory Group on BCM under SERCOM, subject to approval by SERCOM-4. In parallel, WMO, SPREP and partners are exploring phased regional support for national planning, exercises, peer learning and mutual assistance.

Proposed regional implementation approach:

1. **Strategic integration.** BCM should be reflected, as appropriate, in relevant Pacific regional strategies and their implementation arrangements, as well as national meteorological, hydrological, disaster risk management and organizational strategies and plans.

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2. **Capacity development.** WMO RAV Regional Training Centres and other relevant training providers can leverage WMO BCM materials and modules to support regional leadership and management programmes, quality-management or accreditation-related courses, workshops and exercises.
3. **Regional cooperation.** Existing regional mechanisms can facilitate peer-to-peer assistance, exchanges, exercises and mutual-support arrangements. Traditional knowledge and practices can be incorporated where relevant and appropriate, alongside scientific evidence, operational standards and national policy.
4. **Resourcing and phased delivery.** Members and partners are encouraged to leverage existing and prospective funding mechanisms and regional programmes to support priority national activities, regional learning and progressive expansion.

Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- I. **Note** the progress made since PMC-7 in developing BCM guidance, tools and training resources for Members;
- II. **Encourage** Members to incorporate BCM, as appropriate, into relevant national strategies, plans and management systems, and to support its inclusion in relevant regional strategies and implementation arrangements;
- III. **Encourage** WMO RAV Regional Training Centres and other relevant training providers to leverage WMO BCM materials and modules within appropriate leadership, management, quality-management and accreditation-related courses and exercises;
- IV. **Support** regional cooperation, peer-to-peer assistance and mutual-support mechanisms, including the context-appropriate application of traditional knowledge and practices;
- V. **Encourage** Members and partners to leverage appropriate funding mechanisms and regional programmes to support phased BCM implementation; and
- VI. **Recommend** that PMMM-4 include the following commitment in its Ministerial Declaration: *COMMIT to strengthening Business Continuity Management capabilities through regional cooperation, peer-to-peer assistance mechanisms, and the application of traditional knowledge and practices, to enhance resilience and ensure the continuity of critical services during and after disruptive events.*