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 7.2: Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy 2027-2036 (PIMS)

Purpose:

1. To provide an update on and seek formal endorsement of the new Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy 2027-2036.

Background:

Strategic Context

1. Healthy, resilient communities rely on trusted forecasts, warnings, climate information and environmental services that enable risk anticipation, informed decision-making and earlier action.
2. The Pacific islands Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) is the overarching regional framework for sustaining and strengthening weather, climate, water, and ocean services across the 26 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs).
3. The current iteration, PIMS 2017–2026, was adopted by the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) to guide National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in fulfilling their core mandates while enhancing community resilience to natural disasters. It was structured around 11 Pacific Key Outcomes (PKOs) designed to move services from technical outputs to impactful public service delivery.

Rationale for the Comprehensive Review

4. In 2021, the scheduled mid-term review of PIMS was postponed due to the combined challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and funding constraints. The postponement became necessary as it was critical to realign the strategy with several emerging high-level frameworks that had gained prominence including the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, the Weather Ready Pacific (WRP) Decadal Investment Programme, and the UN Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative.
5. In early 2026, SPREP—with support from ClimSA, which through its reallocation process allocated funding for PIMS—commissioned Varysian Limited to conduct a formal evaluation of the 2017–2026 period and to develop the successor strategy for 2027–2036.

Key Findings of the PIMS 2017-2026 Review

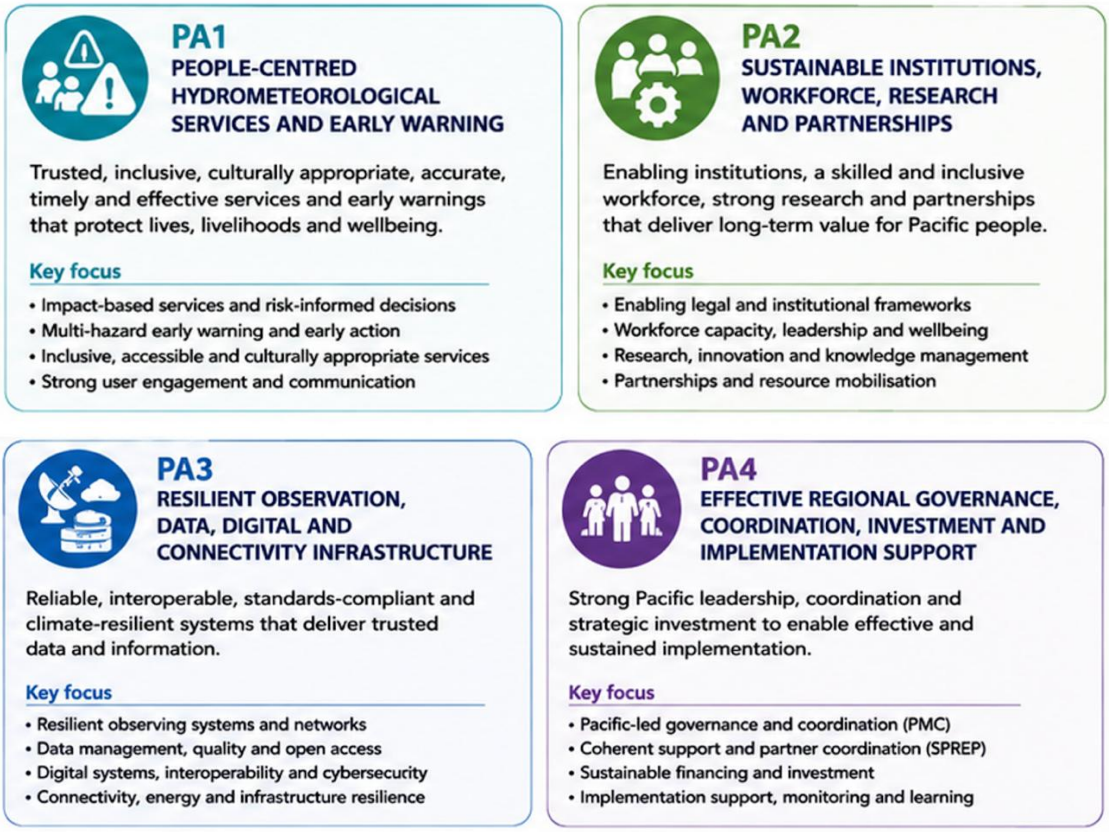
6. The independent evaluation concluded that while PIMS has been highly effective as a regional strategic anchor and shared language for cooperation, it has been less effective in supporting institutional sustainability; service capability and last-mile effectiveness; data, reporting and institutional memory.

Key findings include:

7. **Implementation Fragmentation:** Delivery has been largely "programme-driven," occurring through independent initiatives (e.g., COSPPac, ClimSA, VanKIRAP, UNEP CIS-5, CREWS) with separate reporting systems.
8. **The Monitoring Gap:** The strategy lacked a robust results architecture with measurable indicators, making it difficult to assess cumulative regional progress.
9. **Sustainability Constraints:** Technical gains often remain reliant on short-term donor funding rather than long-term national institutional financing.

Transition to PIMS 2027-2036: A new mission:

10. The successor strategy, PIMS 2027–2036, marks a strategic shift from an "inward looking Met strategy" to a regional integrative platform. Its updated mission is to strengthen the technical, institutional, and operational capacities of NMHSs to deliver people-centered services, impact-based, and inclusive services that ensure the safety and sustainable prosperity of the Blue Pacific Continent.
11. The vision: ***A Pacific-led, resilient and future-ready Blue Pacific Continent, where National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) are strengthened through effective partnerships to deliver people-centred, impact-based and inclusive hydrometeorological services that protect lives, strengthen climate resilience and support sustainable prosperity.***
12. Following extensive consultations in Honiara (May 2026) and a regional validation workshop in Apia (August 2026), seconded by face-to-face consultations, the new strategy has been refined into **four primary Priority Areas** (consolidated from six to remove overlaps)



13. The Pacific Key Outcomes (PKOs) have evolved from an 11-outcome "strategic classification system" used in the 2017–2026 strategy to a more streamlined and results-oriented framework of 12 outcomes for the successor strategy, PIMS 2027–2036. While the previous iteration effectively provided a shared strategic language for regional cooperation, it lacked the measurable baselines and monitoring mechanisms required to function as a full accountability framework. To address these gaps, the successor strategy consolidates various service portfolios—such as aviation, marine, public weather, and climate services—into specific focus areas under broader outcomes. This shift is designed to restore the distinction between what is delivered (services) and what changes (strategic outcomes). The final structure for PIMS 2027–2036 organizes these 12 PKOs across four primary Priority Areas.

14. Building on this refined structure, the PIMS Theory of Change is operationalised through four interconnected Priority Areas and 12 Pacific Key Outcomes. Together they provide the results architecture for implementation, investment, monitoring, learning and accountability. Weather Ready Pacific (WRP) will serve as a major regional implementation and resource-mobilisation vehicle, alongside complementary programmes and financing mechanisms aligned with PIMS.

PIMS 2027–2036

Priority Areas and Pacific Key Outcomes

PA1
PEOPLE-CENTRED HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND EARLY WARNING

PKO 1 — Integrated, People-Centred Multi-Hazard Early Warning
Integrated, people-centred multi-hazard early warning systems, processes and operational arrangements are effective, anticipatory and responsive.

PKO 2 — People-Centred and Sector-Specific Hydrometeorological Services
People-centred and sector-specific hydrometeorological services are strengthened and used to support resilience, sustainable development, livelihoods and communities.

PKO 3 — Inclusive, Equitable and Responsive Communication
Inclusive, equitable and responsive communications through trusted local channels enable communities and the public to understand and act on information and warnings.

PA2
SUSTAINABLE INSTITUTIONS, WORKFORCE, RESEARCH AND PARTNERSHIPS

PKO 4 — Inclusive and Resilient NMHS Institutions
Institutional and organisational resilience is GEDSI compliant and enables accountable, transparent and sustainable NMHS delivery.

PKO 5 — Capable, Diverse and Responsive Workforce
A capable, diverse and responsive workforce sustains technical, managerial and service-delivery functions.

PKO 6 — Partnerships, Research, Knowledge Systems and Innovation
National, regional and global partnerships, research, Pacific knowledge systems and innovation strengthen service delivery and contributions to climate action and disaster risk reduction.

PA3
RESILIENT OBSERVATION, DATA, DIGITAL AND CONNECTIVITY INFRASTRUCTURE

PKO 7 — Reliable and Climate-Resilient Observation Networks
Observation networks are reliable, climate-resilient and standards-compliant, supported by lifecycle asset management and regional maintenance arrangements adapted to Pacific Island contexts to provide service continuity.

PKO 8 — Connectivity, Digital Platforms and Data Exchange
Connectivity, digital service platforms and data-exchange systems are interoperable, secure and inclusive, support real-time sharing and respect national and regional data sovereignty.

PKO 9 — Processing, Forecasting, Digital Innovation and ICT
Processing, forecasting, prediction, digital innovation and emerging technologies (Artificial Intelligence and automation) and ICT capabilities are resilient, future-ready and support operational continuity and effective decision-making.

PA4
EFFECTIVE REGIONAL GOVERNANCE, COORDINATION, INVESTMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

PKO 10 — Coherent, Member-Led and Accountable PIMS Implementation
SPREP and relevant regional mechanisms provide coherent, accountable and strategically resourced support for collective PIMS implementation under PMC Member-led strategic direction.

PKO 11 — PMC Representation and Partner Coordination
Pacific-led representation and partner coordination through the PMC strengthen the collective Pacific voice, align support with PIMS priorities and reduce fragmentation.

PKO 12 — Regional Investment Planning and Resource Mobilisation
Regional investment planning, programmatic financing, resource management and mobilisation secure sustainable and equitable support.

Next steps:

15. Following the formal presentation and endorsement of the core PIMS 2027–2036 strategy at PMC-8 in Tonga, the following operational documents will be finalised—specifically the: Implementation Plan and budget, the Strategic MERL Framework, the Sustainability and Resource Mobilization Plan, and the Communication and Public Outreach Framework.
16. This strategic adjustment is designed to ensure that these essential operational documents directly incorporate the high-level directives, validated priorities, and technical feedback provided by NMHS Directors and Ministers during the PMC-8 and PMMM-4 sessions. By finalizing these frameworks post-PMC-8, the project team can ensure the complete PIMS package is fully aligned with the regional consensus, resulting in a technically robust and Pacific-owned roadmap for the next decade of meteorological, climate, ocean and hydrological services.
17. The latest Strategy provides biennial performance review, a mid-term review in 2031 and a comprehensive review in 2035.

Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

I. **Note** the progress made on the review of the PIMS 2017-2026 and development of the successor PIMS 2027-2036 and **acknowledge** the funding support from the European Union through the ClimSA for the review of the PIMS 2017-2026.
II. **Consider** and **adopt** the PIMS 2027-2036.
III. **Recommend** that the PIMS Implementation Plan, the Theory of Change and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, Resource Mobilisation Plan and Communication and Public Outreach Framework be submitted to the PMC Management Group for approval.
IV. **Request** that the PIMS to be presented to the Fourth Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-4) for endorsement.
V. **Request** that other programmes such as COSPPac and Weather Ready Pacific to support the mid-term review in 2031 and comprehensive review in 2035 of the successor strategy.
VI. **Request** total commitment and mutual accountability from all agencies, including National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), to ensure the successful execution of the new PIMS.