

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 8.5: One Pacific Meteorology Programme Framework - Strengthening Coordination, Complementarity and Efficient Use of Resources for Pacific Meteorological, Hydrological, Climate and Early Warning Services

Purpose:

1. This paper seeks the endorsement of the Eighth Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC8) and Fourth Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM4) for the development of a One Pacific Meteorology Programme Framework under the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) 2027–2036.
2. The Framework would establish a more coordinated regional architecture through which WMO, SPREP, Weather Ready Pacific (WRP), development partners and other regional initiatives collectively support Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs).
3. The proposal does not seek to merge WMO and SPREP programmes or alter their respective institutional mandates. Rather, it seeks to ensure that Pacific countries experience regional and international assistance through a coherent, country-led system that minimizes duplication, reduces transaction costs, reduces stress on Pacific NMHSs, improves investment efficiency and maximises development impact.

Objectives:

1. To seek the Councils endorsement of a One Pacific Meteorology Program Framework to improve Pacific NMHSs development through a coherent, country-led system that minimises duplication, reduces transaction costs, reduces stress on Pacific NMHSs, improves investment efficiency and maximises development impact.

Background:

Pacific NMHSs operate within an increasingly complex regional development environment. A growing number of regional and international programmes support weather, climate, water, ocean and multi-hazard early warning services.

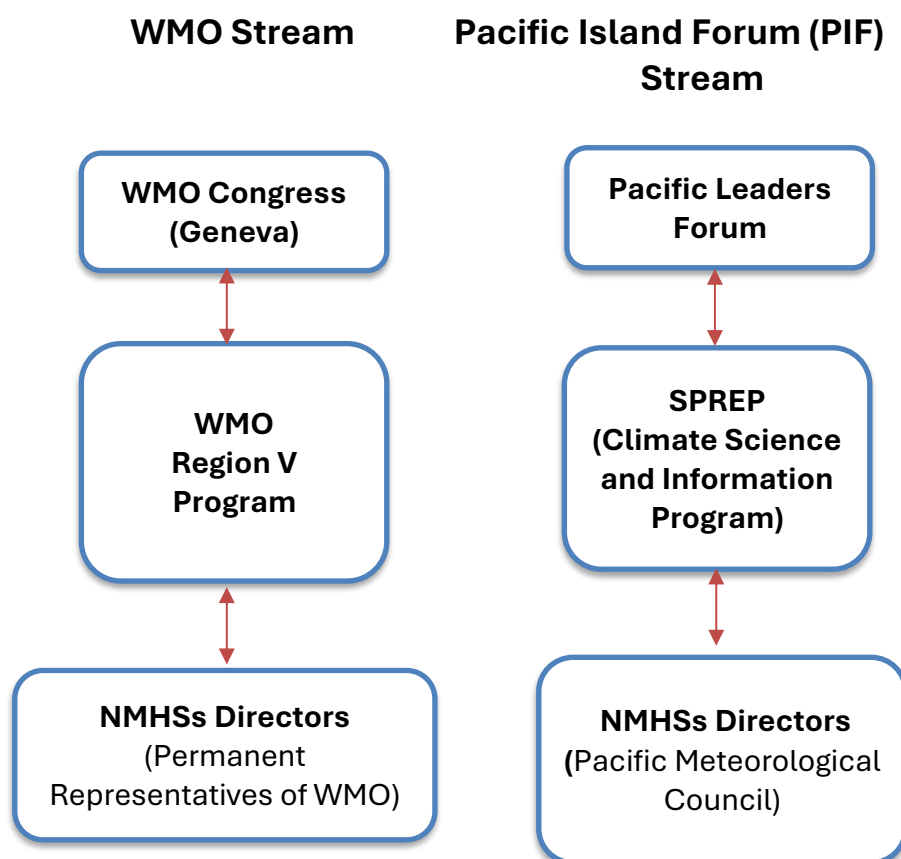
There are 2 main Meteorology Programs in operation in the Pacific Islands. One operates under the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) framework as part of the WMO Region V structure and one operates under the SPREP framework under the Pacific Met Council (PMC) structure. Both structures have the same stakeholders in the Pacific. The NMHSs (apart from Palau and RMI who are not Members of WMO).

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

PMC-8

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

Two Meteorology streams currently operating in the Pacific



While these two main program streams bring substantial benefits the Pacific, multiple programmes have resulted in separate governance arrangements, country consultations, needs assessments, technical missions, workplans, training programmes, procurement processes, monitoring systems, reporting requirements, steering committees, donor engagement processes and investment pipelines.

For small NMHSs with limited human resources, participation in multiple programme processes can itself become a significant operational burden. The challenge is therefore to ensure that available assistance is coordinated, complementary, country-led and strategically targeted.

Strategic Opportunity:

The development of PIMS 2027–2036 provides an opportunity to establish an overarching architecture through which Pacific meteorological priorities are identified, investments coordinated, programmes implemented, and regional progress measured.

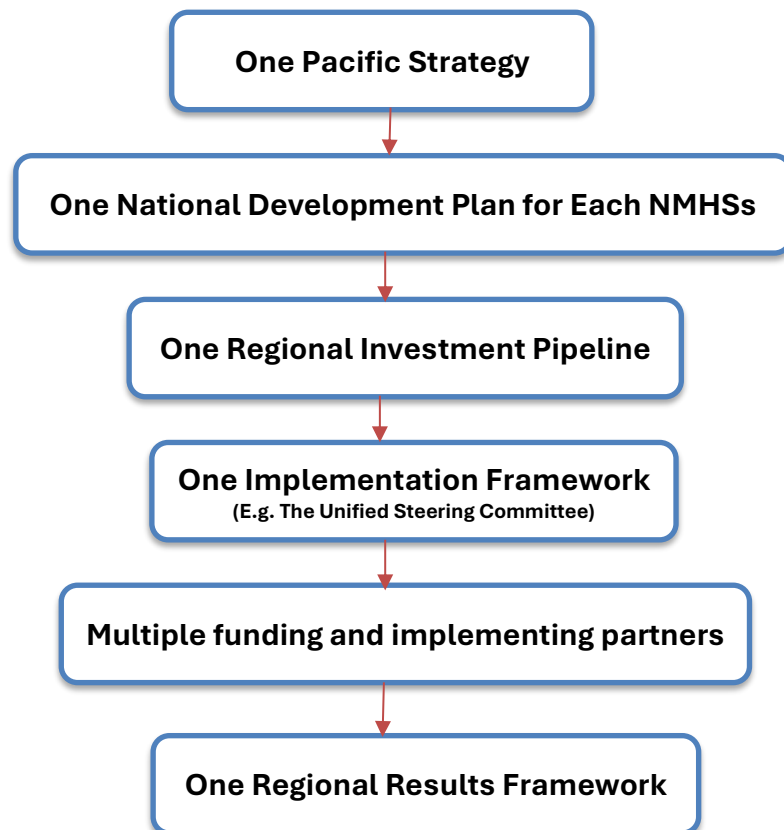
This is recommended because NOT all Pacific Islands and territories are Members of WMO. Examples are Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshal Islands.

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

PMC-8

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

Proposed model:



This would move the Pacific from a predominantly project-driven model toward a strategy-driven and investment-led model.

Principles of the Framework

Pacific-led – regional priorities determined by Pacific NMHSs through PMC and elevated, where appropriate, to PMMM.

Country-owned – national governments and NMHSs determine national priorities.

One strategy – PIMS 2027–2036 serves as the overarching regional strategic framework.

Complementarity – partners invest according to their mandates and comparative advantages.

Coordination – no unnecessary duplication.

Sustainability – investment decisions consider operation, maintenance, workforce, replacement and long-term financing.

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

PMC-8

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

Proposed Institutional Architecture

1. **PIMS 2027–2036:** Regional strategy and outcomes framework.
2. **PMC / PMMM:** Regional governance, technical oversight, political leadership and advocacy.
3. **WMO:** International technical authority; standards, WIGOS, WIS2, technical regulations, competencies, global observing requirements, data exchange, aviation standards and global systems etc.
4. **SPREP:** Pacific regional coordination and secretariat; PMC support, PIMS implementation coordination, programme integration, partnerships, donor coordination and regional monitoring.
5. **Weather Ready Pacific:** Major regional investment and implementation mechanism supporting end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems and related PIMS priorities.
6. **National NMHSs:** National owners and implementers responsible for determining priorities, operating systems and delivering services.

One National Meteorological Development and Investment Plan

Each Pacific NMHS should maintain a nationally owned approximately 10-year Meteorological Development and Investment Plan aligned with PIMS. It should cover observations, telecommunications, forecasting, climate, hydrology, ocean, aviation, ICT, warning dissemination, multi-hazard early warning, workforce, infrastructure, institutional strengthening, maintenance, business continuity and sustainability.

WMO, SPREP, WRP, SOFF, CREWS and development partners should draw activities from the same nationally agreed pipeline, reducing repeated consultations and assessments.

One Pacific Meteorological Investment Pipeline

National plans should feed a consolidated Pacific Meteorological Investment Pipeline showing:



This would provide a single view of funded activities, unfunded priorities, capacity and infrastructure gaps, maintenance requirements and regional investment opportunities, while reducing the risk of double financing.

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

PMC-8

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

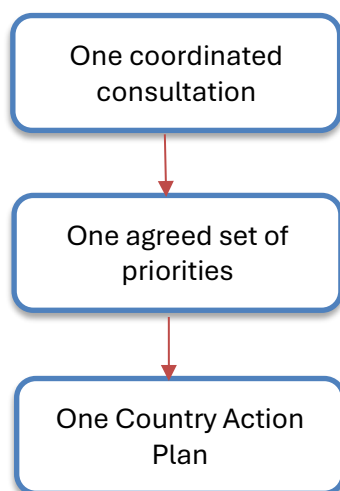
Joint Annual Programming

WMO and SPREP should facilitate a consolidated Pacific Meteorology Annual Workplan mapping major programme activities against PIMS outcomes and national priorities.

Field	Information
Country/Region	Beneficiary
Requirement	Identified need
Activity	Proposed intervention
Lead	Lead organisation
Partners	Supporting organisations
Programme	Funding programme
Budget	Indicative allocation
Timing	Implementation period
PIMS Outcome	Strategic alignment
Status	Planned / Active / Completed

Coordinated Country Missions

Where practical, partners should coordinate country missions and assessments. The intended model is:



This would reduce administrative burden on NMHS Directors and technical staff.

One Pacific Training and Workforce Development Plan

A consolidated Pacific Meteorological Workforce and Training Plan and annual calendar should be developed. WMO would anchor international competency frameworks and standards, while SPREP, WRP, WMO Regional Training Centres, Regional Instrument Centres and other recognised institutions coordinate delivery.

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

PMC-8

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

One Results and MERL Framework

PIMS 2027–2036 should establish the overarching regional results framework. Individual programmes would retain donor-specific accountability requirements, but indicators should map wherever possible to common PIMS outcomes. **The principle should be: One data collection and MERL Process.**

Coordinated Governance

The approach should avoid creating another large governance structure. Existing PMC architecture should provide regional oversight, supported by a WMO–SPREP joint programme coordination mechanism (E.g. Joint Management Group Meetings) responsible for programme mapping, annual workplans, the investment pipeline, mission coordination, financing gaps and reporting to PMC.

Donor Coordination

The Pacific should progressively present a consolidated Pacific Meteorological Investment Prospectus showing what the region needs, what is financed, who is financing it and where gaps remain. This could support pooled financing, programme-based financing, co-financing, bilateral assistance, climate finance and innovative financing.

Relationship with Weather Ready Pacific

The Framework should not create another major programme. WRP can serve as a major regional investment and implementation mechanism supporting PIMS outcomes while complementing WMO technical programmes. A simple chain is: WMO establishes international standards; PIMS establishes Pacific priorities; NMHSs establish national requirements; WRP and partners mobilise investment; SPREP coordinates regional implementation; technical partners provide expertise; and NMHSs operate and sustain national capability.

Expected Benefits

Expected benefits include reduced consultation and reporting burden; fewer duplicated missions; better national alignment; clearer institutional responsibilities; improved programme efficiency; greater investment transparency; reduced duplication risk; stronger resource mobilisation; more sustainable infrastructure; stronger NMHSs; and improved warning services for Pacific communities.

Implementation

PMC8 should endorse preparation of the Framework and request SPREP and WMO, working with NMHS Directors and relevant partners, to prepare detailed arrangements within six months. The Framework should address roles and responsibilities, partner mapping, country planning, investment mapping, annual programming, mission protocols, workforce development, MERL, information sharing, donor coordination and transition arrangements.

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PMC-8

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

Recommendations

The meeting is invited to:

NOTE the increasing scale and diversity of meteorological, hydrological, climate and early warning investments in the Pacific and the benefits these investments provide to Pacific NMHSs;

RECOGNISE that multiple programmes operating across the same countries can create duplication in planning, consultation, governance, missions, training, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

REAFFIRM PIMS 2027–2036 as the overarching strategic framework for development of Pacific meteorological, hydrological, climate, ocean and related early warning services.

ENDORSE IN PRINCIPLE the concept of a One Pacific Meteorology Programme Framework to improve coordination, complementarity, efficiency and sustainability of regional and national investments and **REQUEST** SPREP Secretariat to work with WMO, and the PMC Management Group to consolidate the WMO RA V priorities into the PIMS Strategy 2027-2036.

AFFIRM that the Framework will respect the mandates and governance arrangements of WMO, SPREP, Pacific governments and participating development partners and does not constitute an institutional merger.

REQUEST SPREP and WMO, in consultation with NMHS Directors and relevant partners, to develop the detailed Framework within six months;

REQUEST that the Framework establish a common approach to national development planning, regional investment mapping, annual work planning, country missions, capacity development, MERL and donor coordination.

SUPPORT the development of a consolidated Pacific Meteorological Investment Pipeline identifying requirements, committed investments, implementation responsibilities and financing gaps.

ENCOURAGE WMO, SPREP, WRP, SOFF, CREWS and other partners to progressively map programmes and investments against PIMS 2027–2036 and nationally determined NMHS priorities.

REQUEST development partners, where practical, to coordinate country missions, technical assessments and training activities.

SUPPORT the principle of 'collect once – use many times' for regional monitoring, evaluation and reporting, while recognising donor accountability requirements.

RECOMMEND that PMMM4 endorse the One Pacific Meteorology approach as a strategic direction for regional cooperation.

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

PMC-8

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

ENDORSE the inclusion of the following in Proposed Ministerial Statement

We endorse the development of a One Pacific Meteorology Programme Framework that places Pacific countries and their National Meteorological and Hydrological Services at the centre of regional meteorological development. **We call** for greater coordination between regional and international organisations and development partners so that investments are complementary, resources are used efficiently, duplication is minimised, and sustainable capabilities are built within Pacific countries. **We reaffirm** the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy as the overarching framework for this cooperation and call upon partners to align their technical and financial assistance with nationally identified priorities and our collective vision for a Weather Ready Pacific.