

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 #20: Regional Priorities from Members

Consolidated National Priorities and Gaps Identified through PMC-8 Country Reports (July 2024 – June 2026)

Purpose:

1. This paper presents a consolidated matrix of national needs, gaps and priorities drawn from PMC-8 Member country reports, and proposes a set of cross-cutting regional priorities for Members' consideration and endorsement under Agenda Item 20 (Regional Priorities from Members).

Objectives:

1. To present, in a single consolidated matrix (Annex A), the key highlights, needs and priorities self-reported by each Member for the July 2024 – June 2026 reporting period.
2. To identify the priorities and gaps that recur most frequently across Member reports, as an evidence-based basis for regional prioritisation.
3. To propose seven cross-cutting Pacific regional priorities for Members' endorsement, and to inform regional programming, partner support and resource mobilisation.

Background:

1. Each PMC Member National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (NMHS) was requested to submit a Country Report for the 2-year period July 2024 – June 2026, structured against the draft Pacific Key Outcomes (PKOs) of the new PIMS. Each report includes a standard overview section in which Members self-report three key highlights, three key needs/priorities moving forward, and the national impacts of their products and services.
2. As at the preparation of this paper, 16 Member/Territory Country Reports had been received and reviewed: Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, Federated States of Micronesia (National and Chuuk State), Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Vanuatu, Tokelau, Niue, French Polynesia, and New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna (reported jointly).
3. The PMC Secretariat reviewed the "key highlights," "key priorities/needs" and "national impacts" fields of each report, and any further needs and gaps evident elsewhere in the reports, to compile the Country Needs and Gaps Matrix at Annex A. Individual country needs were then grouped into common, cross-cutting themes, summarised at Annex B and discussed in the section below. This paper does not replace the individual country reports, which remain available in full to Members and partners for detailed national context.

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4. Country reports not yet received by the Secretariat at the time of preparing this paper are not reflected in the matrix. The Secretariat will update the matrix and this analysis as outstanding reports are submitted, including ahead of any future review of regional priorities.

Regional Priorities Identified from Country Reports

Grouping the needs and priorities reported by Members (Annex A) by common theme produces seven cross-cutting regional priorities, presented below in order of the frequency with which they were identified across the 16 reports reviewed (Annex B). These are put forward as the basis of the region's collective priorities for consideration under this agenda item.

Priority 1: Strengthening Observation Networks and Physical Infrastructure (incl. GBON/SOFF)

Identified by 11 of 16 reporting Members/Territories: Cook Islands, PNG, FSM, RMI, Nauru, Kiribati, Samoa, Tokelau, Niue, French Polynesia, New Caledonia & Wallis and Futuna.

The most frequently identified need across Member reports is investment in, and upgrade of, national observing networks — automatic weather stations (AWS), tide gauges, upper-air systems, weather radar and aviation observation infrastructure — together with the technical staff and maintenance systems needed to sustain them. Members consistently linked this to national readiness to benefit from the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF), and flagged ageing or absent infrastructure as a fundamental constraint on forecasting, aviation and marine services.

Priority 2: Advancing Early Warnings for All, Impact-Based Forecasting and Last-Mile Dissemination

Identified by 9 of 16 reporting Members/Territories: Cook Islands, Fiji, PNG, Tuvalu, FSM, Vanuatu, Tokelau, French Polynesia, New Caledonia & Wallis and Futuna.

Members identified persistent gaps in translating forecasts and warnings into timely, actionable information for communities — particularly outer islands and the maritime sector. Priorities included operationalising impact-based forecasting and multi-hazard early warning systems, modernising warning/'vigilance' systems, and closing last-mile communication gaps where remote communities depend on ageing or single-channel systems to receive warnings.

Priority 3: Building Human Resource Capacity and Professional/Technical Certification

Identified by 11 of 16 reporting Members/Territories: Cook Islands, Fiji, Tuvalu, FSM–Chuuk, RMI, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Tokelau, Niue.

Workforce capacity was raised as a constraint or priority by more than two-thirds of reporting Members. This includes access to BIP-M and BIP-MT qualification pathways, hydrology and climate-service training, ICT skills, guaranteed participation slots in regional training, and broader institutional capability and leadership development. Several Members reported continued dependence on external providers due to workforce gaps.

Priority 4: Modernising ICT, Data Management and Digital Service Platforms

Identified by 4 of 16 reporting Members/Territories: Tuvalu, FSM, Solomon Islands, Kiribati.

Members flagged the need for upgraded ICT infrastructure, cost-effective forecasting and dissemination platforms, quality management systems (QMS), and data archiving/exchange systems (including WIS 2.0 readiness) to reduce reliance on manual processes and external systems, and to enable full national ownership of forecasting functions.

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Priority 5: Strengthening Institutional Governance, Legislation and Sustainable Financing

Identified by 7 of 16 reporting Members/Territories: Fiji, RMI, Nauru, Kiribati, Samoa, Vanuatu, Niue.

A recurring institutional theme is the need for enabling legislation, governance structures, standard operating procedures, strategic plans and long-term/sustainable financing mechanisms for NMHSs — to secure their place within national government structures, sustain infrastructure investments beyond the life of donor-funded projects, and ensure the continuity of regional training and service centres (e.g. RTC-Nadi/RIC-Nadi).

Priority 6: Expanding Marine, Ocean and Hydrological Services

Identified by 2 of 16 reporting Members/Territories: Solomon Islands, Vanuatu.

Members are seeking to expand ocean/marine observation and forecasting partnerships and to roll out or strengthen national hydrological services — reflecting the region's dependence on safe maritime navigation, fisheries and flood/drought early action, and the still-uneven coverage of hydrological services across NMHSs.

Priority 7: Mainstreaming Inclusive, People-Centred Services (GEDSI) and Regional Cooperation

Identified by 5 of 16 reporting Members/Territories: Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, FSM–Chuuk, Niue.

Members highlighted the need to embed Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) principles into service design and delivery so that outer-island and vulnerable communities are not left behind, alongside continued and, in some cases expanded, regional cooperation and presence — including sustained support to the Regional Training Centre/Regional Instruction Centre (RTC/RIC)-Nadi and consideration of a sub-regional service presence for the northern Pacific/Micronesia sub-region.

Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- I. Note the Country Needs and Gaps Matrix at Annex A and the summary of cross-cutting priorities at Annex B, compiled from the PMC Member/Territory Country Reports received to date.
 - II. Re-affirm the seven cross-cutting priorities identified in this paper — (1) observation networks and infrastructure; (2) early warnings for all and last-mile dissemination; (3) human resource capacity and certification; (4) ICT, data management and digital platforms; (5) institutional governance and sustainable financing; (6) marine, ocean and hydrological services; and (7) inclusive, people-centred services (GEDSI) and regional cooperation — as the Pacific region's priorities from Members for the current period.
 - III. Request SPREP, SPC, WMO and technical partners to consider, through their current and upcoming projects, each country's needs and gaps identified at Annex A, and to support these with resources where possible.
 - IV. Encourage the Secretariat to ensure that status and actions are incorporated and reported within the PIMS reporting framework moving forward.
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Annex A: Country Needs and Gaps Matrix

Source: PMC-8 Country Reports (July 2024 – June 2026)

Country / Territory (Key Highlights, 2024–2026)	Needs / Gaps Identified — Priorities Moving Forward	Theme(s)
Cook Islands <i>National Climate & Ocean Forum (NCOF); enhanced AWS/tide-gauge network; re-establishment of Rarotonga Upper-Air Station.</i>	- Investment in observing infrastructure, telemetry, maintenance and skilled technical staff (GBON/SOFF readiness). - Sustainable investment in forecasting, communication technologies and public warning services, particularly for the Pa Enua (outer islands). - Capacity building, staff development, GEDSI integration and sustainable institutional support.	1, 2, 3, 7
Fiji <i>Continuous RSMC-Nadi operation (marine, aviation, public weather for the Pacific); new Regional Centre facility; staff capacity development.</i>	- Continued support to RTC-Nadi and RIC-Nadi (regional training/instruction centres). - Operationalisation and long-term sustainability of the Impact-based Forecasting Platform (IFP). - Capacity development of professional staff, especially in technical areas.	2, 3, 5, 7
Papua New Guinea <i>BIP-M/BIP-H/BIP-MT trainings; CliDE/CliDEs cloud upgrade; Part 174 certification progress; PNG NWS Strategic Plan 2024–2028 completed.</i>	- Redevelopment and upgrade of 12 field stations into 'Climate Smart' field stations. - Operationalisation of the Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and Impact-Based Forecasting. - Equipment: AWS, data loggers, 3D PAWS and a weather radar for Port Moresby.	1, 2
Tuvalu <i>New Met building; improved connectivity (Starlink/fibre); AI-assisted forecasting; upgraded coastal-inundation tool; new AWOS/AWS/wave buoys.</i>	- Upgrading staff qualifications. - Implementing QMS, Traditional Knowledge (TK), DARE and digitisation. - Replacing/upgrading early-warning communication systems to reach the 'last mile' on outer islands.	2, 3, 4
Federated States of Micronesia (National) <i>Locally produced OCOF/EAR Watch climate outlooks in all 4 states; Tsunami Ready recognition (UNESCO-IOC) nationwide; improved warning-communication skills.</i>	- Upgrade the data-collection network — 12 AWS (SOFF-funded) and an upper-air system for Kosrae. - Connect the outer islands — reliable two-way connectivity (e.g. Starlink) for observations and warning dissemination. - Grow national and state-level climate forums (NCOF/SCOF), with GEDSI as a cross-cutting requirement.	1, 2, 4, 7
FSM – Chuuk State <i>Communications-system upgrade; strengthened relationships with emergency/coordinating stakeholders; human-capacity upgrades.</i>	- Educational and training opportunities in meteorology and climatology. - Guaranteed country participation (at least two seats per FSM state) in regional training and workshops. - A SPREP sub-regional office in the north to expand services and activities.	3, 7
Republic of the Marshall Islands <i>New AWS installations; progress on tailored products (e.g. EAR Watch); strengthened sector partnerships via NCOF/SSCTP and community outreach.</i>	- Enabling legislation to place the RMI Weather Service formally within government organisational structure. - Enhanced stakeholder partnerships to improve service delivery, product uptake and risk communication. - Increased human capacity, performance management and operational efficiency. - Expansion of the met/hydrological/ocean/climate observation network and continuity of operation.	1, 3, 5, 7
Nauru <i>Progress on governance, infrastructure and capacity-building foundations for Naoero Met Service.</i>	- Development of a governance structure, strategic plan and standard operating procedures (SOPs). - Infrastructure improvements — IT, buildings, AWS, vehicles, buoys — and sustainable maintenance arrangements. - Capacity building for staff: BIP-M/BIP-MT, hydrology, climate services and ICT certification.	1, 3, 5

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Country / Territory (Key Highlights, 2024–2026)	Needs / Gaps Identified — Priorities Moving Forward	Theme(s)
Solomon Islands SONOS-WP marine/ocean partnership launched; first national weather radar under commissioning; AMOS-RD (SOFF) surface-station upgrades; new BIP-M qualified forecasters.	- Expand the SIMS/SIMA marine-weather and ocean-observation partnership (SONOS-WP) to all provinces. - Upgrade ICT infrastructure, including a cost-effective forecasting and dissemination platform. - Capacity building in marine meteorology, ICT, BIP-M and BIP-MT.	3, 4, 6
Kiribati Expanded human capacity across all service areas; SOFF investment secured (14 stations, 3 upper-air); national responsibility assumed for public/marine forecasting.	- New main office building (Betio) and transport to serve Tarawa and Kiritimati. - Additional BIP-M training for the forecasting team. - A weather-forecasting platform enabling full national responsibility, including aviation forecasting.	1, 3, 4, 5
Samoa Strengthened multi-hazard early warning services; modernised observation infrastructure; strengthened climate services and regional engagement.	- Sustainable investment in meteorological observation infrastructure. - Strengthening human resources and technical capacity. - Sustainable financing and long-term institutional support/modernisation.	1, 3, 5
Vanuatu Progress on revenue regulation; CAA Part 174 certification; transition of VMGD toward a Vanuatu Meteorology & Hydrology Service (VMHS).	- Modernise Impact-Based Forecasting and Warning Services (IBFWS). - Roll out hydrometeorological services. - Publish the VMHS Strategic Plan 2026–2029.	2, 5, 6
Tokelau New AWS infrastructure and associated capacity building.	- Infrastructure — automatic weather stations. - Capacity building. - Early Warning System development.	1, 2, 3
Niue Enhanced observation network (3 stations incl. wave buoys); improved forecasting accuracy; improved early-warning lead time.	- A robust, climate-proofed facility for the Niue Meteorological Service. - A mechanism to support the sustainability and maintenance of equipment. - Strengthened staff support and coordination of services for communities.	1, 3, 5, 7
French Polynesia Funding secured for a weather radar and site identified; wave-submersion vigilance system implemented; fine-scale climate modelling underway.	- Construction of a weather radar (2027). - Installation of observation stations at 24 airports with improved aeronautical meteorological support. - Dissemination of climate services to all decision-makers.	1, 2
New Caledonia & Wallis and Futuna Landslide-risk monitoring system based on cumulative precipitation; cyclone-phase vigilance dissemination; fine-scale climate modelling for French Pacific territories.	- New precipitation radars: Grande Terre (2026), Nouméa (2027), Lifou (2028). - Coastal-flooding Vigilance system for New Caledonia (2026). - Vigilance system for Wallis and Futuna (2027–2028).	1, 2

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Annex B: Summary of Cross-Cutting Regional Priorities

Frequency reflects the number of the 16 reviewed Country Reports in which a need or priority falling under the given theme was explicitly identified. Several Members identified needs spanning more than one theme.

#	Regional Priority Theme	Frequency	Members / Territories Identifying This Priority
1	Strengthening Observation Networks and Physical Infrastructure (incl. GBON/SOFF)	11 / 16	Cook Islands, PNG, FSM, RMI, Nauru, Kiribati, Samoa, Tokelau, Niue, French Polynesia, New Caledonia & Wallis and Futuna
2	Advancing Early Warnings for All, Impact-Based Forecasting and Last-Mile Dissemination	9 / 16	Cook Islands, Fiji, PNG, Tuvalu, FSM, Vanuatu, Tokelau, French Polynesia, New Caledonia & Wallis and Futuna
3	Building Human Resource Capacity and Professional/Technical Certification	11 / 16	Cook Islands, Fiji, Tuvalu, FSM–Chuuk, RMI, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Tokelau, Niue
4	Modernising ICT, Data Management and Digital Service Platforms	4 / 16	Tuvalu, FSM, Solomon Islands, Kiribati
5	Strengthening Institutional Governance, Legislation and Sustainable Financing	7 / 16	Fiji, RMI, Nauru, Kiribati, Samoa, Vanuatu, Niue
6	Expanding Marine, Ocean and Hydrological Services	2 / 16	Solomon Islands, Vanuatu
7	Mainstreaming Inclusive, People-Centred Services (GEDSI) and Regional Cooperation	5 / 16	Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, FSM–Chuuk, Niue