

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 24.3: Climate Change Services to Support Adaptation and Resilience

Purpose:

1. To brief the Council on progress in formulating a new funded program of work to support Pacific climate change services, at the regional to national level.
2. To seek the Council's endorsement for the continued development and regional co-design of the Pacific-led Climate Change Services proposal, including engagement with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, Pacific regional organisations, and other relevant stakeholders to refine the program's scope and governance arrangements.
3. To seek the Council's input on the next steps for developing the proposal, including the design of governance, leadership and decision-making arrangements that ensure the program is genuinely Pacific-led, nationally responsive and regionally coordinated.

Objectives:

1. To refine the proposed program's scope, priorities, governance and delivery arrangements through consultation with stakeholders across the region.
2. To ensure the proposal responds to Pacific country needs, builds on existing national and regional capabilities, and complements related climate services, early warning, adaptation and resilience initiatives.
3. To identify practical pathways for implementation, sustainable regional and national capability, and potential co-investment.

Background:

1. Pacific Island Countries and Territories face growing climate impacts affecting communities, livelihoods, infrastructure, ecosystems and essential services. Addressing these impacts requires trusted and locally relevant information about observed climate change and projected conditions over decadal and longer timescales.
2. Climate change impacts continue to grow and are most acutely felt during extreme events like the 2026 El Niño, which challenge National resilience and adaptive capacity.
3. Pacific Leaders have called for stronger Pacific-led science, modelling and risk assessment capability. The Kainaki II Declaration, the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the Boe Declaration on Regional Security recognise the need for improved climate information to support adaptation, resilience and regional security.

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4. Earlier Australian funded investments in similar initiatives include the Pacific Climate Change Science Program (PCCSP), Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning (PAC-CSAP) Program which ended in 2014, and CSIRO's NextGen which completed in 2018. A new Climate Change Services Program would build on the legacy of these earlier efforts while creating an enduring climate change services capability for the Pacific. This would strengthen the regional evidence base and ensure Pacific perspectives remain reflected in international climate science assessments.
5. Despite strong demand, access to authoritative and application-ready climate change information remains uneven across the region. Available information may lack regional specificity or be difficult to apply to infrastructure planning, risk assessments and investment decisions. There is also insufficient underlying risk data to support climate finance and to strengthen the evidence base for addressing Loss and Damage.
6. The proposed Climate Change Services Program would address this demand by helping to ensure Pacific countries have access to up-to-date and regionally relevant climate change science through services. This would support Pacific priorities, including advocacy for limiting global warming to 1.5°C, adaptation planning, climate finance and engagement in international climate negotiations.
7. Existing programs provide a strong foundation for addressing this gap. Weather Ready Pacific is strengthening early warning systems, while COSPPac supports climate and ocean services over historical, current and seasonal timescales.
8. The proposed Climate Change Services Program would complement, rather than compete with or duplicate, these initiatives. It addresses a distinct gap by focusing on observed long-term change and future climate conditions over decadal and longer timescales, while building on the partnerships and capabilities established through existing programs.
9. The proposal is being developed with cooperation from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO, SPREP, the Pacific Community, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the University of the South Pacific. Earth Sciences New Zealand have also been consulted on the proposal and provided initial feedback. This collaborative development provides an initial foundation for broader engagement and co-design with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and other stakeholders across the region, including the PICS Panel and now PMC.
10. The proposal's vision is an enduring Pacific-led Climate Change Services capability delivered nationally and supported by regional organisations. Rather than providing a time-limited set of technical products, the program would build the people and institutions required for Pacific organisations and countries to sustain climate change services over the long term.
11. The program would build an enduring capability across the entire climate services value chain, from climate science and modelling through to authoritative services and their application in decision-making. National institutions would have a central role, supported by regional scientific and technical capability.
12. Together, these areas would support Pacific institutions to produce and apply climate information for national planning and sector specific decision-making. Outputs could inform National Adaptation Plans, climate risk assessments, infrastructure investment and access to climate finance.

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13. Further regional engagement and co-design are required before the proposal is finalised. This process would refine country needs and clarify the respective roles of national institutions, regional organisations and technical partners.
14. Subject to the Council's guidance, the next stage would involve structured engagement with members and regional stakeholders, supported by a stocktake of existing capabilities and investments. This would inform a refined program design, governance model and implementation approach.

Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the growing need for authoritative and locally relevant climate change information to support adaptation and resilience across the Pacific.
 - **Note** the ongoing development of a proposed Pacific-led climate change services capability to address this need.
 - **Note** that the proposal will seek new funding to ensure it complements but does not compete with Weather Ready Pacific, COSPPac and other regional initiatives.
 - **Note** that the project proposal team intends to engage with appropriate national partners both within NMHSs and beyond.
 - **Request** the Council assist with engagement efforts to ensure the proposal appropriately highlights Pacific needs and desired service outcomes.
 - **Request** the Council endorse and provide continued support to the development of the proposal through regional engagement and co-design.
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