

Third Weather Ready Pacific Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

9:00am-1:00pm, 26 September 2025

Purpose

1. For WRP_SC3 to approve its working Agenda

The WRP Steering Committee Terms of Reference requires a Standing Agenda as follows:

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting
- b. A WRPP Report on activities and progress to date
- c. Budget Tracking Report
- d. Final draft Work Plan for the upcoming financial year
- e. Update on new or proposed partners/partnership opportunities/resource mobilisation opportunities
- f. Any other documents or information to be considered by the meeting.

WRP_SC3 Decisions required

The following decisions are requested of the WRP Steering Committee (WRP_SC3)

1. **SC3 Dec 3.1.1** - The SC to approve the WRP Steering Committee Agenda (As Stipulated in Annex 1 below)

Annex 1 – WRP Steering Committee 3 Agenda

Item	Time	Activity	Lead
1	0900	Call of meeting to order & opening prayer	WRP SC Chair
2	0905	Welcome and Opening remarks 1. Chair – Misaeli Funaki, Director Fiji Meteorological Service 2. OIC SPREP Climate Science and Information Programme	WRP SC Chair and SPREP
3	0915	Approval of agenda	WRP SC Chair
4	0915	Consideration of Minutes of the 2 nd WRP SC Meeting on 20 May 2025	WRP SC Chair
5	0930	WRP Work Plan Progress and Budget Tracking Report	WRP Programme Manager
6	1000	Final draft Work Plan for the upcoming financial year (Request SC3 to discuss as part of Paper 9.1)	WRP Programme Manager
7	1015	Update on new or proposed partners/partnership opportunities/resource mobilisation opportunities	WRP Programme Manager
8		Morning Tea	
9	1030	Any other documents or information to be considered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paper 9.1: WRP implementation plan to 2029 - Paper 9.2: WRP Pooled Fund - Paper 9.3: Steering committee TOR - Paper 9.4: IFP Peer Review & Roadmap - Paper 9.5 Unified WRP Brand - Paper 9.6 Operations Manual Introduction & Governance - Paper 9.7 WRP GEDSI Strategy - Paper 9.8 WRP Radar Strategy - Paper 9.9 WRP Sustainability Framework - Paper 9.10 WRP MERL Framework - Paper 9.11 MHEWS Flexi funds procedures <p>(Highlighted in Yellow are Governance/Policy related papers that will also be tabled at the Out of session PMC)</p>	WRP SC Chair, facilitated by WRP Manager
10	1245	Date/Place for the next Steering Committee	WRP SC Chair
11	1250	Final remarks, closing prayer and closure	WRP SC Chairs and Members
12	1255	Group Photo	
13	1300	Lunch	

Attendance:

Alick Hiruhiru, Henry Taiki, Graham Elley, Raveen Das, Emma Coombe, Jessica Yeung, Jimmy Gomoga, Johannes Berdon, Laitia Fifita, Aisea Fungavai, Levu Antfalo, Lisi Seumanutafa, Luka Selu, Takena Redfern, Maara Vaiimene, Misaeli Funaki, Moleni Tuuholoaki, Tauala Katea, Molly Powers – Tora, Reginald White, Manu Solomona, Rossy Mitiepo, Susana Naisara, Ueneta Toorua, Wilfred Nanpei, Nazgul Borkosheva, Tom Copping, Tessa Tafua, Tile Tofaeono, Fred Jockley, Bipen Prakash, Philip Perkins, Duncan Tippins, Gabor Szikszai, Corinne Malot, David Spencer, Kylie Holland, Terry Hibben, Peter Wilson, Drew Watney, Caleb Aw, Michael Altous, Farzana Moga, Salesa Nihmei, Ofa Faanunu, Naheed Hussein, Honsol Chan Tung, Pomate Skelton-Soloi

Online

Jiuta Korovulavula, Trevor Shailer, James Lunny, Zulfikar Begg, Andrew Jones, Anthony Rea, Nicole Cherry, Rebekah Robertson, Melissa Morgan, Kat Paton, Henry Thompson, Whaitiri, Gabrielle Emery, Ben McFadden, Jacqui Reid, Megumi Tsukizoe, Daniel Fitzpatrick, Cameron Lethlean, Stephen Wood

Agenda item 1: Call of meeting to order & opening prayer

9:05am – WRP Programme Manager 'Ofa Fa'anunu called the meeting to start and Niue Meteorology Service Director, Rossy Mitiepo started the meeting with a short prayer.

Present at the Meeting were representatives from Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom and Vanuatu.

A full list of participants, including observers, is available in Annex I.

Agenda item 2: Welcome and Opening remarks

1. Chair – Misaeli Funaki, Director Fiji Meteorological Service

The Chair welcomed everyone to the 3rd Steering Committee meeting.

2. OIC SPREP Climate Science and Information Programme

The Director welcomed delegates and acknowledged their leadership and commitment to weather and climate resilience in the Pacific. Progress since the last meeting in May includes finalising governance processes and laying groundwork for key activities such as:

- Flexible funding support
- Radar installations
- Satellite communication upgrades
- New forecasting platforms and climate tools

The meeting plays a vital governance role, with expected endorsement of key frameworks:

- MERL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning)
- Sustainability Framework
- GEDSI Strategy (Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion)

- Radar Strategy

Emphasis was placed on the importance of these frameworks for equitable and sustainable programme delivery. The Director called for continued cooperation to expedite implementation and acknowledged the contributions of funding partners and technical teams. SPREP reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the Weather Ready Pacific vision.

Agenda item 3: Approval of agenda

The Meeting reviewed the working agenda.

Discussion

Trevor Shailer (joining virtually) moved motion to approve the WRP Steering Committee Agenda. Vanuatu seconded the motion.

The Meeting:

- **Considered** and **approved** the WRP Steering Committee Agenda (As Stipulated in Annex

Agenda item 4: Consideration of Minutes of the 2nd WRP SC Meeting on 20 May 2025

The Meeting considered the Minutes of the 2nd WRP SC Meeting on 20 May 2025.

Discussion

- Tonga commented that the 2nd SC meeting finished at 5:39pm Solomon time. Tonga moved the motion to pass the minutes.
- Vanuatu requested to correct spelling of Levu.
- Kat Paton noted her online attendance but not included in minutes. Secretariat to include Kat and other participants who attended virtually.
- Niue supported recommendation to approve the minutes of the 2nd WRP SC Meeting on 20 May 2025

The Meeting:

- **Noted** and **endorsed** the minutes of the 2nd WRP SC Meeting on 20 May 2025.

Agenda item 5: WRP Work Plan Progress and Budget Tracking Report

The Meeting was presented the WRP Work Plan Progress and Budget Tracking Report.

Discussion

- ✓ Marshall Islands requested inclusion under the Starlink initiative and raised concern about changes in the Key Result Areas (KRAs), particularly regarding infrastructure from Observation infrastructure. Clarified that if changes are only proposals, they are acceptable.
 - The WRP Programme Manager stated that 11 countries have requested Starlink support; currently, 3 countries are being prioritised under EW4ALL but there are plan with WMO to extend this support.
 - KRA numbering was approved in the last SC meeting; only numbering changed, not content.
 - The SC has authority to make changes to activities, which are reported under the new structure.

- ✓ Tonga thanked the PMU and Manager for progress to date. They raised concerns about activity implementation delays, disbursement processes, and the potential impacts on donor delivery. They commented whether there is anything the Steering Committee can do to help the PMU to reduce any delivery delays. Further Tonga requested the empowerment of PMU to improve delivery if needed. Furthermore, Tonga requested whether it is possible to notify the SC about who have been appointed to the positions that will start in October and November so we know whom we will be working with and whether it will have an impact on other projects if they are current internal SPREP staff.
 - WRP PM was only able to notify the meeting about the appointment of the WRP Infrastructure and ICT Adviser Ms Marica Ratuki a Fiji National who will start on the 13th of October. Ms Marica was formerly a radar engineer with Fiji Met Service. Recruitment for two key roles — Capacity and Training Adviser and Procurement Officer — is still underway. These positions may be filled internally. The WRP PM acknowledged Tonga’s concerns regarding potential impacts on other projects and assured members that transitions will be managed smoothly to avoid disruptions.
 - Director CSI acknowledged Tonga’s concerns and confirmed that internal discussions with SPREP will take place before drafting and submitting a Steering Committee (SC) letter to the SPREP Director General. While the pace of implementation is fast, procurement rules will be followed, and changes are acknowledged.
 - The SC reaffirmed its readiness to support the Programme Management Unit (PMU) as needed to ensure successful delivery of activities.

- ✓ Niue expressed appreciation for the work and progress made to date, with thanks to supporting partners. Niue referred to the stocktake presented in the slides and recommended endorsing in principle the proposed changes to the Key Result Areas (KRAs), while noting the change in progress. Niue acknowledged the disbursements made by countries and requested a clearer breakdown:
 - Funding directly to countries
 - Funding supporting regional programmesThis distinction is important for accountability to their respective governments.
 - The WRP PM clarified that there will be funds that come directly and some managed by SPREP and other EAs. We will include another column for cash paid directly to countries to deliver activities such as support for ICT officers, starlinks and flexifund.

- ✓ Kiribati Acknowledged and appreciated the report, noting that the work was well summarized. Recommended that future reports include a summary of issues and challenges, particularly around implementation. Suggested that any recommendations to improve WRP delivery be formally submitted to the Steering Committee (SC) for endorsement.
 - The WRP PM clarified that a summary of risks and challenges paper will be discussed under Agenda Item 9.
- ✓ Tonga noted the development of activities under KRA 6. Acknowledged the presence of National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) and emphasised their importance in this activity. Recommended that NDMOs be included in discussions and planning related to KRA 6.
- ✓ PNG Inquired whether there are additional components beyond Starlink under KRA 5.
 - This point will be addressed in the implementation plan.
- ✓ Vanuatu moved motion to endorse the report, Republic of Marshall Islands seconded the motion to endorse the report.

The Meeting:

- **Noted** the WRP Work Plan Progress made across the inception and implementation of WRP activities.
- **Endorsed** the written Progress and Budget Tracking Report

Agenda item 6: Final draft Work Plan for the upcoming financial year (Request SC3 to discuss together with Paper 9.1)

The Meeting was presented the Final draft Work Plan for the upcoming financial year and also the updated WRP Implementation Plan v2. The following decisions were requested:

Discussion

The Meeting:

- **Note** and **endorse** the WRP Work Plan Progress and Budget Tracking Report
- **Note** and **endorse** the request to discuss the Final draft Work Plan for the upcoming financial year as part of Paper 9.1

Agenda item 7: Update on new or proposed partners/partnership opportunities/resource mobilisation opportunities.

The Meeting was presented an Update on new or proposed partners / partnership opportunities / resource mobilisation opportunities.

Discussion

- ✓ NZ MFAT Rebekah Robertson (online) - Recommend SPC, SPREP and New Zealand to investigate the applicability of RiskScape software that is being used across 6 NDMOs in the Pacific to see if it would be suitable to expand its use for impact based forecasting under WRP. We have preliminary confirmation MFAT will support the PARTneR project for another phase in partnership with UNDRR and there is a great opportunity for us to align to support impact based forecasting, training and dissemination of messaging required under WRP KRA 6

The Meeting:

- **Noted** Partnerships that have been formalised.
- **Endorse** new and emerging partnerships.

Agenda item 8: Morning tea break.

Agenda item 9: Any other documents or information to be considered

- **Paper 9.1: WRP implementation plan to 2029 (Discussed with Agenda item 6)**

The Meeting was presented the updated WRP Implementation Plan v2. The following decisions were requested:

- ❖ SC3 Dec 9.1.1 - The SC approves the updated WRP Implementation Plan v2.
- ❖ SC3 Dec 9.1.2 - The SC approves the updated funded Work Plan 2024 to 2029 and note the deliberate focus on funding foundational regional activities, deferral of some priority work and recruitment until further funding is identified.
- ❖ SC3 Dec 9.1.3 - The SC to approve maintaining (or changing) the implementation scope to only include the 14 NMHS not aligned with USA National Weather Services or Meteo France

Discussion

- ✓ RMI queried the change in terminology from “observation infrastructure” to simply “infrastructure”, seeking clarification on when and why this change occurred. RMI requested the removal of the reference to “USA National Weather Services” in the documentation.

Alternatively, they suggested including a note such as “except for RMI” if the reference must remain. Subject to the above amendment, RMI would endorse the motion.

- ✓ Vanuatu asked whether recommendation SC3 Dec 9.1.3 applies to staff or systems
 - Secretariat clarified that the recommendation applies only to ICT staff, specifically those not affiliated with NOAA or Météo-France.
- ✓ Tonga recommended updating the wording to explicitly include USA National Weather Services and Météo-France affiliated countries, for clarity and inclusiveness. Tonga thanked the Secretariat for confirming that the USD 10,000 allocation refers to the Flexifund. Tonga expressed interest in nominating candidates for the PAGASA BIP-M course in 2026.
 - The Secretariat confirmed that the Flexifund is denominated in USD, not AUD.
- ✓ Federated States of Micronesia expressed concern and disapproval over being excluded from the list of countries receiving ICT support under SC3 Dec 9.1.3.
 - The Secretariat clarified that this was included in the originally approved WRP Implementation Plan. This is why the decision is being formally requested — to ensure alignment with the approved plan and to address any necessary updates or inclusions.
- ✓ Tonga moved a motion to change the wording to include all countries, removing any exclusions.
- ✓ Vanuatu seconded the motion.

The Meeting:

- Approved SC Dec 9.1.1
- Approved SC Dec 9.1.2
- Approved the change to include all PMC members and remove all references excluding USA National Weather Services and Météo-France affiliated countries.

• Paper 9.2: WRP Pooled Fund

The Meeting was presented an Update on the findings of the Stage 1 consultancy on legal and financial arrangements for a pooled funding facility to support the Weather Ready Pacific (WRP) Programme, and to seek agreement on the preferred funding model and next steps.

Discussion

- ✓ RMI expressed concern about receiving meeting papers late, which limits time for proper review and endorsement. RMI raised concerns about the potential impact of the proposed changes in 9.2.5, emphasising the need to:
 - Use existing frameworks already in place.
 - Explore alternative options beyond those currently proposed.
 - Establish a task force to investigate options for a WRP Pooled Fund
- The Secretariat acknowledged the delay in delivering papers and the impact it may have had. It was explained that the urgency was driven by the need to “change our ship” and begin delivery, hence the push for endorsement. Further noted that this

issue around pooled funding had been raised previously and that if the current structure is a barrier (as decided by SPREP), then it is recommended that the pooled fund not be established solely under SPREP.

The WRP SC3 decisions requested:

WRP Dec. 9.2.1 – Approve the hybrid pooled funding model as the model that offers the optimal balance between donor flexibility and programme efficiency. Combined with a “gold standard” governance framework, it should position WRP to attract and manage diverse funding sources, deliver coherent, regionally led programming, and help achieve the objectives of the Decadal Programme.

WRP Dec. 9.2.2 - Develop a WRP Charter defining scope, objectives, governance, and donor “Reserved Matters”.

WRP Dec. 9.2.3 - Implement a harmonised governance, reporting, and monitoring framework across all funding modalities.

WRP Dec. 9.2.4 - Refine delegations of authority, introduce clear funding eligibility and due diligence rules, and ensure key requirements covered for audits, sanctions, and transparency.

WRP Dec. 9.2.5 - Establish the WRP Pooled Fund as a Special Account under SPREP Financial Regulations, ensuring compliance with existing SPREP Financial Procedures and Procurement Manuals, with possible refinements for pooled fund operations.

WRP Dec. 9.2.6 - Review indirect cost policies, Special Account criteria, and tax exemption arrangements to ensure efficiency and donor alignment.

WRP Dec. 9.2.7 - Contract Stage 2 consultancy [by October 2025] to draft legal, governance, and financial documentation and operationalise the pooled fund. Stage 2 proposed plan is stipulated in Annex 1.

Endorsed 9.2.1 to 9.2.7 except for 9.2.5 (note comments on 9.2.5)

The Meeting:

- **Note** the findings of the Stage 1 consultancy on legal and financial arrangements for a pooled funding facility
- **Endorsed** WRP Dec 9.2.1 to 9.2.7 above except for 9.2.5. The meeting recommended for this to be discussed further.

• **Paper 9.3: Steering committee TOR**

The Meeting was presented an update to the WRP Steering Committee TOR.

Discussion

- ✓ Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) re-emphasised the importance of timely submission of meeting papers, recommending that papers be submitted at least one to two weeks in advance of future Steering Committee (SC) meetings.
- ✓ Tonga requested that future Steering Committee meetings be scheduled for a full day rather than a half-day to ensure adequate time for discussion and decision-making.
- ✓ Cook Islands endorsed the recommendation under Point 3 that the Chair or Vice Chair of the Hydrology Panel and the Chair of the Regional Geo-hazards Meeting be formally included as part of the Steering Committee meeting.
- ✓ It was noted that non-members may attend SC meetings as observers subject to approval by the SC Chair.

The Meeting:

- **Endorsed** the changes to the WRP Steering Committee TOR, Version 4

• Paper 9.4: IFP Peer Review & Roadmap

The Meeting was presented options or combination of options to proceed with from the IFP peer review recommendations.

The following decisions were requested of the WRP Steering Committee (WRP_SC3):

- ❖ SC3 Dec 9.4. 1 - The SC approves Option 3 as the preferred solution for Pacific Integrated Forecasting Platform and for WRP to develop work plan for implementation.
- ❖ SC3 Dec 9.4. 2 - The SC endorse the critical parallel projects for inclusion in WRP work plan as funding allows, to achieve world class forecasting capability in the Pacific.
- ❖ SC3 Dec 9.4. 3 - The SC endorse WRP to additionally roll out NZ visualisation tool as an interim measure for a small number of countries where there's an identified need, at additional cost.

Discussion

- ✓ Kiribati expressed thanks and acknowledged the importance of this component. Kiribati raised the below:
 - Emphasised the need to consider the long-term sustainability of the platform.
 - Recommended exploring alternative suppliers beyond those currently recommended, and encouraged open quotations from other vendors
 - Highlighted the importance of assessing the capability of staff to effectively use the tools provided.
 - Noted the involvement of multiple countries and stressed the importance of ensuring the platform benefits all participating countries.
 - Shared that Kiribati has been conducting its own public forecasting and is working to expand its capabilities
 - Raised the question of what tools or support are needed for Kiribati students to use when they return home after completing certification

- Suggested considering other platforms or options that may be more suitable for different countries.
- ✓ Trevor from NZ (online) thanked all participants. Raised questions regarding the process and its perception, noting that the initial intent was for a peer review, but it evolved into an options paper with recommendations.
 - Cameron clarified that the current process is a pilot, which was developed accordingly and acknowledged that the pilot did not cover all Integrated Forecasting Products (IFPs) discussed. Considered whether the IFP developed by New Zealand is suitable for further development
- ✓ RMI thanked the presenters and acknowledged the global exploration of AI throughout the week. Asked whether some or all potential suppliers have been considered where feasible. Concerned with AI and emphasised the importance of automatic integration and preparation in AI tools, and hoped the peer review would address this aspect. Secondly, raised issues around costs, noting that inflation could increase expenses by up to \$110,000 per country or for the entire package.
 - Cameron highlighted the advantage of shared costs, which would be distributed across all 15 participating countries.
 - Confirmed that AI will be discussed and incorporated into future developments.
- ✓ Jiuta (IOC-UNESCO) referred to Slide 6 of the presentation and noted that additional items should be included in the recommendations, particularly those related to tsunami warning systems. Acknowledged the inclusion of a specialised tsunami tool, but questioned whether the assessment included consultation with countries not currently using TOAST.
 - Representative Shared insights from European experts on quick methods to enhance tsunami warnings across the Pacific. It was noted that other agencies may be using different tools, and these may be considered as viable options. The recommendation to use TOAST is with European experts. We are approaching Australia or New Zealand to develop a regional model that incorporates input data from these countries, which could benefit the wider Pacific region.
- ✓ Vanuatu reiterated concerns raised during the 2nd Steering Committee meeting, noting that while the initiative is a good start, some countries already have existing IFPs. Suggested that funds should be channeled to support existing in-country IFPs, rather than focusing solely on new developments. Stated that the current recommendations only consider Fiji's system, without adequately reviewing or acknowledging what other countries are currently using. Expressed a strong preference for decentralised hosting, where each country hosts its own system. Stated that centralised hosting in Fiji may limit capacity building in other countries. Believes local hosting would better support national capacity development and enhance service delivery.
 - The Secretariat outlined the investment plan and the cascading system approach, spanning global, regional, and national levels. Considered using the system developed by New Zealand to assess its relevance and benefit across Pacific Island Countries (PICs). Noted that approximately 80% of forecasts produced in Fiji are manual, relying heavily on systems like IBL. The Secretariat emphasised that since this is a regional programme, it should support regional offices and benefit all participating countries.

Identified Option 3 as the cheapest and most sustainable approach. What is being raised, we know there are countries like Vanuatu and Tonga that have their own. The idea of implementing systems country by country, is not a regional approach. The Secretariat suggested a recommendation to explore how existing national systems can be integrated into a Regional Integrated Forecast Platform, rather than replacing them.

- ✓ Tonga thanked the presenters for their work. Strongly recommended that “doing nothing” should not be an option, and therefore Option 1 should be removed from consideration. Expressed support for a regional approach, but emphasised the need to also support national capacities, especially for countries with existing systems. Proposed that the Integrated Forecast Platform (IFP) should be a hybrid model—one that caters to smaller meteorological services while also acknowledging and integrating existing systems like IBL. Recommended that the Weather Ready Programme (WRP) should go back to the drawing board and return with more practical and feasible options. Acknowledged that while this may take more time, it is necessary to ensure the approach is inclusive and effective. Suggested that existing national systems could be further developed into a regional IFP.
- ✓ Solomon Islands expressed gratitude to the Chair for the opportunity to participate and emphasized the point raised by Tonga. Acknowledged the work done by the team in reviewing forecasting systems in Fiji and other Pacific Islands. While we have no unified platform, we have different products and tools that are currently in use. It would be valuable to conduct a more detailed assessment of the specific needs within each national meteorological service, to ensure future developments are fit-for-purpose and responsive to local contexts.
- ✓ Niue thanked the team for the paper and the work done and expressed appreciation for the Severe Weather Programme, noting it was well executed by NZ MetServices. Highlighted that Niue is one of the pilot countries under the programme. Niue further noted that there appears to be a pre-determined decision favouring Option 3. She further echoed Tonga’s concerns, suggesting that other options should be considered to avoid putting “all our eggs in one basket.” Gaps and challenges were identified in the peer review, and these should inform the recommendations. She further stressed the importance of not overlooking smaller countries in the pursuit of ambitious regional goals. Niue recommends a closer look at the gaps and challenges faced by the three pilot countries and suggested revisiting Points 9.4.2 and 9.4.3 to better reflect the realities faced by national meteorological services. Acknowledged the importance of supporting Fiji, given its role in the region.
 - The Secretariat recognised that the Chair cannot respond directly as the issue relates to Fiji Met Service. The WRP PM explained that other options exist from earlier phases and that ICT investment is being made to address some of the issues.
 - Proposed that the Steering Committee proceed with upgrading Fiji, while re-examining other options for the other countries.
- ✓ Fiji shared its experience of working under a Service Level Agreement with the Bureau, noting the challenges of operating on an outdated system. They acknowledged the capabilities of IBL and emphasised that countries know what they need and want to see practical demonstrations of how tools are implemented. As a provider of forecasts to other Pacific countries, Phase 1 will enhance Fiji’s ability to deliver these services. However, Fiji stressed that this initiative is not just about one country—it’s for the benefit of all countries in the region. They also recognised that other providers exist who could offer similar services.

- Fiji requested the endorsement of Phase 1, stating that it would simplify operations and improve regional forecasting capacity.
- ✓ Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) shared that they have reviewed the document and believe it requires immediate attention. They described the proposal as one of the most inclusive and equitable options, and expressed full endorsement, acknowledging that concerns may arise later. While they recognise the knowledge and reliance on Fiji, they are inclined to support the proposal fully. They also noted that when the opportunity arises, there should be room to assess alternative systems if needed. In the interest of progress and regional benefit, RMI recommended that the Steering Committee move forward and endorse Phase 1 without modification.
- ✓ Tonga clearly endorses the implementation of Phase 1 and supports expanding the existing IBL system. Based on recent discussions and supplier presentations in Honiara, Tonga is inclined not to endorse Phases 2 and 3 at this stage. Notes the availability of multiple platforms already in use across the Pacific and suggests continuing to use some as transitional tools. Recommends reviewing more options and identifying a more affordable and sustainable package. Highlights that the initiative was intended to develop a Pacific-owned solution, rather than simply enhancing the RTMC. Proposes tendering the activity, allowing all interested suppliers to apply, with a report-back process to follow. Tonga suggests endorsing Phase 1 now, and returning later to decide on Phases 2 and 3.
- ✓ PNG agrees with the recommendation to proceed with Phase 1.

The Meeting:

- **Noted** the paper and **approve** proceeding with phase 1 only
- **Noted** a suggestion for the severe weather warning pilot or training be expanded to include other Pacific countries.

- **Paper 9.5 Unified WRP Brand**

The meeting was presented on the establishment of a unified brand for Weather Ready Pacific.

Discussion

- ✓ Tonga supports the overall proposal and acknowledges the two options presented. Specifically supports and recommends Option 2, which includes all components described in English.



The Meeting:

- **Endorsed** the establishment of unified brand for Weather Ready Pacific in principle as described and to include changes made by the SC and task SPREP the unified branding guidelines for WRP for consideration at the next SC meeting
- **Endorsed** Option 2.

• Paper 9.6 Operations Manual Introduction & Governance

The meeting was presented the WRP Operations Manual Chapter 1 Introduction and Governance.

Discussion

- ✓ The Chair and members formally endorse the paper and its recommendations.

The Meeting:

- **Noted** and **endorsed** in principle the draft WRP Operations Manual approach and structure, and draft Chapter 1 Introduction and Governance which will replace WRP Governance v3 document going forward.
- **Endorse** the updated Delegation Framework and Delegations Authority found in Chapter 1 Appendix 2.

• Paper 9.7 WRP GEDSI Strategy

The meeting was presented the WRP Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Strategy 2025-2033.

Discussion

- ✓ RMI has no objections to the paper but kindly requests that one photo of RMI be included in the documentation or presentation if possible.

The Meeting:

- **Approved** in principle the WRP GEDSI Strategy 2025-2033, including its transformative Key Priority Areas, actions, and phased implementation framework, while noting the need for dedicated and sustained GEDSI resources and partner engagement for success.

• Paper 9.8 WRP Radar Strategy

The meeting was presented the update on the WRP Radar Strategy.

The following decisions were requested of the WRP Steering Committee (WRP_SC3):

- ❖ WRP Dec. 9.8.1 – Approve the recommendations (1-6) to be embedded into the Regional Radar Strategy.
- ❖ WRP Dec. 9.8.2 – Approve the Technical Recommendations for Pacific Country Weather Radars (Annex I) to be embedded into the Regional Radar Strategy.

Discussion

- ✓ Tonga stated that the Radar Strategy include a provision for sharing radar data among member countries and a training component for meteorologists and technicians as part of the strategy.

Paper 9.8 WRP Radar Strategy endorsed

The Meeting:

- **Approve** the recommendations (1-6) to be embedded into the Regional Radar Strategy.
- **Approve** the Technical Recommendations for Pacific Country Weather Radars (Annex I) to be embedded into the Regional Radar Strategy.

• Paper 9.9 WRP Sustainability Framework

The meeting was presented the WRP Sustainability Framework and supporting sustainability related tools.

Discussion

- ✓ Tonga moved motion to endorse the WRP Sustainability Framework.

The Meeting:

- **Endorsed** the WRP Sustainability Framework as outlined including the:
 - WRP Sustainability Benchmarks
 - WRP Core Sustainability Challenges to be addressed under Track 1.

- The mainstreaming of sustainability and use of sustainability tools, including the Guiding Questions to Make your Proposal Sustainable.

• Paper 9.10 WRP MERL Framework

The meeting was presented the WRP Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning (MERL) Framework

The following decisions were requested of the WRP Steering Committee (WRP_SC3):

- ❖ SC3 Dec 9.10.1 - The SC endorse the revised WRP Principles for agreement by the PMC:
 - Pacific-led and owned
 - Inclusive, equitable and empowering
 - Collaborative
 - Transformative and sustained
- ❖ SC3 Dec 9.10.2 - The SC note the MERL Framework is integrated throughout the WRP programme, and that everybody will contribute to WRP MERL processes and application of learnings, research and reflections to programme decisions and adaptations.
- ❖ SC3 Dec 9.10.3 - The SC invite NMHS and other WRP Executing Agencies to consider their own MERL capacity and capability requirements as part of developing their concept notes and budgets.
- ❖ SC3 Dec 9.10.4 - The SC note that throughout 2025 and 2026 NMHS should continue to work with COSPPac to strengthen their own MERL foundations in anticipation of WRP MERL support building on those foundations and coordinating with any other regional programmes from 2027.
- ❖ SC3 Dec 9.10.5 - The SC either:
 1. **Option 1:** direct the PMU to give members an additional two weeks to provide feedback on the WRP MERL Framework (Impact Pathway, MERL Plan, MERL tables), and for the WRP PMU to then proceed to collect baseline and establish targets against the indicators once any further feedback received is addressed to the satisfaction of the WRP Programme Manager.
 2. **Option 2:** approve the overall WRP MERL Framework in its current form, including the:
 - WRP Impact Pathway diagram (Annex 1)
 - WRP MERL Plan, including the reporting schedule.
 - finalised WRP MERL table indicators (Annex 3), including implementation indicators, headline and high-level indicators, and indicative story themes (noting those indicators that are yet to be finalised, and which are linked to parallel processes such as the PIMS)
 - Proposed SC six-month and annual report structures (Annex 4).
 - and invite the WRP PMU to proceed to collecting baseline and establishing targets against the approved indicators.
- ❖ SC3 Dec 9.10.6 - The SC request that the WRP PMU present updated MERL tables (with targets) and a full MERL costed workplan for consideration at WRP_SC4.
- ❖ SC3 Dec 9.10.7 - The SC request that the WRP PMU continue to update the MERL Framework as appropriate throughout the WRP decadal programme in response to lessons learned.

Discussion

- ✓ Jiuta (IOC-UNESCO) emphasises for WRP to consider IOC-UNESCO's tsunami emergency operations, monitoring, and evaluation within the framework. Notes that the tsunami evaluation framework has been successful, particularly during recent tsunami events.
 - Kat noted the comment and stated that KRA is currently in development phase.
 - Separately regarding RMI's comments around the term infrastructure Kat explained infrastructure is covered across all the KRAs.
- ✓ RMI stated that Kat's explanation seems to be logical in nature but remains unsatisfied. He further elaborated that he will review the documents and email any concerns / approval.
- ✓ Tonga endorses the paper and preference for **Option 2** which is to approve the overall WRP MERL Framework in its current form.

The Meeting:

- **Endorse** the revised WRP Principles:
 - Pacific-led and owned
 - Inclusive, equitable and empowering
 - Collaborative
 - Transformative and sustained
- **Note** that the MERL Framework is integrated throughout the WRP programme.
- **Invite** NMHS and other WRP Executing Agencies to consider their own MERL capacity and capability requirements
- **Note** that throughout 2025 and 2026 NMHS should continue to work with COSPPac to strengthen their own MERL foundations.
- **Endorse Option 2**
- **Note** and **approve** request for the WRP PMU to present updated MERL tables (with targets) and a full MERL costed workplan for consideration at WRP_SC4.
- **Note** and **approve** request for the WRP PMU to continue updating the MERL Framework as appropriate throughout the WRP decadal programme in response to lessons learned.

• Paper 9.11 MHEWS Flexi funds procedures

The meeting was presented the MHEWS Flexi funds procedures.

Discussion

- ✓ Tonga supports and endorses the paper.

The Meeting:

- **Approve** the changes to MHEWS Readiness Fund Procedure
- **Note** annual \$150k funding allocations extended to 2029 and for PMU to hold online training workshops with countries on how to apply for flexi funds.

Agenda item 10: Date/Place for the next Steering Committee

Discussion

- ✓ Tonga asked how many WRP Steering Committee meetings are held annually
 - Secretariat clarified that there is one full meeting in May and a lighter virtual meeting in September.
- ✓ Tonga invited the next meeting (in May 2026) to be hosted in Tonga

The Meeting:

- **Note and endorse the fourth WRP Steering Committee will convene in 2026 in Tonga, meeting dates to be confirmed later.**

Agenda item 11: Final remarks, closing prayer and closure

The Chair thanked all participants for their engagement and contributions throughout the meeting. He apologised to the Directors and members for the rushed nature of the meeting, acknowledging that the pace may have impacted the quality of discussions. He emphasised the importance of timely document submission, stating that:

- All papers should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
- The decisions being requested are significant, and members need adequate time to review and prepare.
- The issue was not due to the capability of committee members, but rather the late delivery of documents.
- He stressed that “the days of arriving at meetings without written interventions are over.”

He urged the Secretariat to adhere to submission deadlines, recognising that all members are busy but must be given the opportunity to engage meaningfully.

The meeting was closed with a prayer led by the Director of Meteorology from Kiribati, Ueneta Toorua.

The Meeting closed at 4:19pm