Annex 3: Synthesis of key points raised during NMS Director's Forum, PACCSAP Climate Science Symposium, Honiara, 13-15 March "13

Stakeholder reflections: panel discussion preamble

- Panel consisted of NMS Directors/representatives from:
  - Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Niue & Marshall Islands
- Key points from the panel discussion are summarised here, and are relevant across partner PICs unless otherwise stated
- In consideration of key points/comments raised in the discussion, it can be reasonably agreed that:
  - PICs (thru NMS & other sectoral stakeholders) highly value PCCSP/PACCSAP science products and services; only science program in Pacific providing 'real benefits' to partner countries; nothing prior!
  - PIC NMS are very concerned over a possible lack of science support after June…"*journey only just commenced*"…., and
  - there is consensus support from PIC NMS & representative PIC government sectors at the symposium for the science program to continue on a broad front

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Stakeholder reflections: panel discussion key points raised

- CliDE very helpful; filled a void & needs further support; digitised data needs to be analysed; data ownership and ready access by PICs is a key issue
- Many 'science questions' remain in relation to better understanding climate drivers and associated projections
- Research on better understanding SPCZ impact on climate is important as PIC communities deal with effects on daily basis!
- Research focus needs to be both regional and national/sub-national scale
- Collaboration between Australian & NZ scientists and NMS is very important to PICs – NMS capacity is very limited!
- Need to address uncertainty in regional projections & make relevant to sectors
- Need to integrate science into university curriculum & tap into research capability
- Need to integrate science with traditional knowledge, including translating science into language/knowledge useful for local stakeholders

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Stakeholder reflections: panel discussion key points raised

- NMS staff need formal science training (role for USP?) & also continue with mentoring & attachments via CSIRO/BOM
- Concept of Pacific regional centre for climate research proposed
  - facilitate in-country science capability & research
  - forum for collaboration between USP and PIC stakeholders
- Need to better integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the Pacific:
  - to be supported by climate research as well as social and economic research
- Decline in observational network including monitoring stations & instruments is major concern in many countries, including Tonga and PNG
- Sea level rise needs to be incorporated as a key variable into Pacific Climate Futures, particularly for countries such as Solomon Islands which has major problem managing impacts of sea level rise and coastal flooding
- Who is going to maintain data portals, & how will this be done to ensure NMS role is delivered effectively?

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Stakeholder reflections: panel discussion key points raised

- Further development of dynamic models such as POAMA required to improve seasonal predictions
- Science-based evidence to inform vulnerability and risk assessments which in turn facilitate adaptation planning and investment priorities
- The science must be based on high quality data, but there is a risk that ongoing data sources will be constrained by underinvestment in (and maintenance of) the observational monitoring network
- Key challenge within PICs is to ensure climate adaptation and the role of science to inform decision-making is appropriately prioritised within government, noting competing issues such as health, education, security, infrastructure etc
- How to get science outputs into national planning and policy development is a key need and a challenge
- Long-term research mentoring and in-country attachments are effective in building science capacity in key PIC stakeholders and are valued activities
- Local language version of science communication products very helpful
- Recurrent funding support for science is preferred compared with short/fixed term

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