

WP 13.2 Att 1: Draft Terms of Reference for the Pacific Islands Climate Services (PCIS) Panel

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- 1) **Background** – The concepts of Pacific Island climate services and a Pacific Regional Climate Centre trace their roots back to the 1982-1983- El Niño. The concepts gather further support with the release of the “Changing Climate in Paradise” in 1991, follow by the 1997-1998 El Nino event. A joint SPREP/WMO organised Climate Information and Prediction Services (CLIPS) workshop, held in conjunction with the 1999 SPREP meeting of the Pacific Regional Meteorological Services Directors (RMSD) recommended the concepts be further investigated. Since that time, a number of actions have been taken to improve climate services in the Pacific Islands. However, it is critical that further attention be given to organizational structures and functions at the regional level to support climate services, to minimize gaps and overlaps, and to align climate service activities and investments in the region, consistent with the WMO Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS).
- 2) **Role and Purpose**– The Pacific Islands Climate Services (PCIS) Panel will be the PMC Advisory Committee on PICS matters. The role of the PICS Panel is to provide strategic scientific, technical and policy relevant advice on PCIS matters. Primary objectives include:
 - a) Investigate existing and proposed organizational structures, functions, and technical developments to support climate services at the regional level that address regional needs, that are consistent with the GFCS and RA-V governance structures with respect to sectoral and functional core capabilities and are coordinated with multilateral efforts of regional agencies, institutions and organizations.
 - b) Review regional needs for, and capacity to deliver, climate services in the areas of climate predictions and projections, data services, research and development, coordination, training, and capacity-building as required and/or recommended by the GFCS with respect to Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) as a basis for the development of a statement of requirements by the end of December 2013 for the PMC and partners to endorse.
 - c) Formulate a PCIS Implementation Plan that identifies the necessary conditions for successful implementation, identifies stakeholders and their respective roles, lists priorities and describes some initial activities (consistent with those of the RA-V and the PICSF CoA, proposes options on governance, communication strategies and approaches to resource mobilization before PMC-3.
- 3) **Membership of the PICS Panel**- The PICS Panel will consist of X members and will include a balanced representation of designated representatives of the PMC, at least one member of RA V Working Group on Climate, and representatives from other regional and national agencies, institutions and organizations supporting climate observations, research, forecasting, operational services, assessment, information management and capacity building in the Pacific region.
- 4) **Rules of procedure.** The Panel shall adopt the [PMC interim rules of procedures – Agenda Item 2.1] at its first meeting. The first meeting will be chaired by the PMC Chairman during which the Panel will elect a Chair and Vice Chair, who will convene and make the necessary arrangements for meetings of the Panel thereafter. The Chair or Vice Chair will provide will report the outcomes of meetings with PMC members and partners.
- 5) **Funding of Panel meetings**

[Options to be developed for consideration by the PMC-2...]

The PICS Panel will consult with PMC members and partners and add new members as needed.

The Panel by consensus may amend these Terms of Reference as needed.