

## Second Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-2)

1-5 July 2013  
Nadi  
Fiji Islands

### Agenda Item 6.5.3: South-South Cooperation – Disaster Risk Reduction

#### Purpose

1. To provide an update on the status and relevant achievements of the project “South-South Cooperation Between Pacific and Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) on Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation”, and to inform and discuss upcoming opportunities which can help to build the capacity of the region’s Meteorology Services.

#### Background

2. The programme’s expected outcome was: strengthened safety and resilience of Pacific and Caribbean SIDS communities for a range of natural hazards by facilitating and supporting a South-South cooperation program targeted at strengthening climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction capabilities in of SIDS, based on the transfer of appropriate ‘southern’ expertise and technologies.

3. The following outputs were pursued during this project:

- Identification, documentation, and dissemination of best practices on integrated climate change adaptation and disaster management specific to the SIDS context.
- Transfer and exchange of technologies currently being used by SIDS for effective, equitable, and appropriate disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, between the Pacific and the Caribbean regions.
- Disaster risk management and climate change adaptation be included in the broader development agenda through support for national action planning, mainstreaming, and advocacy work in the Pacific and Caribbean regions and countries.

#### Update

4. The Project’s Phase 1 has ended after 3 years, with some significant accomplishments. See Final Project Report for full details. For the purpose of the PMC meeting, the following partnerships and activities are highlighted, given their relevance to meteorological services:

5. A combined group of 29 technical staff from meteorology services and agricultural departments from each of the Pacific islands, the Maldives, and East Timor were trained in agro-meteorology (Nadi, Fiji in May 2011). This training was a step towards building the capacity of the islands to independently **assess climate change impacts on the agricultural sector**. In the workshop evaluation, participants indicated that the

most useful information they learned was about several models for crops and climate, and how to apply these models to the staple crops now experiencing climate change in their respective countries.

6. For the first time ever four Pacific Island students (Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea) were given an opportunity to study **in a mid-level meteorology technician course for eight months (September 2011 to May 2012) at the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) in Barbados**. completed an eight . The course was planned to improve the capacity of Pacific island countries, especially remote locations in order to provide quality data inputs for weather forecasting and climate projections, and to provide WMO certification enabling countries to meet quality management standards for the aviation industry. These students are planning to replicate this training both nationally and regionally in the Pacific for other Pacific SIDS.

**7. Checklist on how to mainstream gender into disaster risk management in SIDS.** This publication was launched at the regional Pacific Platform meeting in September 2012, held in New Caledonia. Demand has been high so far with numerous requests for copies from disaster managers, regional agencies, UN agencies, and donors and feedback very positive about this resource. The checklist has also been used as a key resource in training activities in Belize, Vanuatu, Barbados, and other countries.

8. An **Issue Brief on lessons learned on mainstreaming of disaster risk management (DRM) in SIDS** was developed through a series of meetings with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Pacific Islands' Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), and consultation with regional thematic working group.

## Recommendations

9. The Meeting is invited to:

- **Endorse** formulation of a Phase 2 of the South-South SIDS project, with particular attention to the sourcing and application of SIDS expertise on: **[suggested but can be changed]** drought early warning systems; hydrology; climate observer systems; meteorology equipment maintenance and calibration; aviation meteorology; and coastal forecasting services and risk assessment.
- Give full **support** to UNDP to continue to play a facilitation role in linking Pacific and Caribbean SIDS for the purpose of building resilience to climate and weather-related hazards.
- **Encourage** donor agencies, such as NZAid, Japan MOFA, JICA, and Korea to provide critical funding support to the Phase 2 of the project.
- **Note** that the Phase 1 of the project established valuable new partnerships for Pacific Meteorology Services and NDMOs, and that this foundation should be strengthened and the technical transfers made to further and follow up on the development of specific products and applications tailored for PICs. \_\_\_\_\_

## Attachments

- Annex 1: Final Project Report – Phase 1 South-South Project
- Annex 2: Trip Report: Fiji Met Service Exploratory Mission to CIMH in Barbados
- Annex 4: Guidance Note: Assessment of Climate Change Impacts in Agriculture (INSMET)
- Annex 3: Student Report on Studies at CIMH