



“Science to Services for a Resilient Pacific”

## Fifth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-5) Working Papers

7-9 August 2019  
Apia  
Samoa

### Agenda Item 12.1: Progress on the Pacific Island Climate Services (Report from the Pacific Islands Climate Services (PICS) Panel)

#### Purpose:

1. To report on activities and achievements of the PICS Panel since PMC-4.

#### Background:

1. The Pacific Islands Climate Services (PICS) Panel was endorsed by the second Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-2) in July 2013 and established in April 2014 at the Special Session of the Pacific Meteorological Council, in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.
2. The PICS Panel aims to: 'Improve coordination, continuity and integration of projects, programmes and initiatives that support climate services at national, regional and global levels; strengthen the basic and core functions and capabilities of NMHSs for robust and sustained data collection and management, analysis of data and quality assurance, production and dissemination of products, research and modelling; enhance avenues and modes of multi-way communication and feedback between climate services providers and users to enhance the uptake and use of relevant and tailored climate services down to the communities and individuals.' See Annex 1 for the PICS Panel Terms of Reference.

#### Update:

1. The PICS Panel met three times: one face-to-face meeting during PICOV-3 (28/9/2017) and two teleconference meetings (26/6/2018 and 19/6/2019).
2. The Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOV) was successfully held in 2017 (Taumeasina Resort, Apia, Samoa; 27–29/9/2017) and 2018 (Tanoa Hotel, Nadi, Fiji; 10–12/10/2018), with Regional Statements published at each event.
3. The WMO RA-V Pacific Regional Climate Centre (RCC) has been established and is now in a demonstration phase.



4. The Pacific Roadmap for Strengthening Climate Services has been produced and the PICS Panel have been involved in writing the Implementation Plan.
5. The following priority actions were confirmed at the most-recent PICS Panel meeting:
- Priority Action 1 – Assess the effectiveness of PICOFs [*achieved*]
  - Priority Action 2 - Develop consistent definitions of El Nino and La Nina events in the region, to be tested with NHMS [*ongoing in association with COSPPac*]
  - Priority Action 3 - Draft and review implementation plans for the update PIMS and Roadmap [*ongoing*]
  - Priority Action 4 - Evaluate progress on regional and national activities listed in the Pacific Roadmap [*delayed, as implementation plan still being developed*]
  - Priority Action 5 - Hold PICOF-5 with the agriculture sector [*planning underway*]
  - Priority Action 6 - Evaluate progress of the RA-V Pacific RCC [*ongoing*]
  - Priority Action 7 - Develop regional guidance for ensemble/consensus-based forecasting [*ongoing in association with COSPPac and APCC*]

### Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- Note** the excellent progress of the PICS Panel, in collaboration with other regional and international partners, toward strengthening climate services in the Pacific Islands region;
- Note** that membership of the PICS Panel now includes the following new members: FSM, French Polynesia, American Samoa, Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, CSIRO, APCC and UKMO. The Panel also invites sector representatives to participate as and when needed;
- Recognise** the financial support for PICS Panel and PICOF meetings provided by SPREP, WMO, the government of the Russian Federation, Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Republic of Korea and other donors;
- Recommend** the PICS Panel continued its work as outlined in the ongoing priority actions listed above and to regularly review its membership and ToR in consultation with the PMC and others;
- Request** the PMC to support and guide the activities initiated by the PICS Panel, in collaboration with other regional and international partners, thus ensuring the sustained and continuous development of climate services in the Pacific Islands region; and
- Request** PMC to encourage appropriate climate services projects/programmes in the region to contribute small funds to support PICS Panel priority activities (e.g. RTSM).

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### Attachment

- Updated PICS Panel Terms of Reference

[15/7/2019]

