

“Sustainable Weather, Climate, Oceans and Water Services for a Resilient Pacific”

Fourth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-4) Working Papers

14-18 August 2017
Honiara
Solomon Islands

Agenda Item 13.2: WMO RA-V Pacific Islands Regional Climate Centre (WMO RA V PI RCC)

Purpose:

1. To table the WMO RA-V Pacific Islands Regional Climate Centre progress report, implementation plan and contribution towards the Pacific Roadmap for Strengthened Climate Services.
2. To get support of PMC on the WMO RA-V Pacific Islands Regional Climate Centre and its implementation of activities.

Background:

Regional Association (RA) V Working Group on Climate Services (WG-CLS), met in Singapore from 2 to 4 February 2016, discussed in detail Resolution 5 (RA V-16) to establish two World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Climate Centre (RCC)-Networks in RA V, one for Southeast Asia and the other for the Pacific Islands. The WG-CLS agreed on the way forward with concrete steps and actions towards the implementation of the RCC-Networks in these two regions.

As a follow-up of the outcomes of the above RA V WG-CLS meeting, the Pacific Islands Climate Services (PICS) Panel, at its meeting from 21 to 23 March 2016 at Port Vila Vanuatu, held detailed consultations with the relevant stakeholders of the proposed Pacific Islands RCC-Network. Based on these consultations, the PICS Panel proposed a structure for the PI RCC-network and presented to the PMC which has agreed in principle to the proposed structure.

Update:

Planning meeting

- RA-V WG CLS meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, 21-23 November 2016
 - Attended by representatives from WMO, NOAA/NWS, NIWA, BoM, CSIRO, SPREP, UPNG, UH and PNGNMS
 - Reviewed existing draft node/consortia proposal from PICS Panel (presented at PMC-3)
 - Mapped existing services in Pacific Islands region to RCC mandatory and highly recommended functions
 - Produced a skeleton IP (i.e. a table of functions and services)
 - The meeting discussed in-depth the structure of the future RA V Pacific RCC-Network and –taking into account existing products, services and mechanisms- the key contributions from candidate RCC-Network providers relative to WMO RCC mandatory and highly recommended functions. It was agreed to focus the

discussions on satisfying the WMO RCC mandatory functions in order to allow the RCC-Network to start its demonstration phase. It was further agreed to take advantage of the knowledge and expertise of attending experts in order to flesh out some of the highly recommended functions.

- Taking into account the fact that not all potential RCC providers were able to attend the Honolulu event, the meeting agreed on an approach to involve all interested entities through electronic communication facilitated by Mr Tait who is proposed to lead an interim Pacific RCC-Network implementation team (further team members are Mr Sunny Seuseu, Mr Geoff Gooley, Mr David Jones, Mr John Marra and Mr Sam Maiha). The meeting further stressed the fact that the Pacific RCC-Network implementation will be done in a flexible manner to facilitate future Network improvements in terms of partners and services.
- The meeting highlighted the specific opportunities in the Pacific RCC-Network domain to properly capture indigenous knowledge relevant to climate services.
- The meeting briefly addressed aspects of product consistency throughout the entire Pacific RCC-Network and agreed to evaluate the situation on a case-by-case basis taking into account the particularities of the Network domain in terms of its extent and oceanic nature.
- The meeting agreed to develop the Pacific RCC-Network implementation plan on the basis of the RA VI RCC-Network implementation plan template, which has already been applied by other WMO RCC-Networks including the proposed RA V Southeast Asian RCC-Network. The implementation plan will be based on available services; planned services will be reflected upon their availability to RCC users (a respective note will be placed prominently in the implementation plan).
- Once established, the RA V Pacific RCC-Network may consider ways to efficiently collaborate with neighbouring RCCs. Chief among these is the proposed WMO RA V Southeast Asian RCC-Network which is looking to move to demonstration phase in 2017.
- In terms of governance mechanisms, the meeting expressed its view that the RA V Pacific RCC-Network will report in the first instance to the Pacific Meteorological Council, which will act as the primary regional advisory body to the RCC-Network.
- The meeting welcomed the suggestion to develop a dedicated RA V Pacific RCC-Network Website at the University of Hawaii with a view to hand it over to SPREP at the appropriate time. It agreed to treat this activity as a priority so that the Website can be launched at the start of the RCC-Network demonstration phase. Contributing agencies to the RCC-Network will further develop their own RCC-related Websites, looking to adopt a similar look and feel to the extent that this is possible.

Formulation of Implementation Plan

- A draft IP was fleshed out, using the Southeast Asian RCC Network IP as a template and incorporating the skeleton IP
- The draft IP was distributed to planning meeting attendees and others for review by their organisations
- A final IP was produced (PMC-4 WP13.2 Att1)

Process for Establishment (of Demonstration Phase)

- A letter was sent from the WMO PR of NZ (on behalf of the RCC implementation team) to PRs of countries of all the node/consortia institutions requesting institutional commitment for the 2-year demonstration phase
- Responses have now been received by all institutions
- PMC endorsement of establishment of the demonstration phase is to be requested at PMC-4, August 2017

- The chair of the WMO RA-V WG CLS will submit a request to the President of WMO RA-V for the 2-year demonstration period to begin as soon as possible

Recommendations:

1. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **Note** that the PICS Panel and the WMO RA-V WG CLS are working together to establish the PI RCC;
 - **Further note** that considerable progress has been made on the development of and institutional commitment to the Implementation Plan; and
 - **Endorse** the WMO RA-V Pacific Islands RCC Network Implementation Plan (PMC-4 WP13.2 Att1) with a recommendation to the President of RA-V that the PI RCC 2-year demonstration phase begins as soon as possible.

Attachments

- Annex 1 WMO RA-V PI RCC Implementation Plan (PMC-4 WP13.2 Att1)

[Date of Submission]