

Sixth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-6)

Sustaining Weather, Climate, Water and Ocean Services for a Resilient Blue Pacific

14-16 August 2023, Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, Denarau, Nadi, Fiji

Agenda Item 18.3: COSPPac 3

Purpose of the paper:

1. To present and promote the Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) Phase 3

Background:

2. The Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) is a component of Australia's contribution to minimising the impacts of climate variability and change in the Pacific and to meeting the Australian Government's climate change aid objectives. COSPPac Phase 1 was a six year program (AUD 39m, 2012-18) which supported 14 Pacific Island Countries (PICs) to collect and analyse sea level data, provide climate and ocean monitoring and prediction services (seasonal forecasts), and communicate this information to Pacific governments, communities and the private sector. As part of the Australia-Pacific Climate Program (APCP) climate information services, COSPPac was extended for a second phase of five years (AUD 28.6m, 2018-23 (includes investment from New Zealand Aid (MFAT) NZD 5M)).
3. COSPPac has entered into a third phase of four years and builds on Australia's long-term support for core climate information services across the Pacific, ensuring the continued development of valued products and services for optimum impact for Pacific Island governments and communities. Phase 3: 2023-2027, is anticipating approximately AUD 45 million funded in partnership with the Australian and New Zealand Governments.
4. COSPPac3 is implemented by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau), in partnership with Geoscience Australia (GA), the New Zealand National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Limited (NIWA), the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).
5. This next phase recognises the importance of quality climate and ocean science to underpin the region's resilience and is in line with both Government's Pacific policies. Key infrastructure will be maintained and improved to provide the data needed for climate, ocean and sea level products and services that are relied upon in the regions and are the foundation of the Pacific NMHSs Climate and Oceans Services.
6. Phase 3 will enhance communication resources and knowledge-brokering skills within the National Meteorological Services. This action directly addresses the capability and capacity gaps highlighted by the Pacific NMHSs during the COSPPac3 design consultation.
7. COSPPac3 will also expand upon the integration of traditional knowledge on climate and geohazards, building on the TK project established in earlier COSPPac phases and initiated upon the request of Pacific nations. It will support cross-cultural engagement between Pacific Indigenous People and First Nations Australians and increase

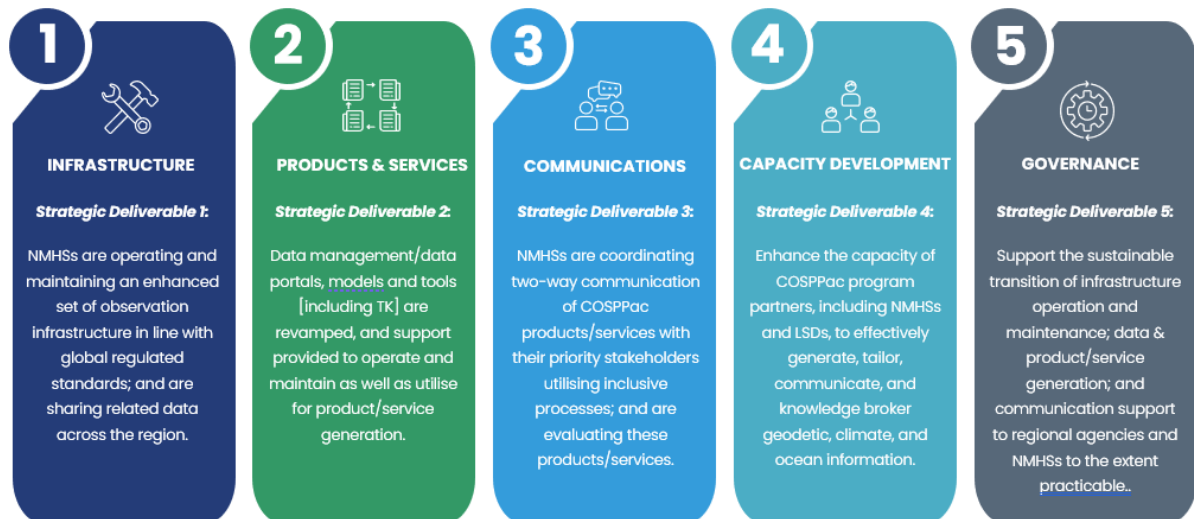
community participation and engagement with climate resilience activities, using Traditional Knowledge gathering and sharing to inform climate action.

8. There will be an increased commitment to Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI). Phase 2 demonstrated the effectiveness of engaging disability and women's groups in tailoring early action messages with NMHSs. Building on this, Phase 3 aims to ensure that women, girls, individuals with disabilities, and other at-risk populations are prepared and take action to climate and ocean hazards.

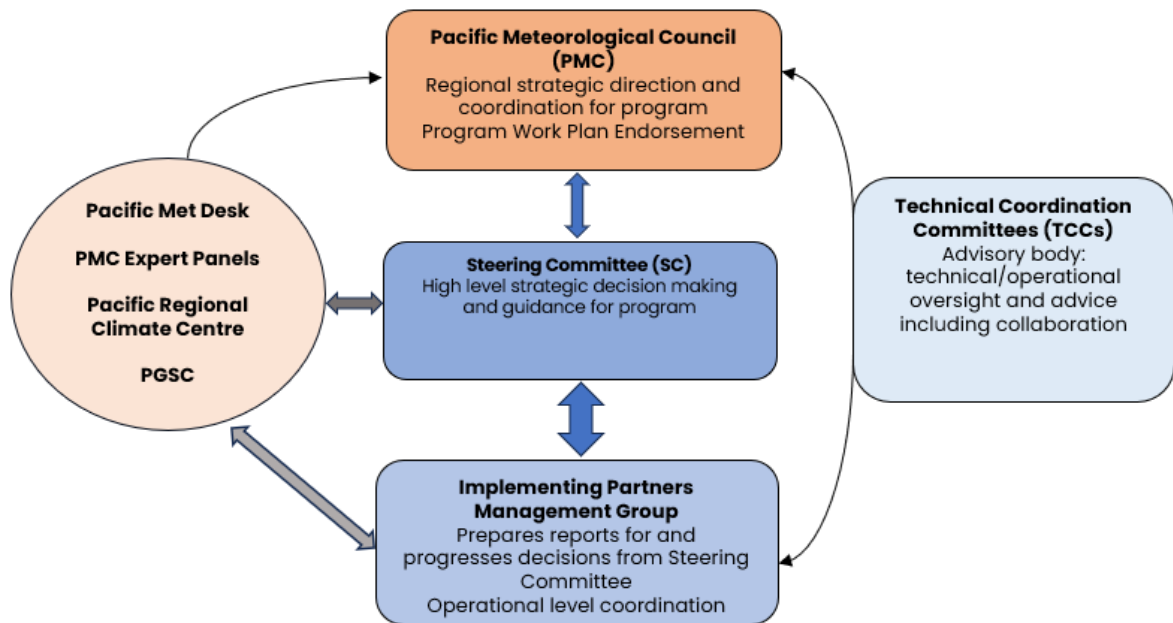
The COSPPac3 project aims to:

9. The aim of the program is: *Pacific Island stakeholders are using climate and ocean information to enable all Pacific peoples to remain resilient to the impacts of climate change and disasters so that they are able to lead safe, secure and prosperous lives.*
10. With the end of program outcome that: *Pacific Island National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) are delivering useful and usable climate and ocean information services in partnership with priority stakeholders, including affected communities and marginalised groups.*
11. COSPPac3 will focus on delivering support to achieve the following outcomes:
 - National meteorological and hydrological services (NMHSs) are operating and maintaining an enhanced set of observation and data management infrastructure (including for traditional knowledge) in line with global standards and are increasingly sharing related data.
 - NHMSs are actively generating and refining climate and ocean information products/services utilising consolidated portals and COSPPac supported (and other best available) models and tools; and
 - NHMSs are coordinating two-way communication of COSPPac products/services with priority stakeholders (including communities and marginalised groups) utilising inclusive processes, and are evaluating these products/services.
12. COSPPac3 will focus on five key deliverables:
 - Infrastructure: Observations infrastructure and data support
 - Products and services: Data management, and climate and ocean products and services
 - Communications: Communications with and between key stakeholders and diverse communities
 - Capacity Development: Capacity development & training support
 - Governance: Governance, transition and support services

All five deliverables will have a strong gender equity and disability inclusion (GEDSI) focus and a transition agenda.



13. The Program is focused on the needs of NMHSs in 15 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, PNG, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu), with Land and Survey Departments (LSDs) also important user stakeholders.
14. This next phase of COSPPac will be implemented and governed through a partnership between Australia, New Zealand and Pacific partners with a strong transition agenda to reflect the increase in the Bureau and NIWAs technical and brokering involvement. This is a deliberate measure to support greater local capacity with additional investment proposed with National technical agencies.
15. COSPPac3 Governance structure: Critical to the success of COSPPac3 will be adherence to a set of governance and management principles that reinforce the partnership between Australia, New Zealand and participating Pacific countries and regional organisations. The governance principles aim to ensure that the technical and financial resources contributed and supported by implementing partners are applied for greatest positive impact on the lives of Pacific Islanders.
16. Steering Committee: The COSPPac Steering Committee (SC) will be responsible for the overall governance of the program. Its role will be to provide strategic oversight and direction for COSPPac. The Committee will evaluate performance and review program risks, approve shifts in budget and other resource allocations, consider and approve whole-of-program performance and financial reporting.
17. Implementing Partner Management Group (IPMG): The IPMG is an operational program management forum. Its role is to support effective coordination and collaboration between implementing partners, as well as to support the Steering Committee and respond to/action its recommendations.
18. It is proposed that both the SC and IPMG have a representative from Pacific Disability Forum included in the Membership.



19. COSPPac contributes to regional priorities and aligns with the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) and the Pacific Roadmap for Strengthened Climate Services (PRSCS).
20. COSPPac3 Observations infrastructure and data support includes:
 - Tidal information and sea level data
 - Tide Calendars
 - Sea Level Station - Real Time Data Display (RTDD)
 - Pacific Ocean Portal
21. COSPPac3 supports the development of products and services that meet user needs and inform better decision making. In developing climate and oceans products and services, our aim is to enhance the capacity of Pacific Island agencies and communities to manage and mitigate the impacts of climate variability and coastal hazards. We work with our Pacific stakeholders to build tools that forecast and report on climate, tides, and the ocean. We also work together to determine how best to communicate this information to communities, businesses and governments.
22. COSPPac3 supported products and services include:
 - Tidal information and sea level data
 - Tide Calendars
 - Sea Level Station - Real Time Data Display (RTDD)
 - Climate Data for the Environment (CliDE) and Services Client (CliDEsc)
 - Malaria Early Warning System (Solomon Islands)
 - Hydropower water balance model (AWSOM-2) (Samoa)
 - Pacific Ocean Portal
 - ACCESS Global Forecast System for the Pacific
 - Multi-Source Weighted-Ensemble Precipitation (MSWEP)
 - Regional and National Early Action Rainfall (EAR) Watch bulletins
 - Ocean Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF)
 - COSPPac Climate Bulletin
 - Weekly ACCESS-S Update
 - Traditional Knowledge (TK) Database & Communication Products
 - Tropical Cyclone Portals
 - Climate monitoring information

23. There will also be opportunities to see how these products and services and fit with both Australian Governments emerging Pacific climate change strategy and to ensure they are well coordinated with other programs such as Weather Ready Pacific.

Recommendations

The Meeting is invited to:

1. **Note** the success of COSPPac 2, the completion of the design of COSPPac 3 and endorsement of the COSPPac 3 design by the COSPPac Steering Committee (PMC representatives from the COSPPac member countries) on 9 August 2023;
2. **Note** the consistency in the objectives and design of COSPPac 3 with the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy 2017-2026 and Pacific Roadmap for Strengthened Climate Services (2017-2026) in supporting Climate (and Ocean) Services in the COSPPac partner countries;
3. **Acknowledge** the collaborative effort and successful transition of COSPPac activities to Pacific based agencies;
4. **Recognise** the value of COSPPac services in continuing to build Pacific resilience to the impacts of climate change and disasters so Pacific Islanders can lead safe, secure and prosperous lives;
5. **Request** continued support in the delivery of COSPPac 3.