



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 19: Traditional Knowledge and Community-based Early Warning

Purpose of the paper:

1. **Inform** the Council of the progress of the work on Traditional knowledge in weather, climate, oceans and in strengthening community resilience
2. **Invite** guidance on the TK work moving forward
3. **Endorse** the recommendations provided

Background:

1. Traditional knowledge is used by many of our communities in the Pacific. Over thousands of years, our Pacific communities developed traditional communications and knowledge systems, adaptive solutions, coping strategies and methodologies to cope and respond to a changing environment and climate variability.
2. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change recognises the need to strengthen knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change
3. The Inter governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its recent report recognises the value of traditional knowledge as a vital tool in the fight to mitigate growing climate crisis.
4. At the national and regional level, projects such as the COSPPac, WMO-CREWS, VanKIRAP, GCF and other projects are working together with NMHS, NDMO, Heritage Protection Offices and National RedCross societies , document, monitor and integrate traditional knowledge as part of their early warning system.
5. Protocols and Tools specifically developed for the collection and documentation such as the TK database has already been developed through the COSPPac funded project to document, store and identify opportunities to apply and incorporate traditional knowledge for climate change , early warning, disaster management and response and other meaningful incorporation across other sectors.

The Meeting is invited to:

1. **Recommend** and **task** SPREP to facilitate and coordinate the development of a Regional Framework with Regional partners to strategically coordinate and guide TK development in the climate resilience space
2. **Recommend** the Review of PIMS to include clear Priorities of members around Traditional Knowledge
3. **Acknowledge** the commitment and support from NMHS and national stakeholder to elevate and integrate TK into national policies, early warning and activities.

4. **Note** the financial and technical assistance from Australia (COSPPac), WMO-CREWS, VanKirap, GCF and other donors and projects to implement and support the application of Traditional knowledge in the weather, climate, oceans and resilience space