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SIXTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL (PMC-6) THIRD PACIFIC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON METEOROLOGY (PMMM-3)

● [HTTPS://WWW.PACIFICMET.NET/PMC-6-2023](https://www.pacificmet.net/PMC-6-2023)

## 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

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### **Agenda item 17.5: Climate Risk Early Warning System phase 2 (CREWS 2.0) Project and related opportunities**

#### **Purpose of the paper:**

1. To provide progress on the implementation of the CREWS Pacific SIDS 2.0 and Papua New Guinea projects as contributions to the Weather Ready Pacific and early Warning for All initiatives.
2. To raise awareness on new financing mechanisms available to Pacific Island States (1) the CREWS Accelerated Support Window via WMO, and (2) the GCF/SAP-CREWS Scaling-up Framework on Early Warning

#### **Background:**

##### **CREWS Pacific SIDS 2.0 Project**

1. This paper provides an update to the Meeting on the progress of the CREWS PACIFIC SIDS 2.0 project implementation, from January 2021 to July 2023 and the CREWS Papua New Guinea project started in 2018.
2. Announced by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs in Sendai in March 2015, the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Initiative was officially launched at the United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris as part of the UN Climate Action Agenda. CREWS has raised USD 130 million to strengthen Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) to deliver these services in Least Developed Countries (LDC) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The CREWS Initiative's projects are implemented by three partners, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (WB GFDRR). WMO provides secretariat support, and the World Bank serves as Trustee. The CREWS Initiative is financed by Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Monaco,, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.
3. CREWS Pacific SIDS 2.0 is the second regional CREWS Project in the Pacific. The first project, CREWS Pacific SIDS 1.0, was initiated in 2017 and was completed in December 2022.
4. CREWS Pacific SIDS 2.0 participating Pacific SIDS are: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.
5. The project seeks to enhance the effectiveness and inclusiveness of Pacific Island and Regional Early Warning Systems for local and vulnerable populations.
6. The project consists of five components, based on five outcomes, namely:

- **Improved governance:** strengthened governance structures and mechanisms for regional centres and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) targeted by the project are in place.
  - **Enhanced product development and accessibility:** enhanced regional and national facilities and capacities of regional centres and NMHSs targeted by the project to produce impact-based forecasts and risk informed warnings of extreme and high impact hydro-meteorology events, accessing and using global and regional data, products and services.
  - **Enhanced service delivery:** Regional centres and NMHSs targeted by the project better deliver impact based and risk informed hydro-meteorological data, products and services to MHEWS stakeholders for their decision support.
  - **Enhanced communication and awareness programmes on early warning services (EWS).**
  - **Improved integration of gender including people living with disabilities across the EWS chain.**
7. The project is implemented by the three CREWS implementing Partners. The project has a total funding of USD 4,799,449 with an implementation timeframe of four years, from 2021-2024. The CREWS Pacific SIDS 2.0 project was officially launched on 14th July 2021.

#### **CREWS Papua New Guinea project**

8. The CREWS financing provided through the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) allowed a new capacity for the PNG National Weather Service and National Disaster Center to monitor drought, based on satellite technology.
9. Monthly advisories are issued specifically targeted at small scale agriculture farmers in 22 provinces covering 9.5 million people.
10. The early warning system was developed in consultation with the user - success required an emphasis on women's equal consultation to capture and address gender needs.
11. Additional financing of USD 5 million has been requested to replicate the drought monitoring tool in several Pacific Island countries with BOM technical support.

#### **CREWS Accelerated Support Window (ASW)**

12. The CREWS ASW is a new financing mechanism dedicated to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), allocating funds towards short-term, targeted expert analyses, assessment, and advisory services to strengthen early warning systems. The ASW was approved by the CREWS Steering Committee at its 12th meeting in November 2020.
13. The accelerated support action budget range: USD 50,000 to USD 250,000.
14. Actions eligible for the ASW include the following.
- Continued assistance: Targeted expert support and capacity building following the end of the CREWS projects.
  - Analyses and assessments: Inform the development of larger scale EWS investments.

- Advisory services: Design and implementation support for large scale and/or strategic investments directed to EWS improvement.

### **GCF/SAP-CREWS Scaling-up Framework on Early Warning**

15. The GCF and CREWS respective boards have approved a new Scaling-up Framework on early warning that allows countries that have successfully implemented a CREWS project to benefit from facilitated additional funding through the GCF Simplified Approval Process (SAP) of up to USD 25 million.
16. The additional funding can be used to scale-up the scope of existing results achieved under CREWS project such as geographic coverage of the early warning, or the to develop additional services (prediction capacity for new hazards and other early warning services).
17. Additional information can be obtained from your respective GCF National Designated Entities (NDEs) and the WMO regional representation.

### **The objectives of the agenda:**

1. The CREWS Pacific SIDS 2.0 project implementation is ongoing. The first Project Steering Committee meeting took place on 31st March 2023 in Nadi, Fiji. Updates and information on progress can be found in the following URL: [CREWS Pacific SIDS 2.0 Project Steering Committee Minutes and progress report](#).
2. Tonga has submitted an ASW request for the development of a Mobile Application Community MHEW and Response System (MACRES). This request was submitted after the volcanic eruption of December 2021. The request was officially approved in October 2022 and the development of the application and system is ongoing.
3. The WMO, together with the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department, is submitting an ASW request to CREWS to assess and verify the accuracy for warnings issued during the tropical cyclones Judy and Kevin in March 2023 and its impact on Vanuatu's MHEWS.

### **Recommendations**

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the progress of the CREWS Pacific SIDS 2.0 and Papua New Guinea projects and to acknowledge the CREWS Contributing Countries for the ongoing support offered to the Pacific region.
- **Note** the information on WMO's submission of CREWS ASW action requests for Tonga and Vanuatu.
- **Encourage** Pacific SIDS to utilise the CREWS ASW for relevant requests, noting the 12-month implementation period, as well as the new GCF/SAP-CREWS scaling-up Framework.