

Pacific Meteorological Council

Pacific Hydrological Services Panel

Draft Interim Terms of Reference

1. Introduction

1.1 The Pacific Hydrological Services Panel (PHS Panel) was established by the Fourth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-4) to serve in the capacity of an advisory committee to the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) on hydrological services matters in the Pacific region.

2. Purpose

2.1. The purpose of the PHS Panel is to provide general advice and guidance to the PMC on matters related to hydrological services, with an emphasis on flood and drought warning and management at the national and regional level, as prescribed in the Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy 2017-2026 and other international and regional frameworks such as the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.

2.2. The PHS Panel will also assist the work of the PMC by collaborating with relevant partners on the development and implementation of new programmes and initiatives to enhance the capabilities of PICTs to provide quality hydrological services.

3. Role and Responsibility of the PHS Panel

3.1. The roles and responsibilities of the PHS Panel include the provision of technical advice and guidance to the PMC on the following:

- 3.1.1. To **establish links and improve coordination** between the PMC and international and regional organizations with an interest in hydrological services. *[This would include, but not be limited to: WMO, UNESCO-IHP, International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS), International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH), International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC), PIFS, SPREP, USP, SPC, CSIRO, Geosciences Australia, NIWA, NOAA, USGS]*
- 3.1.2. To **provide guidance on the design and scope** of current and future programmes that support hydrological services at the community, national and regional levels;
- 3.1.3. To work with partners, including the WMO RA V Working Group for Hydrology, to **progress the development and implementation of new programmes and initiatives** to address identified gaps in PICTs capacity to provide quality hydrological services relevant to Pacific island environments and circumstances, including:

- 3.1.3.1. The development and maintenance of hydrological networks, data collection, quality control, archival and exchange at national and regional levels.
- 3.1.3.2. the provision of more accurate, timely and reliable forecasts and warnings related to floods and drought, and effective communication of these to vulnerable communities;
- 3.1.3.3. the effective, management, analysis, production and dissemination of hydrological information, products and services;
- 3.1.3.4. the development and maintenance of effective and efficient information management systems for hydrological data;
- 3.1.3.5. improved approaches to the assessment, monitoring and management of water resources (surface, groundwater and rainwater);
- 3.1.3.6. the application of quality management frameworks to support the sustainability of hydrological services;
- 3.1.3.7. Progress the capacity development agenda of NMHS on hydrology and hydrogeology including training and research; and
- 3.1.3.8. Promote coordinated activities on climate change and climate variability related to hydrology and the water resources sectors including drought vulnerability.

3.1.4. To provide **regular reporting to the PMC** on progress of the PHS Panel activities.

4. Membership

4.1. The PHS Panel will comprise of between 8 and 12 core members, including representation from WMO, SPREP and SPC, and a minimum of four representatives of PICTs across a range of different island types.

4.2. The combined membership of the PHS Panel will include representation of the following actors and themes:

- 4.2.1. Flood management;
- 4.2.2. Drought management;
- 4.2.3. Water resources management;
- 4.2.4. Water supply;
- 4.2.5. Meteorological services; and
- 4.2.6. Disaster risk reduction

4.3. The PHS Panel will nominate a Chair and vice Chair, develop working arrangements, and communicate its recommendation(s) to the PMC for consideration and endorsement.

4.4. The PHS Panel may establish Task Teams to carry out specific time bound tasks.

4.5. Meetings of the PHS Panel shall be coordinated and convened by its Chair, with the support of the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP).

5. Review and Approval of Terms of Reference

- 5.1. The PHS Panel may develop and revise these ToR for consideration and endorsement by the PMC.