

# PICOF-8 meeting objectives

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**Overall objective:** Produce consensus-based, user relevant climate outlook in real time to reduce climate related risks and support sustainable development in the Pacific Island region in the coming season.

## Specific objectives:

- summarise the climate and ocean observations in the last 6 months and model outlooks for the next 6 months;
- compare model guidance for the Pacific region and discuss how these are produced in terms of accuracy, utility, weaknesses and strengths (limited);
- build collaboration and partnerships among NMHSs, regional organisations and scientific institutions;
- continue capacity building/human resource development activities for the Pacific region, particularly in seasonal prediction;
- provide a platform for the NMHSs to share and exchange experiences and knowledge on climate and ocean services in the Pacific region.

# PICOF format change

- Process for producing PICOF 1-7 outlooks largely subjective (simple average or most common outlook between models/MME)
- WMO strongly recommend the use of objective methods for producing seasonal forecasts at regional and national levels (See Guidance on Operational Practices for Objective Seasonal Forecasting – WMO-No. 1246), 2020 edition

# PICOF format change

- Earlier this year the RA-V Pacific RCC Node for LRF members agreed on the use of the WMO Lead Centre for Long Range Forecast Multi-Model Ensemble (MME) <https://www.wmolc.org/> for rain, 2m temperature and SST (supported by WMO) as the PICOF-8 outlook but this is for NMHS guidance only, not official outlook for the countries/territories covered.
- 12 (all) model MME to be used until verification study. MME proven to have higher skill than individual models.
- Other MME/models presented for comparison. NMHSs welcomes to use these as alternatives.
- PICOF-8 Statement will contain the following "This outlook is provided for use by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs). It does not constitute an official outlook for any nation. For more information, please contact your local meteorological office."

# Timelines

- Wednesday 21 April 2021: Virtual PICOF April 2021 teleconference held.
- Friday 23 April 2021: Final draft of the PICOF statement sent to the PMC members for approval, deadline for responses Wednesday 28 April 2021.
- Thursday 29 April 2021: Virtual PICOF April 2021 Statement released

The background features a complex pattern of light blue, wavy lines that resemble topographic contour lines or fluid flow paths. Interspersed among these lines are several small, light blue arrows pointing in various directions, some following the curves of the lines and others pointing more directly. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern, with a focus on organic, flowing shapes.

**Thank you!**

Questions/comments welcome at the end of PICOF-8