

PICS Panel Meeting Minutes

28 September 2017

Taumeasina Resport, Apia, Samoa (same location as PICOF-3)

Participants: Andrew Tait (NIWA, chair), John Marra (NOAA), Alexandre Peltier and Victoire Laurent (Meteo France), Olivia Warrick (IFRC), David Jones and Simon McGree (BoM), Moirah Matou (VMGD), Kisolet Posanau (PNG National Weather Service), Zulfikar Begg (SPC), Sunny Seuseu, Salesa Nihmei, Alex Montoro and Philip Malsale (SPREP)

The meeting opened around 6pm.

1. PMC-4 and the PICS Panel

Andrew summarised the PICS Panel presentations given at PMC-4. These were: an update on progress (including a review of recent NCOFs and the addition of new members to the Panel); a report on the PI-RCC establishment process; and a report on the publication of the PI Roadmap for Climate Services.

The feedback from PMC members and others at PMC-4 was extremely positive. It was well-noted that PICS Panel meetings are now mostly via teleconference, as a cost-saving measure. The Roadmap and the PI-RCC establishment were both endorsed by the PMC.

SPREP also presented at PMC-4 on the progress of the Pacific Climate Change Centre. Once established, it will be important to link the functions of the PCCC to the PI-RCC.

2. PICS Panel Action Plan

The PICS Panel members discussed several issues raised during the first two days of PICOF-3 and how these issues could be included in the PICS Panel Action Plan. The discussion established a list of priorities for the Panel in the coming 1-5 years. These included:

- A review of the Climate Services Roadmap to ensure that the PICS Panel aligns with the broader strategic direction for the region.
- An annual review of the Terms of Reference and Action Plan of the PICS Panel to ensure it remains relevant and engaged.
- A commitment to continue to support the PICOF and National Climate Outlooks (RCOFs/NCOFs), including the monthly teleconferences supported by COSPPac.

- A need to gauge the value and focus of PICOF to ensure it remains relevant for the region. It was noted that an assessment will be done based on a survey of attendees at PICOF-3. Some significant discussion was had about the ability to learn from the RCOF process running in the ASEAN countries, noting the quality of events held in Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines.
- A focus on progressing the PI-RCC, noting the endorsement from the PMC and the agreement from the President of WMO RA-V that this move into demonstration mode. The RCC is an important mechanism for formalizing the efforts of regional organisations and countries to support regional development, working within a defined and agreed framework. The RCC establishment team has agreed that the annual PICOF will be part of the formal review mechanism as required by WMO.
- The need to develop consistent definitions of El Niño and La Niña events in the region, noting current confusion owing to the use of different thresholds and durations by NOAA, NIWA, Bureau, JMA etc. This issue has been quite intractable for some time, and has caused difficulties in recent years due to the preponderance of near or marginal events.
- Developing guidance for ensemble/consensus based forecasting, noting the increasing availability of climate forecasts from GPCs, RCC, software (e.g., SCOPIC and PICASO).
- The members of the PICS Panel expressed a willingness to SPREP to work alongside the Pacific Met Desk to help draft and review PI climate services-related documents. Two such documents are the implementation plans for the PIMS and Pacific Roadmap.
- It was agreed that the PICS Panel will continue to use teleconferences as the principal mechanism for meetings, but also use the annual PICOF as the opportunity to bring all (or as many as possible) members together.

3. Actions

- Andrew will revise the PICS Panel Action Plan to include the issues mentioned above. This will include nominated PICS Panel members to take the lead on specific tasks. The Action Plan will be circulated to all PICS Panel members for their feedback **[Plan to be revised and sent by 30 November 2017; feedback to be received by 31 December 2017]**
- Andrew will review the current PICS Panel ToR and check it is aligned with the Pacific Roadmap for Climate Services **[Review completed by 30 November 2017]**
- Pacific Met Desk will contact PICS Panel (via the chair) with a request to assist with the drafting and review of the implementation plans for the PIMS and Pacific Roadmap **[Request to be made when PMD are ready for input]**
- Andrew and Pacific Met Desk to consider a date for the next PICS Panel teleconference.

The meeting closed around 8pm.