

# Pacific Islands Climate Services Panel

## Terms of Reference

(Updated 14 August 2017)

### 1. Introduction

1.1 The Pacific Island Climate Services Panel (PICS Panel) was endorsed by the Second Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-2) to serve in the capacity of an advisory committee to the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) on climate services matters in the Pacific region ([https://www.sprep.org/attachments/Publications/PMC-2\\_Meeting\\_Report.pdf](https://www.sprep.org/attachments/Publications/PMC-2_Meeting_Report.pdf)).

### 2. Purpose

2.1. The purpose of the PICS Panel is to provide technical advice to the PMC on matters related to the implementation of GFCS and the strengthening and coordinating of climate services at the community, national and regional levels.

### 3. Role of the PICS Panel

3.1. The role of the PICS Panel, in consultation with other partners, is to provide technical advice to the PMC on the following:

- a) The strengthening, coordination, continuity and integration of current and future programmes, projects and initiatives that support climate services at the community, national and regional levels.
- b) The strengthening of the basic and core functions and capabilities of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) for robust and sustained data collection and management, analysis of data and quality assurance, production and dissemination of products, research and modeling.
- c) The enhancement of avenues and modes of multi-way communication and feedback between climate services providers and users to enhance the uptake and use of relevant and tailored climate services down to the communities and individuals.
- d) The implementation and monitoring of climate services-related priority activities (in particular, PKOs 4-6) outlined in the Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) 2017-2026.
- e) The implementation and monitoring of the regional and national actions listed in the "Pacific Roadmap for Strengthened Climate Services 2017-2026".
- f) The implementation and monitoring of climate services-related priority activities consistent with those of the WMO RA V.
- g) The review of regional climate services needs and capabilities in the areas of:
  - climate predictions (seasonal and sub-seasonal) and projections,
  - climate and multi-hazard early warning,
  - climate monitoring (both climate variability and change)
  - data and product-based services,
  - research and development,
  - coordination,
  - training,
  - implementation of GFCS including Regional Climate Centres (RCC), Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) and National Climate Outlook Forums (NCOFs).

- h) Coordination of activities with other PMC panels, such as the PIMOS, PICI and PIETR panels.
- i) The regular reporting to the PMC members on the progress of the PICS Panel.

## **4. Membership**

4.1. The PICS Panel membership will comprise of the climate services community of practice. There will be a core membership of a minimum of eight to a maximum of seventeen, but at the same time it remains open-ended to allow for the PMC members to volunteer their experts to participate in the PICS Panel activities and for the PICS Panel to invite experts either from its PMC members or its partners or climate users to its meetings and discussions. The core membership of the Panel will comprise of:

- a) Roving 5 member representatives of the PMC to be selected by PMC.
- b) 1 member from the WMO RA V Working Group on Climate Services, 6 members in total from regional organisations and institutions supporting climate observations, research, forecasting, operational services, information management and capacity building in the Pacific region.
- c) 4 representatives from the climate services user community from national or international agencies and to be selected by PMC.
- d) 1 representative of the World Meteorological Organisation.

4.2. The current core membership of the PICS Panel is given in Annex 1.

4.3. The PICS Panel will appoint its Chair, and if necessary a vice-Chair.

4.4. The PICS Panel may invite experts either from its PMC members or its partners or climate users to its meetings and discussions.

4.5. The PICS Panel may establish Task Team(s) to carry out specific time bound task(s) for limited time period.

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

## **5. Review and Approval of Terms of Reference**

5.1. The PICS Panel may revise its TOR where necessary.

5.2. The PMC to consider and approve amendments to the PICS Panel TOR including its core membership.

## Annex 1: PICS Panel Core Members

Representatives	Number	Institutions
Roving 5 member representatives of the PMC to be selected by PMC	5	Niue, Palau, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia
Member of RA V Working Group on Climate Services	1	NIWA
Members from regional organisations and institutions supporting climate observations, research, forecasting, operational services, information management and capacity building in the Pacific region.	6	NOAA, BoM, SPC, USP, SPREP, MeteoFrance
Representatives from the climate services user community from a national agencies and to be selected by PMC	4	Samoa Water Resources Division, Tonga Ministry of Agriculture, NDMO sector, IFRC
Representative of the World Meteorological Organisation	1	WMO