

Third Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-3)

20-23 July 2015
Nuku'alofa
The Kingdom of Tonga

Agenda Item 15.1: Governance of the Pacific Meteorological Council

Purpose

1. To provide further explanation of the operation of the PMC.

Background

2. During PMC-2, Samoa noted at paragraph 163 of the approved final Report “some difficulties in the administrative operation of the PMC-2 and requested for a review of the existing institutional arrangement for consideration at the PMC-3.” These general concerns related to (i) lack of clarity of the status of the PMC within the SPREP structure (ii) membership of the PMC and (iii) financing of the PMC.

SPREP Structure

3. “SPREP” consists of the SPREP Meeting (SM) - the annual meeting of SPREP member states - and the Secretariat is based in Samoa. The SPREP Meeting is the decision making body and its decisions are actioned by the Secretariat.
4. Under its constitution, the SM has power to create subsidiary bodies. The PMC was established as a subsidiary body in 2011 following the recommendations from the first PMC held in Majuro. The PMC works within its Terms of Reference, which were agreed to in 2011. It has a high degree of autonomy which means the TOR can be amended by the PMC.
5. The Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP) is the secretariat to the PMC, based in the SPREP Climate Change Division. PMDP is supported by WMO together with a voluntary Steering Committee tasked with convening meetings, actioning decisions, providing reports and advice, seeking funding, maintaining the accounts and other similar services.
6. The chief function of a subsidiary body is to provide advice or recommendations to the SM. This can be done upon request by the SM or upon the PMC acting on its own initiative. The SM then makes a decision based on such advice or recommendations. Decisions are actioned by the Secretariat.

Membership

7. The PMC at its second meeting adopted Rules of Procedure based upon the SPREP Meeting Rules of Procedure. Only SPREP member countries can be members of the PMC. Other

countries, institutions or individuals can be invited but attend as observers. Observers do not have speaking rights except with the leave of the meeting.

Finance

8. The PMC does not have separate financial rules. It therefore operates under the general budget of SPREP, which is subject to SPREP's Financial Regulations.
9. The PMC does not fund raise as it is not independent of SPREP. Member governments and administrations of SPREP pay annual contributions to the SPREP Meeting, so there is no need for the PMC to extract a similar levy. Member contributions go towards the core budget which funds the finance, administration and executive management areas of SPREP which allows these services to be provided to the PMC.
10. All of SPREP's larger Members provide additional (extra-budgetary) assistance. This, in addition to funds from relevant projects, pays for the Climate Change Division's staff who comprise the "Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership" enabling them to provide technical and logistical support to the PMC.
11. SPREP Members or non-members may also provide specific financial assistance in response to a funding request prepared by the Secretariat on behalf of the PMC.
12. The above combined sources allow the PMC to convene, conduct its business and for its decisions to be actioned.
13. Additional sources of income for SPREP are through occasional donations from non-members and funds for projects.
14. SPREP has robust financial systems which meet the requirements of its donors.
15. There is no therefore need for the PMC to have its own financial regulations in its status as a subsidiary body.

Recommendations

16. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **Note the explanation provided.**
 - **Seek further clarification from the Secretariat if needed.**

Attachments

- Annex 1 : Term of Reference for the Pacific Meteorological Council
- Annex 2: Rules of Procedures

15 July 2015