

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

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

### Agenda Item 4.21: New Zealand Country Report

#### Purpose

1. To inform the PMC of New Zealand's support in developing the capacity of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs).

#### Background

2. New Zealand's relationship with Pacific communities is one of a long-standing mature friendship, comprising highly valued connections across every aspect of the political, economic and social spectrum. These ties are significant not only at government to government levels, but also for business, academia, science, research & technology (SR&T) and people to people links.
3. For over 50 years, New Zealand has played a pivotal role in the establishment, development and provision of weather, climate, water and related services in the South West Pacific. A re-alignment of New Zealand's Overseas Development Assistance in the mid-1980s changed New Zealand's role to one of direct support or back-up involvement (e.g. RSMC Wellington back up to RSMC Nadi during the tropical cyclone season) in the actual provision of weather, climate, water and related services to PICTs NMHSs.
4. The focus of New Zealand's support since the mid-1980s has been to move away from directly managing selected PICTs NMHSs (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Tokelau) to providing advice and support on a 'project' basis jointly with PICTs and other development partners. Many of these projects are in the form of service provision, such as technical support and expert advice, and may last from a few months to a number of years. In this way, PICTs NMHSs are supported to become self-sufficient in directly managing and operating their own services with advice and specialist support available, if and when required.
5. This support covers all four priority action areas of the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy, 2012-2021. Sustaining Weather and Climate Services in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PIMS) and contributes towards achieving virtually all of the

PIMS' Pacific Key Outcomes (PKO). Appendix 1 provides a summary of New Zealand and its collaborating partners' support towards implementing the PIMS to date.

6. Since PMC-2 New Zealand would particularly like to highlight the following:

New Zealand has provided technical consultancy and engineering support, in conjunction with the US NOAA PI-GCOS support programme and the UK Met Office Pacific Fund programme (administered by SPREP from 1 April 2014). This has included technical support and advice via remote and in-country visits;

The WMO Severe Weather Forecasting and Disaster Risk Reduction Demonstration Project (SWFDDP) has been predominantly coordinated (regionally) by RSMC Wellington, including maintenance of the password protected website MetConnect Pacific. The website provides, amongst other things, users with the latest NWP from global centres, regional guidance from RSMC Wellington and observations from the region. Funding by US NOAA NWS allowed the website to be upgraded with significant user benefits, including: access to archived data and new ensemble NWP;

New Zealand is also playing a significant role in supporting PICT NMHS's in the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services in the region, for example through the development and operationalisation of climate early warning systems (CLEWS), notably in Samoa, Fiji and Solomon Islands. CLEWS development has adopted a policy of appropriate innovation, standardization of equipment across operations, integration with existing infrastructure within PICT NMHS's, such as CliDB, and most importantly ensuring that data and information can easily be generated, made available in a timely and appropriate format or product for Meteorological or climate uses, and accessible to those that need the information to make decisions. CLEWS initiatives have:

- significantly increased the accessibility of contiguous, high quality meteorological, climate, hydrological and other environmental data;
- increased PICT NMHS capacity, staff empowerment and skills to operate and maintain monitoring networks and manage data; and
- provided targeted information to support key end-user needs, significantly raising the profiles of Meteorological Services.

7. New Zealand will continue, subject to availability of human and financial resources, to support PICTs NMHS's efforts to implement the PIMS through advice and technical support where requested, with a primary focus on improving the following:

- Weather services, particularly in relation to aviation, marine and public
- Early warning systems for severe weather
- Weather, climate and hydrological observations, monitoring and related support
- Climate services
- Capacity development of NMHSs staff.

## Recommendations

8. The Meeting is invited to:
- Note this paper.

- **Provide guidance and recommendations** on how to improve and enhance the value of New Zealand's support in the development of PICTs NMHSs.
- **Provide guidance and recommendations** on how New Zealand's support could be harmonised with other international efforts in the Pacific, to provide greater positive impact and value.
- **Recommend** specific priorities for New Zealand to consider with respect to its on-going support for the four PIMS priority areas:
  - Improved weather services, in particular aviation, marine and public weather services;
  - Improved end-to-end Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS);
  - Enhanced infrastructure (observational networks, data and information services) for weather, climate, water and related programmes and activities; and
  - Improved climate services.

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### Attachments

- Annex 1: PMC-3 NZ Country Report\_Appendix 1.

12 July 2015