

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

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

### Agenda Item 16.1: Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM)

#### Purpose

1. To raise PMC awareness of the Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) and its associated financing facility the Rapid Response Fund (RRF) and to invite members to use and promote the Technical Assistance facility available through the RTSM.

#### Background

2. The RTSM and RRF were officially launched in July 2014 as a side event at the Forum Leaders Meeting and further promoted at the 25<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting in Marshall Islands in September 2014. Since then, the RTSM/RRF has featured in several SPREP coordinated meetings including the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR) and the Pacific Islands Climate Services (PICS) Panel meetings in May 2015.
3. The RTSM is a registered network of experts in climate change and disaster risk management matters who will provide coordinated and timely technical assistance (TA) targeting strategic approaches to effective resourcing across key areas related to climate change such as adaptation, climate science and meteorological services, policy development, capacity building, economics, knowledge management and others. These TAs support the needs of Pacific Islands Countries, most specifically in the food and infrastructure sectors. The RRF is the financing arm of the RTSM and ends in June 2016. Total financing available through the RRF is USD1.1million. Information on types of TAs eligible for RRF financing and process for applying for TA assistance is available at <http://rtsm.pacificclimatechange.net/> or by emailing [rtsm@sprep.org](mailto:rtsm@sprep.org)
4. The 1<sup>st</sup> tranche (USD\$149,689) was received in May 2015 to finance experts to undertake urgent technical assistance for PICs who had sent in RTSM TA request forms. Part of the 1<sup>st</sup> tranche is being used to finance experts for FSM (development of medium-size Adaptation Funding concept note), Tonga (Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan for Vava'u) and Solomon Islands (Environmental/Water Quality Standards) with the first expert deployed to FSM on 19 June 2015. Other activities targeted for assistance under the 1<sup>st</sup> tranche include implementation of Joint National Action Plan (JNAP) activities for Cook Islands and Tonga.
5. The 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche, approximately USD\$300,000, is targeted for drawdown in July-December period and is earmarked to finance Cyclone Pam post-recovery efforts for Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Marshall Islands. These post-recovery activities will be

confirmed by countries in partnership with SPREP or thorough other CROP agencies. The 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche drawdown is dependent on 75% utilization (i.e. USD\$112,266) of the 1<sup>st</sup> tranche, with further RRF drawdown only possible upon full utilization of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> tranches. TA requests for RRF financing are accepted and considered throughout the year on a rolling basis (i.e. no closing date for applications).

## Recommendations

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Encourage** members to use and promote the RTSM and the RRF noting current available funding of USD\$149,689 and proposed 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche of approximately USD\$300,000;
  - **Access** and fill in RTSM TA request forms available online at <http://rtsm.pacificclimatechange.net/request-assistance#/> or contact [rtsm@sprep.org](mailto:rtsm@sprep.org) for further information and assistance; and
  - **Utilise** RRF before its end date of June 2016 noting TA requests are accepted and considered throughout the year.
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