

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

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

Agenda Item 6.4: Climate Services in the Pacific Region (Report from the Pacific Islands Climate Services (PICS) Panel)

Purpose

1. To report on activities and achievements of the PICS Panel since its establishment in April 2014.

Background

2. The Pacific Islands Climate Services (PICS) Panel was endorsed by the second Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-2) in July 2013 and established in April 2014 at the Special Session of the Pacific Meteorological Council, in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

3. The PICS Panel aims to: 'Improve coordination, continuity and integration of projects, programmes and initiatives that support climate services at national, regional and global levels; strengthen the basic and core functions and capabilities of NMHSs for robust and sustained data collection and management, analysis of data and quality assurance, production and dissemination of products, research and modelling; enhance 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.' See Annex 1 for the PICS Panel Terms of Reference.

Update

4. The first PICS Panel meeting was hosted by the Fiji Meteorological Service in August 2014. The Panel discussed a range of key issues to progress climate information and services in the Pacific. These discussions culminated in the development of a PICS Panel Action Plan (Annex 2) to assist the Panel in providing advice to the PMC on climate services development in the region.

5. Several Action Plan activities were identified as 'Priority PICS Panel Actions and Recommendations' (see Annex 3). Steady progress on these activities has been made over the last 12 months. Progress reports were presented and discussed at the second PICS Panel meeting, hosted by SPREP in Apia in May 2015.

6. The following ongoing actions were agreed at the second PICS Panel meeting. The PICS Panel will:

- a) recommend 5-6 key criteria for describing projects/programmes to be included in national and regional project databases, and pass this information onto SPREP;
- b) convene a sea level early warning 'experts group' meeting, linked to the WMO Coastal Inundation Forecasting Demonstration Project (CIFDP);
- c) finalise the climate services gap analysis report and present results at PMC-3;
- d) continue to identify and support initiatives for obtaining funding to establish a Regional Training Centre (RTC), noting that there is strong support from PI countries;
- e) send the Regional Climate Centre (RCC) capabilities survey to Meteo France, APCC, SPREP and SPC, review the combined survey results (along with the already-received responses from NOAA, BoM and NIWA) and draft a first cut PI RCC node/consortia structure;
- f) further revise the draft PI Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF) concept note, led by SPREP and WMO, and continue to plan the first PICOF meeting, to be held at the University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus, Suva, Fiji, 12-16 October 2015;
- g) share the experiences and successes of the National Climate Outlook Forum (NCOF) in Papua New Guinea, and help guide other countries with their NCOFs (e.g. Tonga and Kiribati); and
- h) circulate the *Regional Expert Roundtable on Climate Services for Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Security* meeting report (Annex 4) and the GFCS concept proposal to the PICS Panel meeting attendees, and follow up on any developments regarding the concept proposal with FAO.

Recommendations

7. The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the excellent progress of the PICS Panel, in collaboration with other regional and international partners, toward strengthening climate services in the Pacific Islands region;
- **Further note** the financial support for PICS Panel meetings provided by SPREP, WMO, Environment Canada, Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Fiji Meteorological Service, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland;
- **Recommend**
- **(1)** the PICS Panel to continue its work as outlined in the ongoing actions listed above; to regularly review its ToR, Action Plan and Priority Actions in consultation with the PMC and others; and to consider producing an Annual Report;
- **(2)** Vanuatu, Palau and Niue to continue representing the PMC on the PICS Panel for the next two years and then be replaced at the next PMC;
- **(3)** the review of the Pacific Meteorological Strategy to consider activities identified under the PICS Panel Action Plan; and
- **Endorse** the establishment of a Regional Training Centre (RTC), a Regional Climate Centre (RCC), an annual PI Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF), and regular National Climate Outlook Fora (NCOF).
- **Urge** the PMC to support and guide the activities initiated by the PICS Panel, in collaboration with other regional and international partners, thus ensuring the sustained and continuous development of climate services in the Pacific Islands region.

Attachments

- Annex 1 : PICS Panel Terms of Reference
- Annex 2 : PICS Panel Action Plan
- Annex 3 : Priority PICS Panel Actions and Recommendations
- Annex 4: Report from the Regional Expert Roundtable on Climate Services for Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Security
- Annex 5: PICS Panel Second Meeting Report

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