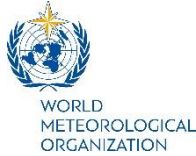




**PACIFIC**  
METEOROLOGICAL  
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WORLD  
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**SPREP**  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme

*“Sustainable Weather, Climate, Oceans and Water Services for a Resilient Pacific”*

## **Fourth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-4) Working Papers**

14-18 August 2017  
Honiara  
Solomon Islands

### **Agenda Item 13.3: Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forums and beyond**

#### **Purpose:**

1. To table the Review of the Second Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICO-2) and plans for the Third Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICO-3) and beyond.

#### **Background:**

2. In the late 1990s the WMO, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), regional institutions and other international organizations initiated an innovative process known as the Regional Climate Outlook Forums (herein referred to as Forums). These Forums bring together national, regional and international climate experts, on an operational basis, to produce regional climate outlooks based on input - climate predictions - from all participants. By bringing together countries with common climatological characteristics, the Forums ensure consistency in the access to, and interpretation of, climate information. Through interaction with users in the key economic sectors of each region, extension agencies and policymakers, the Forums assess the likely implications of the outlooks on the most pertinent socio-economic sectors in the given region and explore the ways these outlooks could be used by them.
3. The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) was established in 2009, through a high-level declaration at World Climate Conference Three (WCC-3) organized by WMO and other United Nations agencies, Governments and partners to guide the development of climate services worldwide. The vision of the GFCS is to enable society to better manage the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change especially for those who are most vulnerable through the development and incorporation of science-based climate information and prediction into planning, policy and practices.
4. In 2015, the first Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum was held in Suva, Fiji. The aim of an RCOF is to provide a platform to consolidate seasonal forecasts from multiple sources by issuing a consensus outlook. This process allows its participants to better understand the science behind seasonal forecasts and to better appreciate the related uncertainties that are relevant for the measures applied to adapting and reducing risks to climate variations. For this first RCOF, the Pacific islands region intends to focus on comparing and contrasting existing information and approaches based on the long-standing experiences in issuing regional and national seasonal climate outlooks. The goal is to determine ‘best practices’ for the production, dissemination and interpretation of seasonal outlooks for the whole Pacific Islands region.

5. The concept of RCOFs has been implemented for several years in the Pacific through (a) COSPPac Online Climate Outlook Forum and (b) Islands Climate Update (ICU) Forum coordinated by NIWA and (c) Pacific ENSO Application Climate (PEAC) Centre Forum.

#### **Update:**

#### **PICOF-2 review**

6. The Second Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum was held at Tanoa Hotel, Nadi, Fiji, 17-19 October 2016 (prior to a regional consultation workshop on the Roadmap). The PICOF-2 had a Disaster Management focus; following from the First PICOF-1 which focussed on water. The Forum:
  - a. was attended by around 80 representatives from regional organisations and science providers, NMHSs, NDMOs, other Fijian ministries and departments, and UN organisations
  - b. discussed NMHS products and services; NDMO needs; examples of good working relationships between NDMOs and NMHSs; and suggestions for improvements
  - c. produced a regional statement (see document PMC-4 WP 13.3 Att 1) and media release on the “Impacts of the 2015/16 El Niño and 2016/17 Climate and Tropical Cyclone Outlook for the Pacific Islands”

#### **PICOF-3 planning**

7. The PICOF-3 planning meeting is to be held in Apia, Samoa, 27-29 September 2017 (following COSPPac and APCC CLIK Pacific training), hosted by Samoa Meteorological Service. The meeting:
  - a. Will have a Health Sector focus
  - b. Will invite a representative from the RA-V ASEANCOF to share their COF procedures and lessons learned
  - c. First day will be a technical training day for NMHS staff only
  - d. Days 2 and 3 will include country presentations from both the Health and NMHS representatives; discuss good current practices; ideas for projects (e.g. H-CLEWS); regional initiatives and national products and services
  - e. Will produced a regional statement and media release
  - f. Will survey participants on the structure, timing and usefulness of PICOFs

#### **Sustaining the PICOFs**

8. During PICOF-3:
  - a. The survey of participants at PICOF-3 will be used as a basis for recommending the continuation (or cessation) of PICOFs
  - b. The current structure and overall purpose will be assessed
  - c. The relationship with the PI RCC will be considered
  - d. A PICS Panel report will be drafted and circulated to PMC in early 2018

#### **Funding**

9. Financial support for PICOF-1 (Suva, 2015) was provided by Environment and Climate Change Canada through the Programme for Implementing GFCS at the Regional and National Levels.
10. The Government of Russia funded UNDP RESPAC project and the Environment and Climate Change Canada through the Programme for Implementing GFCS at the Regional and National Levels project supported PICOF-2 (Nadi, 2016). RESPAC is also supporting PICOF-3 (Apia, 2017) and PICOF-4 (Agriculture sector focus, location tbd, 2018).

11. Funding opportunities will continue to be sought to sustain the PICOFs, if there is a desire to maintain them.

### Recommendations:

1. The Meeting is invited to:
    - **Note** that PICOFs 1 and 2 have been very successful events;
    - **Further note** that regular Regional COFs are highly recommended by WMO, should have a sector focus, and are one of the key functions of an RCC; and
    - **Endorse** the continuation of PICOFs for 2017 and 2018 and the evaluation of the structure, timing and usefulness of PICOFs following a participant survey at PICOF-3.
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### Attachments

- Annex 1 PICOF-2 Regional Statement and Media Release on the “Impacts of the 2015/16 El Nino and 2016/17 Climate and Tropical Cyclone Outlook for the Pacific Islands”
- Annex 2 PICOF-2 workshop report

[Date of Submission]