



PACIFIC
METEOROLOGICAL
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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 13.1: Progress on the Pacific Islands Climate Services Panel

Purpose:

1. To provide update on the progress of the PICS Panel work plan and activities.

Background:

2. The Pacific Islands Climate Services (PICS) Panel is an advisory group to the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC). The PICS Panel was endorsed by the PMC in Nadi, Fiji in July 2013 and established in April 2014 at a Special Session of the PMC, in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.
3. The purpose of the PICS Panel is 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; and 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.’*

Update:

4. Planning Meetings
 - The Third PICS Panel Meeting was held in Port Vila, Vanuatu from 21-23 March 2016. Updates from recent regional meetings were discussed. The PICS Panel also progressed the work on the Pacific Islands Regional Climate Centre (PI RCC) and the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC).
 - The meeting recognised that challenges exist for sectors in using climate information
 - Discussion on Roadmap, Second Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOOF-2) and the Climate Services Compendium.
 - The Panel re-elected Dr. Andrew Tait of New Zealand; as Chair and Mr. Samuel Maiha, of Papua New Guinea as Vice Chair.
5. PICS Panel teleconferences on 28 April and 21 June 2017
 - The Panel discussed on the Node distribution and update on PI RCC
 - Feedback on Roadmap and PIMS Review
 - Contribution to PMC-4 and PICOOF-3 agendas
 - Revised the 2017/18 Priority Actions

6. **Revised Terms of Reference (document PMC-4 WP 13.1 Att 3)**

- Additional PMC representative – New Caledonia
- Additional regional organisation – MeteoFrance
- Additional sector representatives – Agriculture & NDMO
- Include reference to Actions listed in the Roadmap (replacing the PICS Panel Action Plan)

7. Noting that

- The role of the PICS Panel is to provide technical advice to the PMC (i.e. not to implement proposed activities); and
- Membership remains open-ended to allow for the PMC members to volunteer their experts to participate in the PICS Panel activities and for the PICS Panel to invite experts either from its PMC members or its partners or climate users to its meetings and discussions.

Recommendations:

8. The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** that the PICS Panel is now primarily using teleconferences for its meetings, as a cost-saving measure;
- **Suggest** that countries holding NCOFs in the region consider the lessons learned from PNG, Kiribati and Vanuatu; and
- **Endorse** the 2017/18 Priority Actions (document PMC-4 WP13.1 Att 1) and revisions to the Terms of Reference (document PMC-4 WP 13.1 Att 3).

Attachments

- Annex 1 2017/18 Priority Actions (PMC-4 WP13.1 Att 1)
- Annex 2 NCOF Review (document PMC-4 WP 13.1 Att 2)
- Annex 3 Revised Terms of Reference – PICS Panel (PMC-4 Wp 13.1 Att 3)

[28 July 2018]