

"Sustainable Weather, Climate, Oceans and Hydrological 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 No. 18.3: Impacts of Climate Change for the Pacific According to the Latest Findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Future Priorities of the IPCC

Purpose:

To inform the PMC on (1) the impacts of climate change in the Pacific according to the latest findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and (2) future IPCC priorities through a presentation at the Ministerial segment, to enhance engagement from the Pacific in the IPCC process.

Background:

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) dates back to 1988 when it was established by the World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Environment Programme to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

Since its inception, the IPCC has produced five comprehensive Assessment Reports and several Special Reports on specific topics. The IPCC has also produced Methodology Reports, which provide practical guidelines on the preparation of greenhouse gas inventories for the inventory reporting requirements of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The contribution of IPCC was acknowledged almost ten years ago, when the IPCC was awarded the Nobel Peace prize together with Al Gore for "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change."

IPCC plays a significant role in providing the scientific basis for global policy and decision making. The last assessment report - the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), which was completed in 2014- provided a crucial input into the Paris Agreement on Climate Change reached in December 2015. The latest findings of the IPCC relevant to Small Islands in the Pacific region is summarised in the Executive Summary of Chapter 29: Small Islands in Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability- Part B: Regional Aspects (Annex 1).

Update:

The IPCC is currently in its Sixth Assessment Cycle, during which it will produce three Special Reports, a Methodology Report and the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). Future priorities of the IPCC are on the following:-

- ❖ Global Warming of 1.5 °C, an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty **(September 2018)**
- ❖ Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate **(September 2019)**
- ❖ Special Report on Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems **(September 2019)**
- ❖ 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories **(May 2019)**
- ❖ Working Group I, II, and III contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report **(in 2021)**
- ❖ Synthesis Report to the Sixth Assessment Report **(April 2022)**
- ❖ Special focus on cities through a conference in AR6 and a special report on cities in AR7.

There are many opportunities for the Pacific science and policy communities to be involved in the activities of the IPCC and utilize efficiently its work in the future (Annex 2). Pacific countries can enhance their participation in the IPCC process through their National Focal Points.

National Focal Points of the IPCC could coordinate the engagement of their research institutions, universities and key researchers in the IPCC process. Such engagement includes contribution to existing literature and also participation as Authors or Review Editors and as Expert Reviewers to the IPCC Reports. They can also encourage relevant intergovernmental bodies to become Observer Organisations of the IPCC (subject to acceptance by the Panel).

Interested parties are strongly encouraged to keep abreast of developments through the IPCC website (www.ipcc.ch) or the social media (ipcc-media@wmo.int).

Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** that during the Sixth Assessment Cycle, IPCC will produce three Special Reports, a Methodology Report and the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6);
- **Encourage** the National Focal Points of the IPCC to enhance engagement of their research institutions, universities and key researchers in the IPCC process;
- **Encourage** the nomination of National Focal Points to the IPCC for those countries that do not have one already.

Attachments

- Annex 1: Impacts of Climate Change for Small Islands
- Annex 2: Future Priorities and Opportunities to Engage in the IPCC Process

[10 August 2017]