



## FIFTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

05 - 09 August 2019

TATTE Conference Centre, Apia, Samoa

**Science to Services for a Resilient Pacific**

### DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

#### BACKGROUND

1. The theme for the fifth Pacific Meteorological Council meeting is *“Science to Services for a Resilient Pacific”* in recognition that weather, climate, water and ocean (hydro-meteorological and ocean) services are essential components in national and regional sustainable development framework in the Pacific, particularly in poverty reduction efforts, climate change and disaster risk reduction.
2. Pacific Leaders consider climate change to be the greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and well-being of the peoples of the Pacific. They highlight the need to respond urgently and adequately to the social, economic and security impacts of climate change, to ensure the survival and viability of all Pacific Small Island Developing States<sup>i</sup>. In addition to being intrinsically vulnerable due to their specific geographical location and characteristics, PICTs are located in disaster prone areas and in a vast ocean. Of the top 20 countries with the highest average annual losses to gross domestic product from disasters, eight are Pacific island countries
3. It has been estimated that since 1950, extreme events have affected approximately 9.2 million people in the Pacific, with 9,811 reported deaths and damage of USD 3.2 billion<sup>ii</sup>. Climate change intensifies most extreme weather events, and hence the likelihood of hydro-meteorological disasters. These already account for 75% of all reported ‘natural’ disaster events in the Pacific. A comparison of current and future tropical cyclone risk for 14 Pacific Island Countries indicates increasing losses for the region, largely as a result of the projected increase in category 5 cyclones. While for the region as a whole the increase in average annual losses is relatively small, increases by the end-of-century for many individual countries are large – for example, 25.4% for Samoa, 14.8% for Niue and 7.6% for Vanuatu<sup>iii</sup>. Additionally, some of the Pacific atoll nations such as Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Republic of Marshall Islands, are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
4. There is significant progress and improvement made in the science to better forecast extreme weather events and future climate through climate change projection. The rich information produced by the National Meteorological Services (NMHSs) on an hourly, daily to monthly basis as well as historical analysis and future climate projection have significantly improved in accuracy. Surveys carried out by the COSPPac project in 5 countries published by Malsale et al, 2018 noted that while farmers listen to contemporary weather and climate information provided by the NMHSs, they usually ignore these advice due to lack of understanding and the technical nature of the information provided through radio, and they tend to rely on readily available traditional knowledge on weather and climate and its interaction with the environment around them which they are familiar with
5. There is also a drive to improve access for women to technology, information, science education and technical training and to strengthen the position of women scientists and technologists. Ensuring that women have equal access to science education and technology is an essential catalyst to ensure that the developers and users of weather, water and climate services provided by WMO and its Members serve the global community – men, women, boys, girls. This commitment strengthens the position of women as

scientists, technologists and users of weather, water and climate services and fosters increased participation of women in weather and climate decision and policy-making.

6. The theme of this workshop 'science to services' expresses the need for Science to be developed and transformed to services that are readily available in forms that are easily understood by officials, sectors and communities. In support on this theme and leading up to the fifth Pacific Meteorological Council, several pre-PMC meetings/trainings/workshops have been organised.
  - i. Impact Workshop on the IPCC Special Report on the Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC)
  - ii. Next Generation Climate Change Projections for the Western Pacific
  - iii. Women Leadership in Meteorology and Hydrology
  - iv. Master Class Communication Training for Met Directors
  - v. 3rd Meeting of the CREWS Pacific SIDS Project Steering Committee
  - vi. 6 PMC Expert Panel Meetings
  - vii. Tanoa Session with Donors and Partners

#### **5th MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL (PMC-5)**

7. The Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) is the host of the Fifth meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-5) in Apia from 05 to 09 August 2017. The meeting will bring together PMC's members<sup>1</sup>, senior government's officials from SPREP member countries and development partners, Council of the Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), United Nations' agencies, collaborating organizations and institutions to discuss, promote and explore opportunities to strengthen weather, climate, water and ocean services in the context of sustainable development.
8. The PMC is a specialized subsidiary body of SPREP established to facilitate and coordinate the scientific and technical programme and activities of the Regional Meteorological Services in region. The PMC comprises the Directors/heads of Meteorological Services of SPREP Members<sup>2</sup> with the objectives aimed to strengthen the capacity of the NMHSs thus contributing to the safety, well-being, and development aspirations of the people of the Pacific during the provision of weather, climate, and related development services by: (i) providing an open forum for members to discuss and collaborate on issues related to the advancement of meteorological services in the Pacific; (ii) building on mutual and complementary strengths to develop innovative approaches that help sustain national and regional development goals stated by each nation; and (iii) collaborating with partner organizations and agencies in related sectors to achieve development objectives.
9. The PMC has also established six multi-institutional expert working groups to provide technical advice to the PMC and coordinate their efforts to implement some for the fundamental priorities of the met services in the region. The PMC Panels are; (i) Pacific Island Climate Services (PICS) Panel; (ii) Pacific Island Education, Training and Research (PIETR) Panel; (iii) Pacific Island Marine and Oceans Services (PIMOS) Panel; (iv) Pacific Island Communication and Infrastructure (PICI) Panel; (v) Pacific Island Aviation Weather Services (PIAWS) Panel and; (vi) Pacific Hydrology Services (PHS) Panel..
10. The Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), CROP organisations, development partners, collaborating organizations and institutions take enormous pride in their contributions to sustainable development of the PICTs they have made to date. This

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<sup>1</sup> PMC members – Directors/Heads of Meteorological Services of SPREP's members

<sup>2</sup> SPREP has 21 member countries and territories (American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Marianas, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis & Futuna) and 5 developed countries (Australia, France, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States of America).

meeting will assist with the coordination efforts of the NMHSs and partners to ensure that gaps in delivering appropriate and timely information to save lives are discussed and addressed.

**11. Venue and Dates of PMC-5**

The PMC-5 will be held at the TATTE Conference Centre in Apia, Samoa, from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of August, 2019.

**12. The Theme of PMC-5**

The theme for the 2019 PMC-5 will be confirmed by the PMC Steering Committee established by the PMC Chairman

**13. The objectives of the PMC-5 are to:**

- a) Continue to facilitate coordination, networking, sharing of information and discussions among PMC's members, development partners, CROP agencies, United Nations' agencies, collaborating organisations and institutions on current status and advancement of weather, climate, water and ocean services in support of national development and a resilient Pacific;
- b) Discuss the contribution of the NMHSs in implementing the Framework for Resilient Development, the Sendai Framework (FRDP), the Pacific Climate Change Centre, the recent WMO Reform
- c) Review the progress in the implementation of the "Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy" through the PMC Panel work;
- d) Participation of Women in Meteorology and Hydrology at the PMC

**14. Expected Outcomes of PMC-5**

The *expected outcomes of the PMC-5 meeting* are:

- a) Awareness of the shared progress and issues since PMC-4;
- b) Strengthened partnership and networking with development partners, CROP organisations, collaborating organisations and institutions;
- c) Increased awareness of potential direct access to financial resources by PICTs for development and advancement of weather, climate, water and ocean services;
- d) Clear linkages provided on how the NMHSs can contribute towards implementing the various strategic priorities outlined in the FRDP and other relevant strategies
- e) Endorsement of the Pacific Climate Change Science and Services Research Roadmap, discussion on the PMC Engagement Strategy and the Hydrology Gaps and Needs Assessment in the Pacific
- f) Updates provided from the PMC Panels (PICS, PIAWS, PIMOS, PIETR, PICI, PHS) on progress of their works and directions for future works of PMC in the development of weather, climate, water, and ocean services.

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<sup>i</sup> Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership, Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, 2013.

<sup>ii</sup> World Bank, 2012 (op cit).

<sup>iii</sup> Australian Government, 2014: Current and Future Tropical Cyclone Risk in the South Pacific also Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI). World Bank, Washington DC, 12pp.