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SIXTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL (PMC-6) THIRD PACIFIC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON METEOROLOGY (PMMM-3)

● [HTTPS://WWW.PACIFICMET.NET/PMC-6-2023](https://www.pacificmet.net/PMC-6-2023)

## Sixth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-6)

Sustaining Weather, Climate, Water and Ocean Services for a Resilient Blue Pacific

14-16 August 2023, Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, Denarau, Nadi, Fiji

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### **Agenda Item 10.1: Progress on the Pacific Island Climate Services (PICS) Panel and ToR**

#### **Purpose:**

1. To report on activities and achievements of the PICS panel since PMC-5

#### **Background:**

1. 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 PMC in Rarotonga.
2. The PICS Panel aims to: 'Improve coordination, continuity and integration of projects, programs and initiatives that support climate services at national, regional and global levels; support the WMO RA V Pacific Regional Climate Centre Network (RCC-N) 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 and provide strategic advice associated with the operational activities of the WMO RA V Pacific Regional Climate Centre'. See Annex 1 for the PICS Panel Terms of Reference.

#### **Objectives:**

1. Over COVID-19 the ability of the PICS Panel to meet was limited but members continued to meet online, at least twice a year, usually before the biannual Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF). The panel will endeavour to meet at least four times a year going forward.
2. The current co-chairs are Olivia Warrick (OCW Consulting, NZ – on personal leave until 31/12/2023) and Simon McGree (Bureau of Meteorology). The vice chair is Arieta Baleisolomone (Fiji Met. Service).
3. The status of the Pacific RCC-N is presented under Agenda Item 10.2. The Pacific RCC-N is currently a subsidiary of the PICS panel. The WMO Secretariat and PICS panel members since PMC-5 have recommended it sit alongside the PICS panel and be co-managed by the PICS panel and WMO. The PMC would be responsible for ensuring it delivers products and services relevant for the Pacific region while WMO would provide technical guidance.
4. The status of the PICOF is presented under Agenda Item 10.2 as PICOF functions have been transferred under the WMO Pacific RA-V Regional Climate Centre Network (RCC-N)

and are managed under the Node for Long-Range Forecasts. Functions that remain under the PICS panel include consultation with members with regards to the date of the forum, theme of the October forum and review of past forums as PMC members and observers. Transfer to the RCC-N is consistent with WMO RCC and RCC-N practices elsewhere. PICOF themes since PMC-5 include Agriculture, Fisheries and Oceans, Renewable Energy and Climate Change. Theme selection is consistent with Priority areas for the Pacific presented in the Pacific Roadmap for Strengthened Climate Services (2017). Since PMC-5 PICOFs have become biannual, with a second PICOF for NMHSs held in April to coincide with the start of the southwest Pacific dry season.

5. Status of the Pacific Roadmap for Strengthening Climate Services is presented in Report 10.3.
6. The PICS panel sought PMC endorsement to produce a Pacific Climate Change Monitor 2021 report. This initiative was undertaken under the RCC Nodes for Climate Monitoring/Climate Projections, but the concept was initially put to the PMC by the PICS Panel via an out of session working paper and meeting. This report has been completed and will be available at PMC-6.

## Recommendations

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the ongoing progress of the PICS panel, in collaboration with other regional and international partners towards strengthening of climate services in the Pacific Islands region;
- **Support** the recommendation from PMC-5 for the establishment of an executive committee for cross panel coordination to ensure effective coordination across the six panels. This committee would be made up of the PMC chair, PMC vice-chair and panel chairs/co-chairs. The committee would ideally be chaired by the PMC chair.
- **Request** the PMC support and guide the activities initiated by the PICS Panel, in collaboration with other regional and international partners and projects thus ensuring the sustained and continuous development of climate services in the Pacific Islands region;
- **Request** the PMC and observers support and encourage their representatives on the panel to regularly participate in future meetings. A list of member organisations is available as the ToR Annex 1.
- **Request** the PMC encourage the contribution of funding to support on-going Pacific Met. Desk PICS panel secretariat functions, panel activities and face-to-face meetings and
- **Request** the PMC endorse the amended PICS panel ToR.

## Attachment

- Updated PICS Panel Terms of Reference

# Pacific Islands Climate Services Panel

## Terms of Reference

(Updated 12 August 2023)

### 1. Introduction

1.1 The Pacific Island Climate Services Panel (PICS Panel) was endorsed by the Second Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-2) to serve in the capacity of an advisory committee to the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) on climate services matters in the Pacific region ([https://www.sprep.org/attachments/Publications/PMC-2\\_Meeting\\_Report.pdf](https://www.sprep.org/attachments/Publications/PMC-2_Meeting_Report.pdf)).

1.2 The PICS Panel established the WMO RA V Pacific Regional Climate Centre Network (Pacific RCC-N), endorsed by the PMC in 2017 (currently in demonstration mode). The Pacific RCC-N is a virtual Centre of Excellence that assists National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the Pacific Islands region to deliver climate services and products and to strengthen their capacity to meet national climate information and service delivery needs. While the Pacific RCC provides *operational* scientific services to NMHSs for long range forecasting, climate monitoring, climate projections, data services and training, the PICS Panel provides a *strategic* advisory service, providing the link between the Pacific RCC Management Committee and the PMC.

### 2. Purpose

2.1. The purpose of the PICS Panel is to provide non-technical scientific advisory services to the PMC on matters related to the strengthening and coordinating of climate services at the community, national and regional levels and to guide the Pacific RCC-N in implementing the GFCS in a way consistent with Pacific climate service priorities. Future management of the Pacific RCC-N would ideally be delivered by the Pacific RCC-N management committee (with the PICS panel as a member). The Pacific RCC-N would ideally sit alongside the PICS Panel, co-managed by the WMO and PMC.

### 3. Role of the PICS Panel

3.1. The role of the PICS Panel, in consultation with other partners, is to provide non-technical advice to the PMC on the following:

- a) The strengthening, coordination, continuity and integration of current and future programmes, projects and initiatives that support climate services at the community, national and regional levels.
- b) The enhancement of 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.
- c) Advisory to, and monitoring of, climate services-related projects and programmes in the Pacific that address priority activities outlined in the Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) 2017-2026 (in particular, PKOs 4-6)

- d) Seek funding support for and monitoring of the regional and national actions listed in the "Pacific Roadmap for Strengthened Climate Services 2017-2026".
- e) Advisory to, operational activities of the WMO RA V Pacific Regional Climate Centre, ensuring consistency with key climate service-related Pacific strategic priorities identified by the PMC and outlined in the Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) 2017-2026 and the Pacific Roadmap for Strengthened Climate Services 2017-2026.
- f) The review of regional climate services needs and capabilities to recommend changes or further development Pacific RCC Network nodes products and services, in the areas of:
  - Long-Range Forecasting - climate predictions (seasonal and sub-seasonal), climate and multi-hazard early warning
  - Climate Monitoring (both short- and long-term climate)
  - Climate Change Projections
  - Operational Data Services - data and product-based services
  - Training - relevant to the different RCC nodes
  - Research and development,
- g) Coordination of activities with other PMC panels, such as the PIAWS, PHS, PIMOS, PICI and PIETR panels.
- h) The regular reporting to the PMC members on the progress of the PICS Panel and on the activities of the Pacific RCC.

## 4. Membership

4.1. The PICS Panel membership will comprise of the climate services community of practice. There will be a core membership, but at the same time it remains open-ended to allow for the PMC members to volunteer 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. The core membership of the Panel will comprise of:

- a) PMC members.
- b) 1 member from the WMO RA V Working Group on Climate Services, eight members in total from regional organisations and institutions supporting climate observations, research, forecasting, operational services, information management and capacity building in the Pacific region.
- c) Open representation from the climate services user community.

4.2. The current core membership of the PICS Panel is given in Annex 1.

4.3. The PICS Panel will appoint its Chair, and if necessary, a vice-Chair (see Section 5)

4.4. The PICS Panel may invite non-voting experts to its meetings and discussions.

4.5. The PICS Panel may establish Task Team(s) to carry out specific time bound task(s) for limited time period.

4.6. Meetings of the PICS Panel shall be coordinated and convened by the Chair, with the support of the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP).

4.7. The chair with assistance from the PMDP will review membership from time to time (minimum once every two years) in order to keep it up to date and account for resignation/study leave etc. This process will be undertaken

by emailing the member head of agency and asking if they agree to the respective agency member continuing on the PICS panel/or wish to re-nominate. This list will be shared with the PMC and other panels as required.

## 5. Appointment of Chair/vice-chair and duration of appointment

- 5.1. The PICS Panel chair(s)/vice chair(s) serve for three (3) years.
- 5.2. At the end of each term, the chair at a PICS panel meeting will call for expressions of interest in the chair/vice chair roles. This will take the form of a member indicating their desire to nominate someone for one or both roles or a member indicating their interest in a role. The current chair(s) and vice chair(s) can stand for a second term if they wish to do so.
- 5.3. Should the current chair and/or vice-chair step down or be absent for more than two meetings (over a period of six months) this enables the process of election for a replacement chair and/or vice-chair (5.2).
- 5.4. The election process will be managed by the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP) and can either held by face-to-face via online ballot. At least 12 (50%) of the core members need to participate in the voting process. Only one vote per member is recognised.
- 5.5. The secretariat will update the ToR to include changes adopted at PICS panel meetings.

## 6. Review and Approval of Terms of Reference

- 6.1. The PICS Panel may revise its ToR as and when necessary.
- 6.2. The PMC to consider and approve amendments to the PICS Panel ToR including its core membership.
- 6.3. Meetings of the PICS Panel shall be coordinated and convened by the Chair, with the support of Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP). A minimum of two meetings to be held in a calendar year.

## Annex 1: PICS Panel Core Members

Representatives	Number	Institutions
Roving 5 member representatives of the PMC to be selected by PMC	14	American Samoa, Australia, Fiji, French Polynesia, FSM, Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Tonga, USA, Vanuatu
Member of RA V Working Group on Climate Services	1	TBD
Members from regional organisations and institutions supporting climate observations, research, forecasting, operational services, information management and capacity building in the Pacific region.	8	SPC, USP, SPREP, CSIRO, APCC, IFRC, UKMO, WMO
Representatives from the climate services user community	1	currently Olivia Warrick (OCW Consulting)

Pacific Island Climate Services Panel membership of 12 August 2023

Country/Agency	Name	Comments
Palau	Maria Ngemaes	
Guam	Not a member	
Federated States of Micronesia	Johannes Berdon	
RMI	Not a member	
PNG	Jimmy Gomoga	Jimmy Gomoga as of 12 August 2023
Solomon Islands	Not a member	
Vanuatu	Jerry Timothy	Nominated by Montine Romone 13 April 2023 via email
Fiji	Arieta Baleisolomone (Vice-chair)	Nominated by Terry Atalifo 13 April 2023 via email. Elected vice-chair via online voting process in April 2023.
New Caledonia and Wallis & Futuna	Alexandre Peltier	
Tonga	Seluvaia Finaulahi	
Niue	Rossy Mitiepo	
Samoa	Not a member	
American Samoa	Elinore Lutu McMoore	
Cook Islands	Not a member	
French Polynesia	Victoire Laurent	
Tokelau	Not a member	
Kiribati	Kamaitia Rubeetake	Confirmed membership with Ueneta Toorua on 28 June 2023
Nauru	Not a member	
Tuvalu	Not a member	
NOAA	John Marra	According to the minutes of 05 August 2019 and ToR not a member but a member of the RCC-N
NIWA	Ben Noll	
Bureau of Meteorology	Simon McGree (Co-chair)	
CSIRO	Geoff Gooley	
IFRC	Jen Stewart	
APCC	Hyejin Lee (Ms.)	
UK Met Office	Elisabeth Thompson	New member as of 30 June 2023
SPC	Herve Damiamian	
SPREP	Salesa Nihmei Philip Malsale (Secretariat)	
University of the South Pacific	Elisabeth Holland (primary), Awnesh Singh and Moleni Tu'uholoaki	Nominated by Elisabeth Holland 28 June 2023 via email

Open representative from sectors	Olivia Warrick (Co-chair)	On personal leave
Samoa Water Division		Recommend membership discontinue now UIP's and NCOF's exist. These forums will get sector feedback.
Tonga Ministry of Agriculture		Recommend membership discontinue now UIP's and NCOF's exist. These forums will get sector feedback.
Cook Islands NDMO		Recommend membership discontinue now UIP's and NCOF's exist. These forums will get sector feedback.

