



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

Agenda Item 10.2: Pacific Regional Climate Centre (Network)

Purpose:

1. To report on activities and achievements of the Pacific Regional Climate Centre Network (RCC-N) since PMC-5.

Background:

1. The WMO RA-V Pacific RCC-N is a virtual Centre of Excellence that assists Pacific Islands National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) deliver enhanced climate products and services. The RCC-N also strengthens NMHSs capacity to meet national climate information and service delivery needs.
2. The RCC was endorsed by PMC-4 and WMO and is currently in demonstration phase. All Pacific Islands and Territories that are members of the PMC are supported by the Pacific RCC-N (excluding the Australian and NZ Islands and US State of Hawaii).
3. The RCC-N is made up of five nodes covering four mandatory activities (Long-Range Forecasting (LRF), Climate Monitoring, Operational Data Services and Training) and a highly recommended function, Climate Change Projections.
4. The management committee is made up of representatives from the node leads/co-leads and representatives from the PICS panel. The current representatives are: Simon McGree (Bureau of Meteorology, chair), Nihmei Salesa (SPREP), Geoff Gooley (CSIRO), John Mara (NOAA), Herve Damlamian (SPC), Olivia Warrick (Co-chair PICS panel), Arieta Baleisolomone (Vice chair, PICS panel, Fiji Met. Service) and Ben Noll (NIWA).

Objectives:

1. Over COVID-19 the ability of the RCC-N Management Committee to meet was limited. The new Management Committee ToR (see attachment) was developed at a face-to-face meeting in Samoa in late September 2022. The committee will endeavour to meet at least four times a year going forward.
2. The Pacific RCC ENSO Tracker which gathers and summarises the status of ENSO according to Node for LRF members was developed by NIWA and is presented via the Pacific RCC-N website <https://www.pacificmet.net/enso-tracker>
3. Two PICOFs per year have been held per year since 2020. The second PICOF is held in late April, prior to the onset of the South Pacific dry season. This is a one-day online event for NMHSs where the climate of the last six months is reviewed and an outlook issued for the next six months.

4. The Node for Climate Monitoring lead the development of a Pacific Climate Change Monitor 2021 report. This report describes variability and change in Pacific Island climates, drawing on the latest meteorological and oceanographic data, information, and analyses. The report primarily focuses on observed changes across the Pacific Islands region in general and includes some country-specific information. It also includes some information about projections and the social, environmental, and economic impacts of rapid climate change. The report was launched in April 2022 in Honolulu. For additional information see <https://www.pacificmet.net/pacific-climate-change-forum-2022>. A printed copy of the report is available at PMC-6. Since PICO-10 in April 2022, a session on climate change historical trends and climate change projections has been added to the PICO-10 recognising the importance of climate change in the region.
5. ClimSA is assisting with the development of a refreshed Pacific RCC-N website. ClimSA will also assist with the development of a Pacific RCC-N logo and other promotional materials. The refreshed website will assist with the application for designation as a Regional Climate Centre Network
6. The application for designation as the Pacific RCC-N is in progress and will be submitted to the President of RA-V for approval in late 2023. An informal assessment by a WMO consultant suggests we currently meet WMO's requirements for RCC/RCC-N designation.
7. Terms of Reference (ToR) have been developed for the Pacific RCC-N Management Committee. This is attached and submitted for PMC-6 approval.

Recommendations

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Recommend** the Pacific RCC-N function independently of the PICS panel and be co-managed by the WMO with reference to technical/scientific matters and the PMC in terms of ensuring products and services are meet and are appropriate for Pacific NMHS and their stakeholders;
- **Task** the Pacific RCC-N Management Committee to move the Pacific RCC-N from demonstration phase to being designated an RCC Network as soon as possible;
- **Request** members of the Pacific RCC-N (NIWA, The Bureau of Meteorology, Meteo-France, NOAA, University of Hawaii, APCC, SPREP, SPC, CSIRO, USGCRP and the University of PNG) support the Pacific RCC-N in a more sustainable manner for the purposes of delivering consistent, sustainable products and services. Some members support the Pacific RCC-N via project funding which is short-term and subject to donor priorities which can change from phase to phase.
- **Recognise** the value of the Pacific RCC-N as a hub for regional climate products and services;
- **Encourage** PMC members to utilise RCC-N products and services;
- **Endorse** the new Pacific RCC-N Management Committee ToR. The ToR includes a proposed change to management composition to include greater PMC representation on the Management Committee.
- **Encourage** donors and development partners to support on-going Pacific Met. Desk RCC-N secretariat functions, RCC-N activities and face-to-face meetings.

Attachment

- Pacific RCC-N Terms of Reference

Links

- Pacific RCC-N webpage <https://www.pacificmet.net/rcc>
- Pacific RCC-N facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/PacificRegionalClimateCentre/>

Pacific Regional Climate Centre Network Management Committee DRAFT Terms of Reference (as of 12 August 2023)

PREAMBLE

According to the Manual on the Global Data-processing and Forecasting System (WMO No. 485) the WMO RA V Pacific Regional Climate Centre Network (Pacific RCC-N), currently in Demonstration Phase (DP) comprises of five nodes, each led by one or two members with one or more consortium members.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

The mission of the Pacific RCC-N Management Committee is the coordination of the whole operation process aimed at the integration of actions and goals of each node and its contributing members in order to achieve common goals.

The committee objectives are to coordinate the Pacific RCC-N operation from planning, implementation, to monitoring of progress and follow-up of the activities. This includes the following activities:

- Maintain and update the Pacific RCC-N's Operating Plan where required,
- Oversight of the development of the Pacific RCC-N's products and services, organisation of regular Regional Forums of Users and Management Meetings,
- Monitoring the operation of the Pacific RCC-N, specifically for the support of member NMHSs, aiming for enhanced visibility and a strong role of the member NMHS,
- Foster the participation of Pacific NMHSs in existing partnerships and their contribution to the establishment of potential new private, public and academic intersectoral partnership and collaboration towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on SDG 13.
- Foster informal collaborations between nodes and/or consortium members
- Existing consortium members are encouraged uplift the capacity of NMHS or other institutions that indicate interest in becoming future consortium members.

COMPOSITION

The management committee is composed of Pacific RCC-N Node leads, PMC Panel chairs (or nominees) and a WMO representative with invited consortium members or other experts, as necessary members (Annex 1), led by the Pacific RCC-N chair and supported, as necessary, by the Pacific Met Desk & Partnership (PMDP).

Contact details are given on the Pacific RCC-N home page

<https://www.pacificmet.net/rcc>

The role of the chair and composition of the management committee is reviewed biennially or as required. The chair can be rotated among the Node lead institutions.

MODUS OPERANDI

RCC Networks are Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres (RSMC) included in the Manual on Global Data Processing and Forecasting Systems (GDPFS). RCC Node

leads and the Management Committee are required to work closely with the WMO bodies in charge of changes of RCC's functions, criteria and designation of RCCs as described in the Manual. The RCC Node leads and Management Committee will engage with the PMC and its panels to ensure the needs the NMHSs are adequately addressed.

Pacific RCC-N Management Meetings

- Such meetings should be held each quarter during the demonstration phase;
- Can be organised as physical, virtual or hybrid meetings;
- Be announced at least two weeks ahead;
- Be attended by at least the Pacific RCC-N Chair, 50% of the node leads and 50% of the remaining management committee members (Annex 1).

Pacific RCC-N Lead or Consortium members may raise an issue for discussion by the Management Committee in writing to the Pacific RCC-Network Chair, who will request the Management Committee convene as per the regular schedule or as out of session meeting.

The current Pacific RCC-N website and social media platforms will be used for communication, collaboration and information exchange. All Pacific RCC-N products are to include Pacific RCC-N branding.

Informal exchange within or among nodes members can be organised at any time without a formal procedure. Decisions relevant for the Pacific RCC-N are to be made at a Management Committee Meeting or by email or letter exchange with all Pacific RCC-N Management Committee members.

Results from Management Committee Meetings should be recorded in minutes and distributed to all members. The minutes should include all decisions and a list of all follow-up actions agreed upon in the meeting. All decisions and agreements of the Management Committee should be made unanimously on consensus basis.

INCLUSION OF NEW CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

Any SPREP Member or Observer which is an NMHS or another institution is welcome to join the Pacific RCC-N as a new member at any time provided their request is approved by the Permanent Representative of the host country. The new member will be required to contribute via one or more nodes, climatological, oceanographical or sectorial products or services for the Pacific Region or sub-region (more than one country). These products or services need to be novel and add value to the existing suite of products and services. The decision of inclusion of new consortium members is to be made by the Management Committee unanimously. After approval the manual on the GDPFS (WMO-No. 485) should be amended accordingly.

Application for admission involves sending the chair of the Pacific RCC-N Management Committee an email or letter requesting admission. The letter should include details on the product or service the proposed member wishes to contribute and the node they wish to join. The chair will present the application for admission at the next Management Committee meeting. Following the meeting

the chair will notify the applicant of the Management Committee decision in writing.

All new members including existing members are required to self-support their contributions to the Pacific RCC-N ideally via core funding. Delivering ongoing products and services via short-term projects is discouraged.

LEAVING THE CONSORTIUM

Any Pacific RCC-N member can leave the network voluntarily at any time without further obligations. The end of the membership needs to be documented by email or letter from the corresponding Permanent Representative to the chair of the Pacific RCC-N Management Committee. The manual on the GDPFS (WMO No. 485) needs to be amended accordingly.

AMENDMENTS

The Terms of Reference is approved by the Management Committee and may be amended, when necessary, by the Management Committee upon unanimous agreement.

Annex 1

Current and proposed Pacific RCC-N Management Committee

Technical members (Node lead or co-leads) and WMO
NOAA (current member as of 3/10/2022)
NIWA (current member as of 3/10/2022)
CSIRO (current member as of 3/10/2022)
The Bureau of Meteorology (current member as of 3/10/2022)
SPREP (current member as of 3/10/2022)
SPC (current member as of 3/10/2022)
University of Hawaii (proposed member)
WMO (proposed member)
PMC representatives (Panel chairs or nominee)
PICS (current member as of 3/10/2022)
PIMOS (proposed member)
PIAWS (proposed member)
PICI (proposed member)
PIETR (proposed member)
PHS (proposed member)
Additional member by invitation