



PACIFIC
METEOROLOGICAL
COUNCIL



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ORGANIZATION



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 23.1: Presentation of the Final Draft of the Reviewed Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) 2017-2026 for Endorsement

Purpose:

1. To provide a brief of the Mid-Term Review of the Implementation of the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) 2012-2021.
2. Present the reviewed Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy 2017-2026 for endorsement.

Background:

3. The Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) has the primary responsibility for monitoring progress towards the outcomes set out in the PIMS 2012-2021. Supported by the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP), which serves as the Secretariat for the PMC, the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) and collaborating partners are informed through this paper on the mid-term review and revised PIMS.
4. The PIMS has 14 Pacific Key Outcomes (PKO) that outline the main priorities agreed to by the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs). The implementation of each of the PKOs are further categorized into Pacific National Priority Actions and Pacific Regional Priority Actions.
5. The PIMS 2012-2021 calls for a Mid-Term Review to be completed of the PIMS no later than **1 July 2017** to ensure that it remains current and focused on the appropriate priority areas.
6. At the 3rd Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-3) in 2015, members agreed to the following tasks related to the mid-term review of the PIMS;
 - a) Endorse in principle the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the review of PIMS 2012-2021 as well as the methodology to carry out the review;
 - b) Agree to establish a team consisting of Cook Islands, Palau, Samoa, Tonga, and USA to support the Secretariat in the process of the mid-term review of PIMS 2012-2021; and
 - c) Encourage partners to support the mid-term review process of PIMS 2012-2021.
7. SPREP worked with the appointed team to finalise the TOR and contracted Pacific Science Solutions (PSS) in October through a competitive tender process, with financial support from the COSPPac project, to review and revise the PIMS.
8. The first review workshop was held in October 2016, back-to-back with the COSPPac Planning Meeting at SPREP Campus, in Apia, Samoa to take advantage of the NMHS Directors and experts in attendance. The first draft of the revised PIMS was circulated widely to all the members of the PMC and support team for comment.

9. A second workshop was held back-to-back with the COSPPac Planning Meeting in May 2017 to review the revised PIMS. This meeting was attended by PMC members and stakeholders from different priority sectors. The meeting was able to provide comments on the revised PIMS and recommended PKOs. The draft received a lot of positive comments from participants. The meeting agreed to include hydrology as a PKO in the revised PIMS.

Update:

The Mid Term Review (MTR)

10. The details of the Mid-term Review are attached (Attachment 1) of this report. The review of the PIMS 2012-2026 took into consideration the relevance, effectiveness, management, coordination and impact of the Strategy.

11. A summary of the key mid-term review findings are presented below:
 - i. The PIMS is highly relevant to all PICTs. The PKOs should be updated to reflect NMHSs' progress and take into account emerging opportunities to ensure its continuing usefulness.
 - ii. All Council members and NMHSs Directors are familiar with the PIMS and some use the document in planning and in budget negotiations with their governments. Not as many NMHSs staff were aware of the PIMS.
 - iii. Most senior government officials were aware of the essential contribution of their NMHSs to aviation, marine and public weather services as well as disaster risk reduction and climate services, but few were aware of the need to include their NMHSs in climate change adaptation policy and implementation.
 - iv. Senior government officials in some PICTs were aware that their NMHS uses the PIMS in planning and budgeting.
 - v. Regional organisations were aware of the PIMS and use it in planning their works with NMHSs.
 - vi. As Secretariat to the PMC (the PMDP), SPREP and WMO manage the publications and revisions of PIMS at minimal cost. It invests significant staff time in organizing and fundraising for meetings and communications with the NMHSs. The PMDP provides a clearing house service for information and enquiries from international partners and potential partners and sponsors the PIMS in regional forums.
 - vii. It was not possible to attribute progress against the PKOs directly to use of the PIMS. This was in part because no Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (MEF) was implemented and it was possible that other factors may have been equally or more influential. In the absence of a MEF, national reporting at PMC meetings was analysed to provide a retrospective MEF framework.
 - viii. Communication with communities remains challenging – Pacific meteorologists and climatologists have established relationships with other technical agencies such as agriculture extension officers, water managers, radio and TV reporters, disaster and emergency services, but struggle to present information in ways accessible to more general audiences.
 - ix. Legislation covering the core responsibilities of NMHSs in countries which have an out-dated Meteorology Act or none is a high priority.
 - x. All PICTs regard climate change and environmental protection as a high priority. At successive Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meetings since the 1990s, Leaders have sought practical assistance with adaptation measures as the principal source of in-country climate expertise, NMHSs have a vital role in helping their governments plan for effective

interventions. The updated PIMS 2017 – 2026 strengthens the PKOs for engagement in this work.

- xi. Donor harmonisation would benefit NMHSs in instances such as when a donor provides a climate forecasting tool which is useful, but which cannot use data in the format NMHSs digitise and store it. Incompatible and duplicated technological equipment and software creates potential burdens for PICTs and enacting PIMS could help to address this.
- xii. In addition to training in technical areas, NMHSs would welcome public financial management and Information and Technology (IT) training.

The Draft Reviewed PIMS 2017-2026

12. A summary of the PIMS 2012-2021 review is attached (Attachment 1) and the Reviewed PIMS 2017-2026 is attached (Attachment 2). The PIMS 2017-2026 is updated to align with the current global and regional framework and strategies, including the WMO strategies, as outlined under part 4 of the Reviewed PIMS 2017-2026.

13. PIMS 2017–2026 objectives:

- i. Guide national governments to support NMHSs through national efforts;
- ii. Guide action to meet NMHSs priorities through strengthened coordination;
- iii. Guide NMHSs toward critical activities to build or strengthen capacity and planning and to implement national projects;
- iv. Guide donors and partners to focus on priority capacity building activities and transfer of technology identified by NMHSs and delivered either bilaterally or through regional approaches; and
- v. Guide the PMC and Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP) with respect to sustaining priority actions at the regional level.

14. **Pacific Key Outcomes (PKO) in the five priority areas** to grow Pacific services, defined in consultation with national and regional users are:

PRIORITY 1: IMPROVED WEATHER SERVICES*PKO 1: Improved aviation weather services**PKO 2: Improved marine weather services and establishment of ocean services**PKO 3: Improved public weather services***PRIORITY 2: DISASTER RISK REDUCTION***PKO 4: Strengthened NHMSs capacity to implement Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems**PKO 5: NHMSs contribution to climate change activities***PRIORITY 3: IMPROVED CLIMATE AND HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES***PKO 7: Strengthen collaboration between meteorological and hydrological services to better manage water resources and reduce the impact of water related hazards (NEW)***PRIORITY 4: INTEGRATED OBSERVING AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS***PKO 8: Integrated observing and communication systems***PRIORITY 5: COORDINATED SUPPORT FOR NMHSs and PMC***PKO 9: NMHSs institutional strengthening and capacity development**PKO 10: Support to NHMSs is coordinated**PKO 11: PMC is efficient and effective via partnerships***Recommendations:**

15. The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the importance of the PIMS 2012-2021 in guiding regional action and support for NMHSs;
- **Note** the review process of the PIMS 2012-2021 and acknowledge SPREP and WMO for providing the Secretariat via the PMDP to support the review process and Government of Australia through the COSPPac project for financially supporting the review;
- **Acknowledge** the support from the PMC working group for providing their support and guidance in the review process;
- **Note** the Mid Term Review Report of the PIMS 2012-2021;
- **Note** that the draft Reviewed PIMS 2017-2026 is aligned with the global and regional frameworks indicated under Part 4 of the Strategy;
- **Note** that an implementation Plan for the PIMS 2017-2026 was is still in draft. The Secretariat will continue to work with the PMC Panels to complete it;
- **Endorse** the Reviewed PIMS 2017-2026;
- **Recommend** partners and donors to allocate resources to support the implementation of the PIMS 2017-2026 and align regional and national projects on climate, meteorology, ocean and water services to the PIMS priorities; and
- **Recommend** for the Secretariat, NMHSs and partners to promote the PIMS 2017-2026 to regional and global fora.

Attachments

- Attachment1: Mid-Term Review of the PIMS 2012-2021
- Attachment2: Reviewed PIMS 2017-2026

- Attachement3: Summary of the Reviewed PIMS 2017-2026
- Attachement4: PIMS 2012-2021

17 July 2017.