



“Science to Services for a Resilient Pacific”

Fifth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-5) Working Papers

7-9 August 2019
Apia
Samoa

Agenda Item 20.3: Status of UNEP GCF Programme Proposal on “Enhancing Climate Information and Knowledge Services for resilience in 5 island countries of the Pacific Ocean”

Purpose:

1. The purpose of this paper is to:
 - **Inform** the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) Meeting of the status of the UNEP GCF programme proposal to be implemented in the Cook Islands, Niue, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and Tuvalu.
 - **Seek the PMC’s endorsement** of the proposal as a contribution to the implementation of the Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy 2017-2026 and the Pacific Roadmap for Strengthened Climate Services 2017-2026.

Background:

2. The proposed GCF programme was developed by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) based on requests and priorities from the countries and in close cooperation with key partners including SPREP, SPC, BoM, NOAA, NIWA and WMO. The programme directly addresses the needs and priorities identified in the Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy 2017-2026 and the Pacific Roadmap for Strengthened Climate Services 2017-2026. It will address the common vulnerabilities of island populations, their livelihoods and assets to climate change impacts and multiple climate-related hazards in Cook Islands, Niue, Palau, RMI and Tuvalu. Besides facing common challenges and vulnerabilities, these 5 countries have indicated interest in adopting demand-driven solutions that establish sustainable climate information and multi-hazard early warning systems in the same timeframe as follows:
 - 2.1. Addressing gaps in national institutional settings, policies and coordination mechanisms for effective climate information services and multi-hazard early warning. This will enhance the collection, analysis and use of climate data and information in these countries and build the capacity of decision-makers and national institutions to use climate information. Moreover, the programme will strengthen national capacities for end-to-end, multi-hazard people-centered early warning systems and ensure that each country has legislation that clearly and accurately states the role of its National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS).
 - 2.2. Strengthening and modernizing the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in Cook Islands, Niue, Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu



with a special emphasis on ocean services. This will significantly strengthen the ability of the 5 countries to base climate change adaptation planning and decision-making on the best possible climate data and information. The strengthened observations, monitoring, modelling and impact-based forecasting of NMHSs will underpin the national multi-hazard early warning services by providing timely and reliable data and information on climate-related hazards and their expected impact on people, livelihoods and assets. The programme will also include outputs and activities that strengthen and institutionalize the linkages between NMHSs and other key actors and end-users to ensure uptake, analysis and use of climate information and support each NMHS in discussions with national partners to confirm and formalize, or establish, its role in:

- Ocean services/management;
- Climate change awareness and education;
- Informing climate change planning for adaptation;
- Climate advocacy in international forums;
- Provision of local climate and weather information services;
- Provision of or contribution to multi-hazard early warning systems.

2.3. Enhancing social resilience to climate change and building national preparedness and response capability to multiple climate-related hazards. The programme will not only secure the delivery of climate information and early warnings to end-users but work with them to co-design and co-produce information products and warnings that are actionable and effective. Furthermore, the programme will support community-based early warning schemes, e.g. on remote outer islands.

2.4. Establishing a regional multi-country hub with related ICT infrastructure and the organization of learning events to ensure optimal knowledge management including best practices and lessons learned. In view of the importance of ocean data for the 5 countries, there will be targeted activities to strengthen marine weather and ocean services.

3. Through these activities, the programme will support the five NMHSs to generate and disseminate critical climate risk information enabling the Governments of Cook Islands, Niue, Palau, RMI and Tuvalu to design and implement transformative policies and plans, reducing the exposure and vulnerability of their populations, economic sectors (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, tourism, health) and critical infrastructure (ports, roads, bridges, electricity transmission lines, water and sanitation facilities) to climate-related hazards and the impacts of climate change. The programme will thus effect a paradigm shift to evidence-informed climate adaptation, risk reduction and multi-hazard early warning by integrating the use of climate information across all government entities and stakeholders. The programme has been designed to facilitate sustainability of climate information services for the long term. Through the integration of climate services in key policies, strategies, plans and budgets, this programme will provide a foundation for the uptake of climate information in decision-making and facilitate sustainable service provision beyond the programme duration. The identification of funding modalities for climate information products and a multi-stakeholder and multi-sector programme approach will contribute to this sustainable modus operandi. Furthermore, the programme will facilitate the integration of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWSs) into government policies, decision-making processes and emergency management systems at national and community levels.

4. The above will be achieved through the programme's four components:

- Component 1: Strengthened climate information services covering oceans and islands supported by institutions, coordination mechanisms, policies and financial frameworks;



- Component 2: Observations, monitoring, modelling and prediction of climate and its impacts on ocean areas and islands;
- Component 3: Improved response capability and community resilience to climate risks;
- Component 4: Regional knowledge management and cooperation.

Update:

5. This programme was developed through a participatory process engaging GCF Nationally Designated Authorities (NDAs), PMC members, environment authorities, climate change focal points, regional partners and other relevant stakeholders as follows:
 - 5.1. Initial engagement was with all 14 Pacific Island Countries between November 2017 and May 2018, resulting in the five countries covered by this programme expressing their interest.
 - 5.2. Subsequently, detailed consultations took place in several forums with NDAs and stakeholders in Cook Islands, Niue, Palau, RMI and Tuvalu as well as with several key partners.
 - 5.3. In June-July 2018, consultations were held with the Chair, Vice-Chair and other members of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC), which culminated in a support letter for the programme concept issued by the Chairman of the PMC on 24 July 2018.
 - 5.4. Based on analysis of country priorities, a draft Concept Note (Annex 1) was submitted to the GCF in September 2018 and re-submitted in December 2018 to address GCF review comments.
 - 5.5. In January 2019, two Climate Information Specialists from Pacific Science Solutions (Janita Pahalad & Amanda Amjadali) were engaged as consultants by UNEP. They undertook country missions and stakeholder consultations in the 5 countries from March to May 2019.
 - 5.6. In May 2019, a validation workshop was organized by UNEP with the support of BoM in Rarotonga, Cook Islands with participation by NMHS Directors from the 5 countries, the NDA of Cook Islands and key partners (SPREP, SPC, BoM, NOAA, NIWA and WMO).
 - 5.7. Between May and August 2019, the proposed costed interventions in the 5 countries were finalized in consultation with NMHS Directors and NDAs, resulting in a full Funding Proposal for the GCF.

Recommendations:

6. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **Note** the status of the proposed programme on “Enhancing Climate Information and Knowledge Services for resilience in 5 island countries of the Pacific Ocean”, its objectives and components.
 - **Endorse** the proposed programme as it contributes to the Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy 2017-2026 and the Pacific Roadmap for Strengthened Climate Services 2017-2026.
 - **Convey** to the Board of the Green Climate Fund through the Chair of PMC endorsement of the proposed programme and ask that they positively consider the UNEP Funding Proposal on “Enhancing Climate Information and Knowledge Services for resilience in 5 island countries of the Pacific Ocean”.

Attachment

- **Annex 1**: Concept Note submitted to the Green Climate Fund

