



SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL (PMC-7)

AGENDA ITEM: 10.1

Title: PICS Progress and Updates

Simon McGree, Bureau of Meteorology, (Chair PICS Panel)



Purpose of the Paper

- To report on activities and achievements of the Pacific Islands Climate Services (PICS panel) since PMC-6.





Background

- The PICS panel aims to:
 - improve coordination, continuity and integration of climate services projects, programs and initiatives;
 - support the WMO RA V Pacific Regional Climate Centre Network (RCC-N) strengthen the basic and core functions and capabilities of NMHSs;
 - encourage and support information exchange between climate services providers and users to enhance the uptake and use of relevant and tailored climate services down to the communities and individuals
- The current chair of the PICS panel is Simon McGree (Bureau of Meteorology) and vice chair Arieta Baleisolomone (Fiji Meteorological Service).



Progress/Update

- PICS Panel operational and meets at a minimum, four times a year. ToR not amended since PMC-6, other than to update the membership list. UKMO and USP have rejoined panel since PMC-6;
- PICS panel supports the RCC-N operations as an intermediary between the RCC-N and NMHSs and RCC-N and regional stakeholders. Recent intermediary activities include the on-going review of the PICOF. Initial feedback includes the need for/to
 - more discussion with NMHS stakeholders on how NMHS products and services can be applied/used in their space;
 - better coordinate activities between the NMS day and stakeholder days. These discussions need to be relevant to climate-sensitive sectors in terms of potential impacts from near and long-term future climate;
 - identify response strategies to potential (weather and climate extreme) impacts;
 - review the PICOF statement in terms of release timing and usage;
 - review timing of PICOF in May and October as well as the number of PICOFs held in a year.



Progress/Update

- NIWA provided a presentation on Machine Learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) At a PICS panel meeting on 10 July 2024. NIWA note that there has been a significant increase in the use of ML and AI in meteorology. Examples of ML/AI use include ML for post processing (bias correction, downscaling, impact-based forecasting)
- A PICS panel task team has been set up to produce a paper on the advantages and disadvantages of ML and AI. The paper will be shared via the Pacific Regional Climate Centre website.



Recommendations

The Meeting is invited to:

- **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 PICS panel meetings;



Recommendations

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Request** the PMC seek funding to support on-going Pacific Met. Desk PICS panel secretariat functions, activities and face-to-face meetings;
- **Request** improved project coordination/communication in the region in an effort to reduce activity duplication, increase sustainability and better meet the needs of the region. This would require donors share climate project activity details with the PICS panel for feedback during the design phase, before the finalisation of projects;



Recommendations

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Acknowledge** the ongoing work of the PICS panel, in collaboration with other regional and international partners towards strengthening and sustaining climate services in the Pacific region;
- **Note** PICS panel and Pacific Regional Climate Centre Network operations are consistent with Pacific Roadmap for Strengthened Climate Services guidelines. The Roadmap is aligned with the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy.
- **Note** the ability to deliver enhanced climate services with the assistance of Machine Learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI). NMHSs advised to carefully review the credentials of individuals/agencies offering support in this space. A task team made up of BOM, APCC, NOAA, CSIRO, UKMO, led by NIWA will produce a paper on the advantages and disadvantages of ML and AI. Paper will be shared via the Pacific Regional Climate Centre website.