



Concept Note and Agenda
Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF 15)
Hybrid Format
14-15 October 2024

In-Person: TBC, Nuku'alofa, Tonga
Online: Zoom

The Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF) is based on the [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\) Regional Climate Outlook Forum](#) concept.

The PICOF is co-organised by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), with technical support provided by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), APEC Climate Centre (APCC), Meteo-France, US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of Hawaii as members of the Pacific Regional Climate (RCC) Network Node for Long-Range Forecasting in partnership with the Pacific Islands Climate Services (PICS) Panel. The latter ensures the needs of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), and their stakeholders are met. PICOF sessions are co-sponsored by the WMO through CREWS Pacific SIDS Project, funded by the CREWS Initiative and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), UNDRR and CLIMSA. BOM, NIWA, SPREP and SPC support is largely provided via the Australian and New Zealand Aid funded Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific.

Additional information on PICOF and the WMO Pacific RCC Network is available via the [Pacific Met Desk Website](#)

Overall objective: To discuss and produce objective, user-relevant regional climate and ocean outlook guidance in real time to support Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) NMHSs produce national climate and oceans climate information for their national stakeholders, with the ultimate aim to reduce climate-related risks and support sustainable development for the coming season in sectors of critical socioeconomic significance.

PICOF will for the first time in October 2024 take a GEDSI approach to further strengthen the relationship between vulnerable groups and NMHSs in the discussions. This will enable them to use the information for decision making at the regional level.

A. Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF) - 15

- 1) Review the climate and oceanic conditions in the western Pacific region for the period 1 May to 13 October 2024;
- 2) Present and discuss long-term trends and projections for selected climate and ocean variables;
- 3) Present monthly and seasonal climate, ocean and tropical cyclone outlooks for the South Pacific region for 1 November 2024 to 30 April 2025;
- 4) Discuss and review confidence/skill associated with the May to October 2024 outlooks based on the discussions associated with 1-3; and where possible:
- 5) Discuss how persons living with disabilities and NMHSs are currently accessing and assessing the available guidance, making them nationally relevant, tailoring them for specific end users, and disseminating them to users and discuss how the outlooks for the coming season are likely to impact climate-sensitive sectors, sector climate information needs, how NMHS products can be improved and how NMHS can improve their media and social media products for the community.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICO) – 15

- a) Improved understanding of climate and ocean monitoring and outlook information and better understanding of the outlook and outlook confidence/skill for the region for the period in question;
- b) Produce a regional statement containing climate, ocean and tropical cyclone outlooks for November 2024 to April 2025 which NMHSs can use as guide to develop their national statements;
- c) PICO-15 Report
- d) Assist regional stakeholders and NMHSs where possible to improve climate and ocean bulletins as well as media and social media content better meeting primary stakeholder and community needs

Agenda

14 October – PICO, Day 1

Time (Tonga time)	Agenda Item	Responsible
10.30am-11.00am (7.30am Palau time, 1pm Honolulu time and 11pm UTC)	Registration including morning tea Group photograph	SPREP
11.00am -11.30am	Opening and Setting the Scene Opening prayer Opening remarks Meeting objectives	MC – Terry Atalifo Mr. Naneasi Havea, TMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SPREP Rep (Salesa Nihmei, Climate & Meteorology Adviser) ▪ WMO Rep (Mr. David Hiba, Acting RA V President) ▪ Tonga Government (Ms. Seluvaia Ilolahia, Acting Director - TMS) PICS Panel/RCC Management Committee Chair
11.30am-11.50am	Session 1: ENSO Status and Outlook Including highlights from Global Seasonal Climate Update (GSCU)	NIWA, BOM, Meteo- France, NOAA, University of Hawaii, APCC, SPREP, SPC
11.50am-1.00pm	Session 2: Looking Back - Review and Evaluation of May to October Climate Outlook	(First 3 subsections, 15 minutes each, 4 th subsection 25 minutes)



Time (Tonga time)	Agenda Item	Responsible
	<p>i. Atmosphere Overview of April to October state of the climate, plus evaluation of the last PICOF outlook</p> <p>ii. Ocean Overview of April to October state of the ocean, plus evaluation of the last PICOF outlook</p> <p>iii. Tropical cyclones Overview of the TCs over May to October</p> <p>iv. Impacts Overview of significant weather and ocean events over the last six months</p>	<p>NOAA, University of Hawaii, BOM, SPC, SPREP, NIWA</p> <p>NOAA, University of Hawaii, BOM, SPC, SPREP, NIWA</p> <p>NOAA, University of Hawaii, BOM, SPC, SPREP, NIWA</p> <p>Palau, Solomon Islands and Cook Islands (8 minutes each)</p>
1.00pm-2.00pm	Lunch	
2.00pm-2.30pm	<p>Session 3: Looking Back Long-Term: Status of key variables</p> <p>A brief examination of long-term trends for variables of interest to Pacific communities: In October 2024, these will be air temperature and rainfall</p>	<p>NOAA, University of Hawaii, BOM, SPC, SPREP, NIWA</p>
2.30pm-3.45pm	<p>Session 4: Looking Forward – Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for November 2024 to April 2025</p> <p>i. Atmosphere PICOF outlook and RCC Node for LRF individual model/MME guidance and skill comparison</p> <p>ii. Ocean PICOF outlook and RCC Node for LRF individual model/MME guidance and skill comparison</p> <p>iii. Tropical cyclones PICOF outlook and RCC Node for LRF individual model/MME guidance and skill comparison</p>	<p>(25 minutes each)</p> <p>NIWA, BOM, Meteo-France, NOAA, University of Hawaii, APCC, SPREP, SPC</p> <p>NIWA, BOM, Meteo-France, NOAA, University of Hawaii, APCC, SPREP, SPC</p> <p>NIWA, BOM, Meteo-France, NOAA, University of Hawaii, APCC, SPREP, SPC</p>
3.45pm-4.15pm	Afternoon Tea	
4.15pm-4.45pm	<p>Session 5: Looking Forward Long-Term</p> <p>A brief review of climate change projections for variables of interest to Pacific communities: In October 2024, these will be air temperature and rainfall</p>	<p>CSIRO, UGCRP, BoM and SPREP</p>

Time (Tonga time)	Agenda Item	Responsible
4.45pm-5.00pm	Session 6: Summary of proceedings & next steps	PICS panel chair

15 October – PICOF, Day 2

Time (Tonga time)	Agenda Item	Responsible
10.30am-11.00am	Morning Tea	
11.00am-1.00pm	<p>Session 7: Production of National Statements</p> <p>Using a pre-prepared template RCC-N members will assist the member countries produce national statements based on information from Day 1 and from other sources of high-quality climate monitoring and prediction information.</p>	All RCC-N members
1.00pm-2.00pm	Lunch	
2.00pm-2.30pm	<p>Session 8: Review of PICOF-15 and past PICOFs</p> <p>Open discussion</p> <p>This is an opportunity for the NMHSs, RCC-N members and WMO representatives to review and propose changes to PICOF if required</p>	Terry Atalifo, John Marra and Simon McGree
2.30pm-3.00pm	Session 9: Introduction to GEDSI and Inclusive early warning early action: checklist and implementation guide	Patricia Mallam
3.00pm-3.30pm	Afternoon tea	
3.30pm-5.00pm	<p>Session 10: Working with Vulnerable Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-exploring needs • Enabling climate services for with persons with disabilities • Considerations for co-producing climate information products 	Katabwena Tawaka Pacific Disability Forum
5.00pm-5.10pm	Summary of proceedings, next steps and PICOF closing	