



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

"AT THE FRONTLINE OF WEATHER, CLIMATE, WATER, AND OCEAN ACTION IN THE PACIFIC"

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"At the Frontline of Weather, Climate, Water, and Ocean Action in the Pacific"

17-19 September 2024, Warwick Le Lagon-Vanuatu Resort, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Agenda Item 19.1: Traditional Knowledge progress and development in weather, climate, oceans, and multi-hazards.

Purpose:

1. Provide an update and progress on the implementation of activities on Traditional Knowledge
2. Seek guidance and endorsement of the recommendations on the Traditional Knowledge work implemented by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and their national and regional partners

Background:

1. Traditional knowledge has been an integral part of many Pacific communities for generations and developed traditional communications and knowledge systems, adaptive solutions, coping strategies and methodologies to cope and respond to a changing environment and climate variability.
2. For the work of the NMHSs, traditional knowledge underpins and bridges the science information gap between science and community understanding.
3. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) it recognises the need to strengthen knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change
4. The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its recent report recognises the value of traditional knowledge as a vital tool in the fight to mitigate growing climate crisis.
5. SPREP's strategic Plan 2017-2026 recognises Traditional knowledge as one of its key pillars to support its members, and has been involved with work on traditional ecological and traditional knowledge of weather, climate, oceans and disaster resilience space through projects such as the Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac), the Climate Resilience and Early Warning Project (WMO CREWS) and the UNEP Climate Information Systems in Five Pacific Countries (UNEP



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- CISpac5), Vanuatu Climate Information Services for Resilience Development (VanKIRAP), RESPac.
6. Through Inter-CROP coordination and implementation, together with the SPC and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) to progress the discussions on traditional ecological knowledge and genetic resources with a focus on intellectual property rights complexity and levels of sensitivities connected to traditional knowledge and access and benefit sharing issues at the regional and global level.
 7. Significant development of Protocols and Tools such as the TK database, mobile apps specifically designed to support the collection and documentation of TK has facilitated and allowed TK to be integrated into early warning systems, disaster management responses and other meaningful integration across other sectors.
 8. While there has been progress, there is no strategic framework to guide and coordinate the work of traditional knowledge in the weather, climate and ocean space to ensure protocols are in place to safeguard knowledge, ensure all traditional knowledge collected and documented feeds back into informing policies, processes, management practices and legislation.

The Meeting is invited to:

1. **Note** the developments in the area of traditional knowledge and the technical and financial support from **COSPPac, CREWS UNEP CIS5, VanKirap, RESPAC** and other donors and partners.
 2. **Acknowledge** the commitment and support from NMHS and national stakeholder to elevate and integrate TK into national policies, and early warning activities.
 3. **Acknowledge** the TK work that is implemented and coordinated across CROP agencies at the regional level.
 4. **Recommend** the Revised Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy to include clear Priorities of members around Traditional Knowledge.
 5. **Approve** and **task** SPREP to facilitate and coordinate the development of a strategy and implementation plan on traditional knowledge of weather, climate, oceans and natural hazards.
 6. **Request** the Weather Ready Pacific Program and other regional funding initiatives to support the development of the strategy and implementation plan in the short to medium term
 7. **Approve** the development of a regional traditional knowledge proposal to implement the traditional knowledge program in the long term.
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