



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 11.2: Enabling Children and Youth climate change and disaster preparedness through multi-hazard early warning and disaster risk reduction education

Purpose:

1. To provide update to the Council on the WMO recent activities in developing the capacities of children to climate change and disaster risk reduction through the COPE initiative.
2. To encourage the Council Members to support inclusion of content related to disaster risk reduction and response to early warning into school curricula.
3. To recommend to the Council to endorse the risk education program for children to strengthen community resilience.

Background:

1. The WMO State of the Climate in the South-West Pacific 2022 report¹ says that sea-level rise rates were, in general, slightly higher than the global mean rate, reaching approximately 4mm per year in several areas. The South-West Pacific region is prone to disasters, especially storms and floods.
2. Small islands present the most urgent need for investment in capacity building and adaptation strategies. Several enablers can be used to improve adaptation outcomes and to build resilience which include education and awareness programmes, increased access to climate information and embedding Indigenous

¹ [State of the Climate in South-West Pacific 2022 \(WMO-No. 1324\)](#)





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Knowledge and Local Knowledge as well as integrating cultural resources into decision-making².

3. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 highlights the need to better understand and prepare for disaster risk. It aims to reduce disaster risk and loss by prioritizing activities that promote a better understanding of disaster risk, with a focus on reducing existing risks, preventing emergence of new ones, and preparing for residual risks.
4. Although children are considered as vulnerable population in disaster, according to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted at the UN World Conference in 2015, children have a vital role in strengthening community resilience. In that case, it is essential that children are empowered with the skills, confidence, risk knowledge and the understanding of turning early warning into early action to act as role models in their homes, schools, and communities.

Updates:

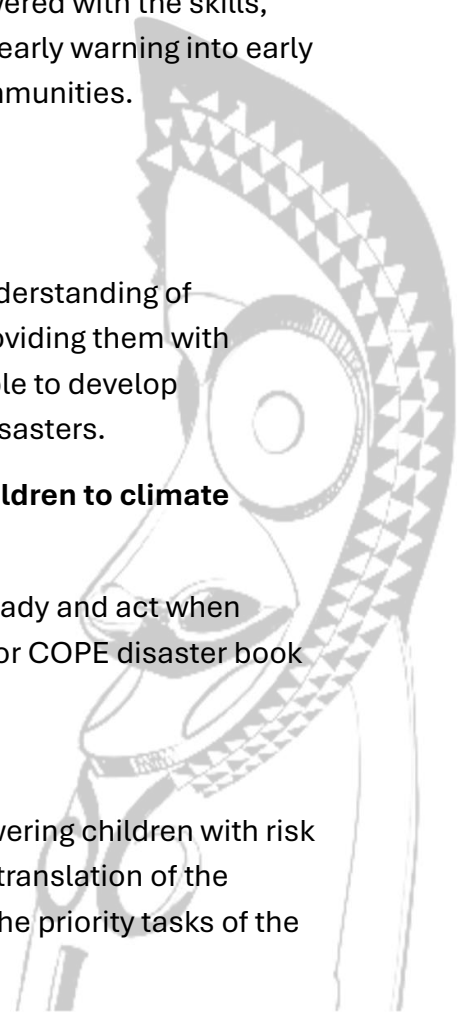
1. **WMO's objective:** WMO endeavors to enhance children's understanding of knowledge on climate crisis and disaster risk reduction by providing them with access to information, tools, and activities so that they are able to develop necessary skills to mitigate risks and respond effectively to disasters.
2. **WMO's outreach activities to develop the capacities of children to climate change and disaster risk reduction – COPE initiative**

COPE disaster book series empowers children and youth to be ready and act when disasters occur. WMO has been served as the scientific advisor for COPE disaster book series since 2020.

2.1 Highlights within the Pacific

- The COPE initiative was recognized as a vessel for empowering children with risk knowledge by the 6th Pacific Meteorological Council. The translation of the COPE series to local PICTs' languages is listed as one of the priority tasks of the Weather Ready Pacific workplan.

² [IPCC, 2022: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#)





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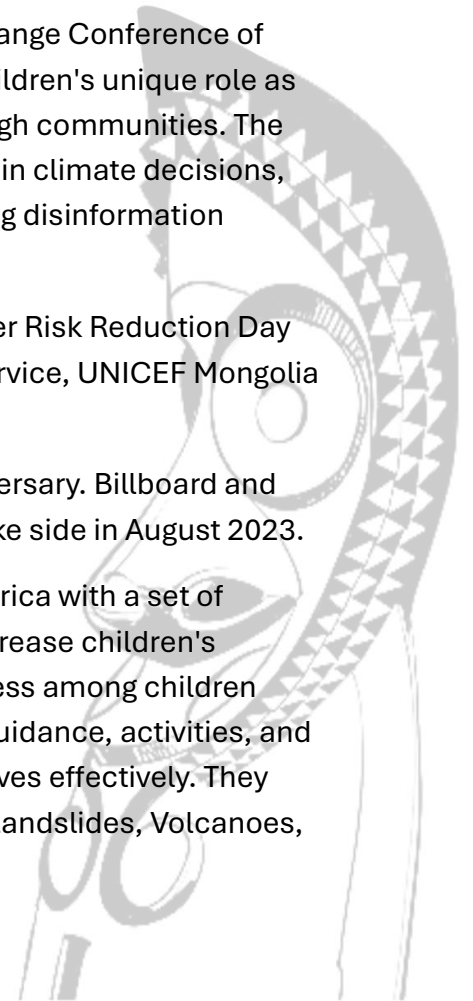
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- New Zealand Met Service took lead on the publication of the Avalanches series in collaboration with UNICEF New Zealand, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific, New Zealand Mountain Safety Council, indigenous group, and schools.
- Tongan Meteorological Service, Tongan National Disaster Management Office, together with WMO, launched the Tongan version of the Cyclone series at the 6th Pacific Meteorological Council.
- The United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres launched the first distribution of the Tongan version of the Cyclone COPE series at the 53rd Session of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

2.2 Global Highlights

- COPE initiative was promoted in the 18th UN Climate Change Conference of Youth (COY18) and COP28 with the theme to discover children's unique role as powerful channels for driving DRR vital information through communities. The discussion covered topics such as understanding values in climate decisions, leveraging social media for early warnings, and addressing disinformation challenges.
- Blizzards book was launched during International Disaster Risk Reduction Day on 13 October 2023 in cooperation with Mongolia Met Service, UNICEF Mongolia and UNICEF East Asia and Pacific.
- COPE initiative contributed to the WMO's 150-year Anniversary. Billboard and outreach activities were carried out along the Geneva Lake side in August 2023.
- The 'train the trainer' program was launched in Latin America with a set of manuals to complement the illustrated storybooks to increase children's resilience to disasters. The manuals aim to raise awareness among children about Disaster Risk Reduction, providing teachers with guidance, activities, and resources to deliver lessons and achieve learning objectives effectively. They cover six critical topics: Earthquakes, Wildfires, Floods, Landslides, Volcanoes, Heatwaves, and other interactive classroom activities.

Gaps and challenges:





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There are still gaps in the capacity building to empower children with disaster risk knowledge so as to build their own and their communities' resilience, especially in the SIDS:

- Limited access to information on disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation through school curricula to all children;
- Limited number of schools constructed or retrofitted to be disaster resilient;
- Limited training or learning platforms are accessible;

Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Acknowledge** the increasing need of improving children awareness and involvement in weather, climate, water, disaster risk reduction and related environmental action;
- **Note** the outreach activities of the COPE initiative;
- **Reaffirm** the COPE initiative as a vessel to integrate multi-hazard early warning and disaster risk reduction into education systems;
- **Recognise with appreciation** the initial support by Weather Ready Pacific for the translation of the COPE Series to the official languages of a number of Pacific Countries;
- **Support** the translation of the COPE Series to all Pacific languages and the development of risk education programs for schools in the Pacific through Pacific funding modalities such as Weather Ready Pacific.

Links

WMO and COPE Disaster Champions website: <https://wmo.int/activities/early-warnings-all/wmo-and-early-warnings-all-initiative/wmo-and-cope-disaster-champions>

