



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

### **Agenda Item 11.3: Embracing Business Continuity for effective multi-hazard early warning systems**

#### **Purpose:**

1. To provide update to the Council on the WMO activities in developing the Business Continuity Guidelines for Members.
2. To encourage the Council Members to embrace Business Continuity Management in their operational practices.
3. To seek the Council approval and support in developing region-specific guidance and tools for Members.

#### **Background:**

An unprecedented surge in the need of a guidance for Members on how to maintain their operation and maintenance of systems overwhelmed during the COVID-19 pandemic and further highlighted during the eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano.

National Meteorology and Hydrology Services (NMHSs) are essential in safeguarding public safety and supporting various sectors of the economy. Business Continuity Management (BCM) is a critical aspect of their responsibilities, involving planning for potential disruptions to their operations. There are several reasons why NMHSs should prioritize BCM:

1. **Ensuring Public Safety:** By providing timely information and warnings about severe weather events, NMHSs help individuals and businesses take necessary precautions. Implementing BCM ensures that NMHSs can continue delivering accurate information ahead of, during and after such events.
2. **Mitigating Economic Impact:** Severe weather events can have a significant impact on sectors like agriculture, transportation, and tourism. NMHSs play a key role in providing weather information to these sectors, enabling informed decision-making.



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BCM helps NMHSs maintain service continuity, reducing the economic impact of weather-related disruptions.

3. **Maintaining Data Integrity:** NMHSs collect and analyze extensive meteorological and hydrological data crucial for weather forecasting and climate studies. Operational disruptions can lead to gaps in data collection, affecting the reliability of forecasts. BCM helps NMHSs identify and address risks to ensure uninterrupted data analysis.

4. **Supporting International Collaboration:** NMHSs collaborate with global organizations on meteorological and hydrological initiatives, requiring operational reliability. By implementing BCM, NMHSs demonstrate their commitment to international cooperation and enhance their ability to contribute effectively to global weather and climate efforts.

Through effective implementation of BCM, NMHSs can uphold operational continuity, fulfill their responsibilities, and bolster national resilience.

### **Updates:**

1. A Business Continuity Management Guidelines for WMO Members have been developed pursuant to WMO Seventy-fifth session of the Executive Council's (EC-75) decisions regarding Proposed Approaches to Business Continuity and Contingency Planning. The Guidelines were endorsed by the third session of the Commission for Weather, Climate, Hydrological, Marine and Related Environmental Services and Applications (SERCOM-3) and the seventy eighth session of the Executive Council (EC-78).
2. The Guidelines introduce the practice of BCM, key concepts, steps that need to be followed for its implementation, including templates and examples tailored to the needs of NMHSs. They describe the organizational structure, scope, and basic requirements needed for implementing and maintaining Business Continuity Management capability within NMHS.
3. The Guidelines also describe the various management systems that are closely linked with BCM, such as Enterprise Risk Management, Organizational Resilience Management, Quality Management Systems and Crisis Management and establish the key commonalities, complementarities, and differences between them so that organizations can ensure good internal coordination and integration of efforts to avoid overlaps and duplication. The Guidelines provide a step-by-step approach with simple guidance on how the BCM process should be implemented with examples that are relevant to the work of NMHSs.



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4. Following the resolution of EC-78, a Task Team on BCM will be established under SERCOM/SC-DRR to develop training materials that support Members' implementation of BCM.

### Challenges:

Several identified challenges in the Pacific can be summarized as follows:

- The need to ensure greater awareness and understanding of business continuity;
- The urgency to develop a collective BCM system within the region so as to stay more resilient in the face of disruptions;
- Limited guidance and tools on BCM are accessible.

### Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Recognise** the importance of embracing business continuity;
  - **Acknowledge** the existing Business Continuity Management Guidelines for WMO Members;
  - **Endorse** the recommendation of developing region-specific business continuity guidance and tools for Members through Pacific funding modalities such as Weather Ready Pacific.
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### Links

Business Continuity Management Guidelines for WMO Members: [EC-78-d04-1-1\(7\)-BUSINESS-CONTINUITY-MANAGEMENT-GUIDELINES-approved\\_en.docx \(wmo.int\)](#)

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