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

"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 22.1: One Pacific Programme (GCF)

Purpose:

1. Summarise the key design elements of the One Pacific Programme following the consultations with Pacific Met Directors and GCF NDAs in May 2024.
2. To provide an update with timelines on a revised concept note and the GCF process.

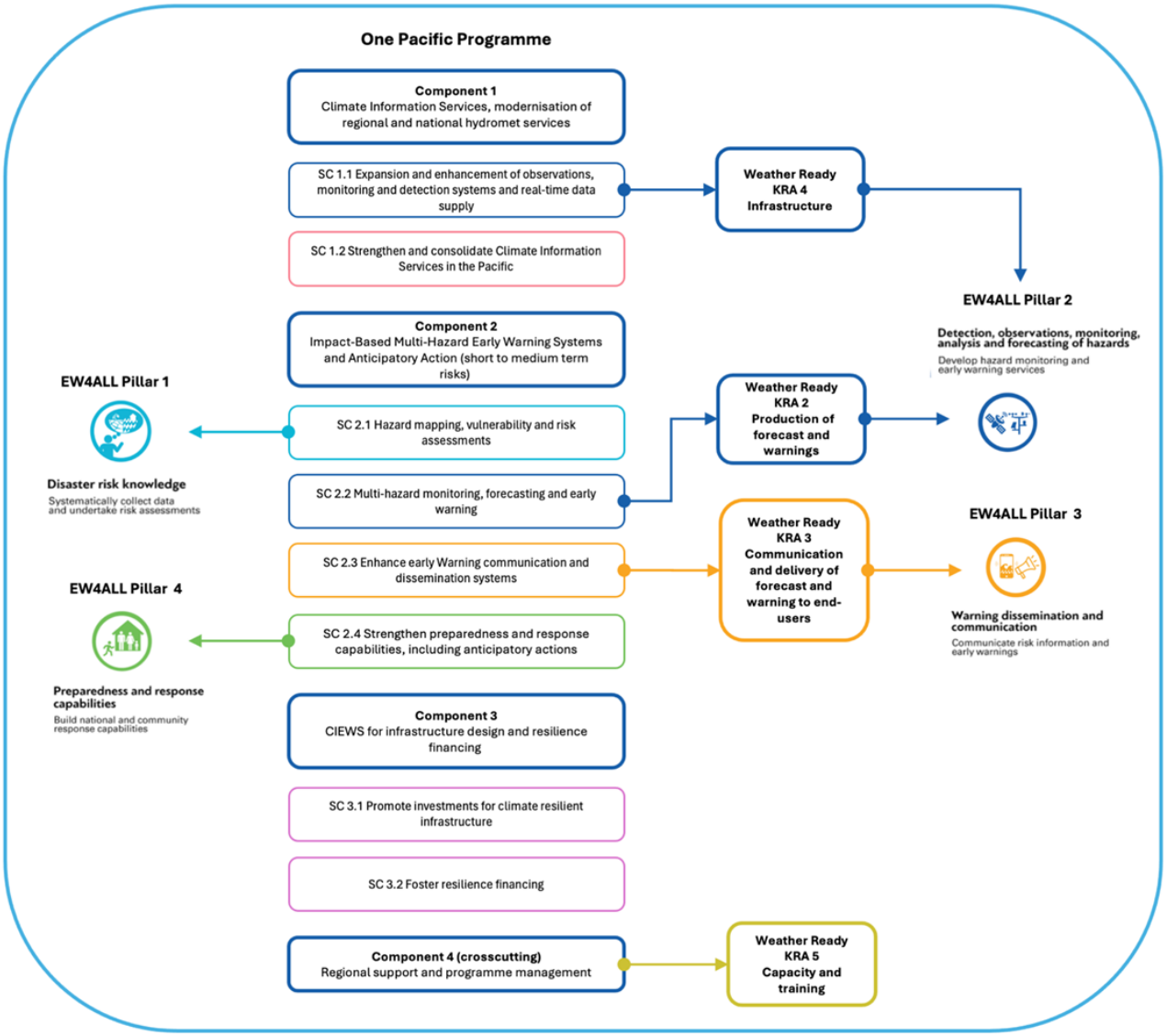
Background:

1. Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are vulnerable to a wide range of weather, climate, hydrological, ocean and other related environmental extreme events, including tropical cyclones and typhoons, strong winds, high waves and seas, drought, coastal inundation (including storm surges, waves, swell and tsunami) and flash floods (PMC,2021). Since 1970, economic losses due to weather, climate- and water-related hazards for SIDS are estimated at USD 153 billion (WMO, 2020). With natural hazard occurring nearly five times as frequently as in the 1970s (WMO, 2015), the increasing frequency of extreme weather events is likely to lead to substantial loss and damage in the decades to come . Compounded with rapid onset extreme events, slower changes to the climate will have complex longer-term impacts on health, food and water security, livelihoods and communities, infrastructure and built environment, and ecosystems.
2. Climate change and disaster risks undermine the ability of the Pacific region to reach Sustainable Development Goals. The urgent need to adapt to climate change and improve the ability to manage increased weather and water related risks, however, needs to be backed by scientific evidence, reliable data and effective Early Warning Systems, which are often limited in the PICs.
3. In this context, reliable climate information services (CIS) and impact-based multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) are more crucial than ever.

4. The Paris Agreement stipulates early warning systems as one of the major focus areas to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, reduce vulnerability, and minimise losses and damages associated with the adverse effects of climate change. The UNFCCC Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage highlights CIEWS as a key measure for averting losses and damages associated with adverse effects of climate change (UNFCCC, 2022).
5. The Framework for Resilience Development in the Pacific (FRDP) calls for improving Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) to prepare for emergencies and disasters ensuring timely and effective response and recovery to rapid disasters such as extreme weather, water and ocean events. During the past decade, there has been significant investment in weather, climate, hydrological and ocean related capacity and infrastructure in the Pacific region, which has resulted in improvement in the capacity and capabilities of NMHSs as outlined in the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy (2017-2026). However, critical gaps remain.
6. To address these gaps, at its fifth biennial meeting in Apia, Samoa in August 2019, the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) recommended the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) commission a study to scope the feasibility for a Program of Investment to enable the PICs to better anticipate, prepare for and respond to those risks. As a result, the Weather Ready Pacific (WRP) programme was developed and approved in 2021 with a decadal programme of investment of over USD 190 million.
7. During the 2021 GCF Pacific Dialogue, SPREP was also invited to develop a concept note for a regional programme to strengthen CIS and MHEWS in the Pacific. Based on the consultations carried out for the WRP and engagement with NDAs, a first draft of the concept note for the "Climate Information and Early Warning Systems, One Pacific Programme" was then submitted to the GCF in 2021. The concept note has been revised to take into account the new developments under the WRP, the feedback received from the GCF to ensure alignment with the GCF Sectoral Guide on Climate Information and Early Warning Systems (CIEWS) published in 2022.
8. The programme will consist of four synergic components:
   Component 1: Climate Information Services, modernisation of regional and national hydromet services
   Component 2: Impact-Based Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and Anticipatory Action (short to medium term risks)

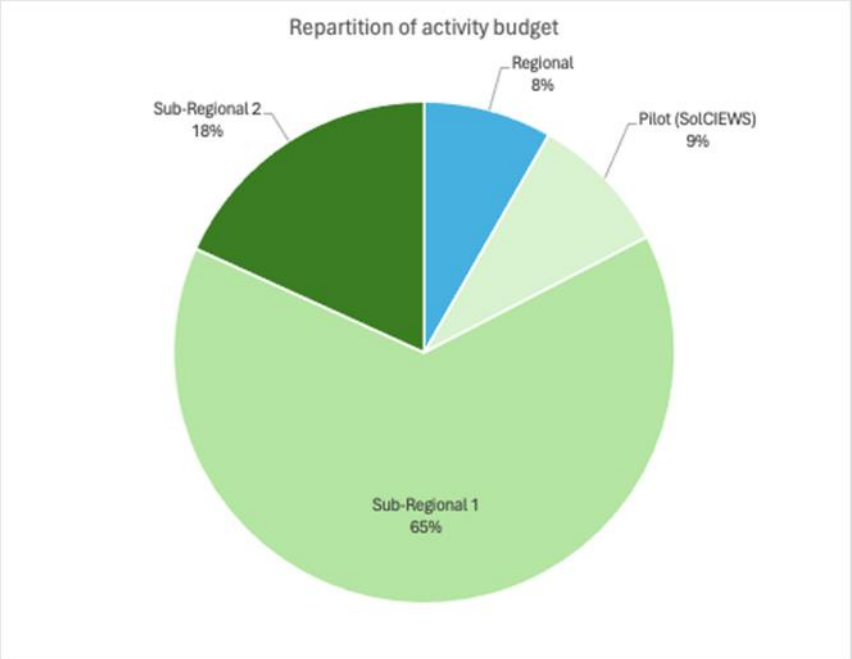
Component 3: CIEWS for infrastructure design and resilience financing
Component 4: Regional support and programme management

9. An illustration of alignment and contribution to WRP and the global early warning for all initiative, below.



10. Repartitioning of the OPP activities budget – this foresees an allocation of 92% of resources for country level activities and 8% for regional level activities.

Pilot (SolCIEWS)	%	Sub-Regional 1	%	Sub-Regional 2	%	Regional	%	Total
$12,20	9%	$86,30	64%	$24,40	18%	$11,10	8%	$135,00



Attached the revised draft concept note for the One Pacific Programme

Objectives:

11. The One Pacific Programme (OPP) will contribute to the implementation of WRP and of the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy (2017-2026), the Pacific Roadmap for Climate Services, the WMO Global Framework for Climate Services, WMO Global Climate Observing System Implementation Plan in the Pacific, and the Pacific Meteorology Council Expert Panels. It will also contribute to the UN Early Warning for All (EW4ALL) by directly supporting the implementation of WRP, endorsed by the Pacific Meteorological Council as the vehicle for the implementation of the EW4ALL in the Pacific.

12. The programme objective is to consolidate and scale up the availability and use of Climate and Ocean Information Services and Impact Based Early Warning Systems in the PICs to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, reduce vulnerability, and minimize losses and damages associated with the adverse effects of climate change and extreme weather.
13. The OPP will have a duration of 10 years and will provide support to the 14 PICs member of the GCF, through regional and national level activities based on their specific needs and in synergy with other relevant initiatives.
14. The programme will build and complement the results of the GCF-funded FP147:"Enhancing Climate Information and Knowledge Services for resilience in five island countries of the Pacific Ocean" programme implemented by UNEP, the EU funded ClimSA project – implemented by SPREP, the GCF funded FP035 "Van-KiRAP" project implemented by SPREP, and Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Pacific SIDS Project implemented by WMO and the Systematic Observation Facility (SOFF).

Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the design details in ensuring that current regional arrangements are supported including the Weather Ready Pacific (WRP).
- **Confirm support** of the One Pacific Programme in that OPP will contribute in funding the WRP and support current regional arrangements led by the PMC.
- **Recommend** that the GCF NDAs (national designated authorities) assist through submission of no-objection-letters (NoL) for the Project Preparation Facility request to prepare the OPP proposal.

Attachment 1: Concept Note for the OPP