



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 22.2: CREWS Programme and pipeline projects

Purpose:

- To provide an update to the Council on the status of the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) initiative in the Pacific and outline efforts to seamlessly align future CREWS investments with the Weather Ready Pacific (WRP) initiative.
- To inform the Council about two CREWS projects under preparation for USD 10.5 million, and two new financing windows available to Pacific countries: the Green Climate Fund Simplify Approval Process (GCF SAP)/CREWS Scaling Framework, and the CREWS Accelerated Support Window (ASW).
- To seek the Council's guidance and support for these initiatives to enhance early warning systems through climate, hydrology, weather and disaster risk reduction services in the Pacific.

Background:

CREWS is a global initiative dedicated to improving early warning systems and climate services in vulnerable regions, including Least Developing Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as the Pacific Islands Countries. CREWS is supported by 12 countries¹, implemented by three partners (WMO, UNDRR and the World Bank, with ITU and IFRC expected to join soon) and is a dedicated financing mechanism of the UN Secretary-General's Early Warning for All Plan.

Since the last PMC meeting, CREWS has developed a new Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) Framework, aligned to Early Warning for All, that guides the programme's efforts and is a key tool for strategic decision-making. It focuses on three key outcomes:

¹ Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom (chair)



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- **Prioritization and funding:** Ensuring multi-hazard early warning systems are prioritized and adequately funded.
- **Service delivery and accessibility:** Enhancing the delivery and accessibility of early warning services by national and regional institutions.
- **Inclusivity and engagement:** Developing early warning programs that are people-centered, gender-responsive, and engage the private sector.

In alignment with these objectives, the board of the CREWS initiative has recently approved funding for two projects in the Pacific region:

- **Pacific drought project building on the successful CREWS PNG project:** aimed at strengthening drought management capabilities through improved monitoring and early warning systems and contributing to the WRP implementation plan: and
- **CREWS Pacific SIDS 3.0 project:** Building on previous successes to advance early warning systems and hydromet services in Pacific SIDS, also contributing to WRP implementation plan.

Additionally, Tonga and Vanuatu have accessed CREWS Accelerated Support Window financing to enhance their national early warning systems.

A scaling up framework has been approved by the GCF and CREWS boards. It is now being rolled-out. Countries in the Pacific region who have ongoing CREWS projects can benefit from the scaling-up framework for facilitated access to GCF/SAP funds of up to USD 25 million. Discussion have been initiated with several countries in the region.

Updates:

1. Consultations with countries, SPREP and other partners have started on the two project proposals for the Pacific drought project and CREWS Pacific SIDS 3.0 project. They will be validated in sub-regional validation workshops scheduled for Q4 2024. Finalized proposals will then be submitted for approval.
2. Ongoing CREWS Pacific SIDS 2.0 project activities are expected to wrap up by Q1 2025, allowing for a seamless transition to the new projects.
3. A smart weather App, financed through the Accelerated Support Window, was successfully launched by Tonga at the PIFs Leaders Summit. Remaining activities



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being carried out by Tonga include advertising, video clips, airtime on the radio and TV programs and user acceptance testing.

4. Vanuatu's Accelerated Support Window proposal has been approved, with the Letter of Agreement (LoA) in draft form, enabling the release of funds to complete the requested activities.
5. Discussions are ongoing with Fiji stakeholders, including the Ministry of Maritime and Rural Development and Disaster Management and the Ministry of Transport, Public Works, and Meteorological Service, on a potential GCF SAP/CREWS scaling up project in Fiji.

Challenges:

Challenges for CREWS in the Pacific can be summarized as follows:

- Ensuring continuity and sustainability of services and capacity developed.
- Ensuring coherence and alignment with other programmes and projects to avoid duplication of efforts and resources.
- Securing consistent commitment and support from stakeholders and partners to prevent delays in project implementation.

Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Acknowledge** the two projects under preparation: Note the development of the Pacific drought project (USD 5 million) and the CREWS Pacific SIDS 3.0 project (USD 5.5 million), which aim to enhance early warning systems, climate and hydromet resilience in the Pacific region. The meeting is invited to guide and encourage alignment of these two projects with WRP.
- **Support** project proposals and validation workshops: support the upcoming project preparations and the planned sub-regional validation workshops in Q4 2025 and provide support to ensure their successful and timely development.
- **Recognise** the CREWS Accelerated Support Window (ASW) as an effective modality to respond rapidly to technical assistance requirements of NMHSs in the region (up to USD 250,000).
- **Support** the process to scale up projects in the Pacific, under the framework of the GCF/CREWS Scaling Up, and in collaboration with the National Designated Authorities (NDAs), NDMOs, NMHSs and other key partners, as an effective and innovative mechanisms to facilitate access to GCF funds.