



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

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

## 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 7: Role of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in International and Regional Engagement

#### Purpose:

1. To inform members on the preparation for UNFCCC COP29 and opportunities for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services Officials (NMHSs) engagement in the negotiation process.
2. To update members of the outcomes of the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable.
3. To inform members of work in climate change mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage, identifying opportunities for potential engagement of NMHSs.

#### Background:

1. Worldwide observation of climate systems provides critical data and information to advance scientific knowledge of climate change, its impacts and future trends.
2. As stewards of national observation systems and data which form the foundation for climate services, Pacific NMHSs play a critical role in ensuring quality of climate data, analysis and interpretation of data to enable end-users to apply climate information in designing, planning and implementation of socio-economic services and infrastructure.
3. Considering this critical role, this paper presents opportunities for enhanced engagement of NMHSs in international and regional climate change engagement, and in the design, planning and implementation of climate action to avert and minimise impacts of climate change and address climate-induced loss and damage.
4. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):
  - 4.1 The UNFCCC calls on Parties to promote and cooperate in Research and Systematic Observation (RSO) and the development of data archives, including through exchange of information and supporting and developing programmes, networks and organizations. Parties report on RSO to the Secretariat via their National Communications.
  - 4.2 SPREP, through the OneCROP process, supports PSIDS RSO negotiators to work with AOSIS counterparts to advance regional positions, through contributing to submissions, mandated events, and informal consultations, to ensure that the best available science informs decision-making under the UNFCCC.



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

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

- 4.3 Key PSIDS RSO priorities for COP29 will be discussed at the upcoming PSIDS Officials Pre-COP in Nadi from 2-3 October. OneCROP technical support officials will also support the PSIDS RSO thematic coordinator and PSIDS RSO negotiators to advance regional positions at COP29, being held in Baku from 11-22 November.
- 4.4 Alongside work under the UNFCCC, engagement in the IPCC AR7 process will be crucial for the region. At COP28 the Global Stock Take decision (GST) explicitly invited the IPCC to consider how best to align its work with the GST, however no concrete timeline has yet been agreed. Engagement in future meetings and Plenaries is essential to work towards the timely provision of policy-relevant information, in particular for the second GST, and other priorities including increased regional representation and relevant scientific information for the region in the IPCC.
5. Pacific Climate Change Roundtable
  - 5.1 Another opportunity for ongoing regional engagement for NMHSs is the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR). The PCCR was reconvened in Samoa in May 2024 and focused on providing Pacific climate change focal points with the platform to advance their national climate change priorities and ensure enhanced regional collaboration towards Pacific climate change priorities and improved access to the effective financing necessary to deliver them.
  - 5.2 In doing so the PCCR Members agreed to three regional climate change priority areas (Adaptation, Mitigation, Loss and Damage) and that Science, inter alia, is a key cross-cutting issue for advancing these priorities regionally.
  - 5.3 SPREP encourages NMHSs to work proactively with OneCROP officials to ensure that the latest Science is utilised to inform efforts to advance agreed regional priorities at the next PCCR, which will be held in mid-2025.
6. Mitigation
  - 6.1 SPREP, as one of the four implementing partners of the Regional Pacific Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Hub, assisted the implementation of NDC requests from three countries under Phase 3 - Nauru, Samoa and Tuvalu.
  - 6.2 SPREP NDC Hub shall continue to assist Pacific SIDS with their NDC requests during the fourth round of implementation (Phase 4) which is from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2027.
  - 6.3 SPREP, also provided assistance in the submission of Project Concepts for funding, to the Mitigation Action Facility under the UNFCCC. The preparation phase of these project proposals highlighted the vital role of the NMHSs in terms of the valuable data they collect, which is used to provide evidence of climatic impacts in the Region and to support the application for funds. This data is of particular significance when the project proposals are for Renewable Energy projects.
  - 6.4 To aid in the implementation of the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy amongst an array of other Regional Frameworks, NMHSs are encouraged to work closely with CROP Agencies to share and analyse climate data in order to improve climate change mitigation through the effective management of a just transition to a low carbon, low emissions and climate resilient Pacific.
7. Adaptation
  - 7.1 SPREP is currently working in three countries- Tuvalu, Nauru and FSM, to facilitate and support the development of their National Adaptation Plans (NAP) for medium to long-term adaptation through adaptation planning processes. As part of this process, climate impact, vulnerability



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

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

and risk assessments are undertaken to establish an evidence base as the foundation for the identification, selection and prioritisation of action for countries to implement adaptation to the impacts of climate change. These assessments are being undertaken at sector level to priority sectors identify sector-based adaptation interventions.

- 7.2 This work has highlighted the importance of the work of NMHSs in adaptation planning. Data on climate change and variability collected by NHMSs through observation systems needs to be analysed and interpreted. It needs to be transformed into projections, trends and economic analysis to help understand the impacts, vulnerability and risks to inform appropriate and cost-effective adaptation solutions.
  - 7.3 It also highlighted significant data gaps in relation to hazard, exposure, vulnerability and risk assessments. In most PICs, there is a lack of scientific data and suitable down-scaled climate change models. There are gaps in datasets on social indicators, infrastructure conditions, food security, economic vulnerabilities, and the built environment. Strengthening of these datasets is a priority, which requires investment in capacity, systems and data collection methods.
  - 7.4 There are also gaps in data and information on observed/experienced impacts of severe weather and slow onset events such king tides, heavy precipitation and prolonged dry periods.
  - 7.5 As these events do not trigger State of Emergency declarations, data and information on impact and hazards caused by these events may not be seen to be as important as those collected through rapid and post-disaster needs assessments and therefore are not always collected and documented to inform on-going and future adaptation initiatives.
8. Addressing climate-induced Loss and Damage
    - 8.1 NMHSs plays a key role in addressing loss and damage. Downscaled hazard projections, novel information on adaptation limits, and medium to long-term loss and damage projections are critically important to the formulation of national loss and damage priorities at national and regional levels.
    - 8.2 SPREP has successfully secured funding from the German Federal Government and the Government of New Zealand to support Members in holding national dialogues to define loss and damage and initiate establishment of an evidence base for loss and damage, develop a methodology to measure non-economic loss and damage, develop case studies on adaptation limits and experienced loss and damage, mainstream loss and damage across national and sectoral policies and strengthen national loss and damage focal points capacity.
    - 8.3 These projects will also help support countries in implementing pilot projects to test national responses to loss and damage and develop concept notes to access finance for implementation of national loss and damage priorities.
  9. Opportunities for enhanced engagement of NMHSs
    - 9.1 In addition to the growing recognition of the important role of NMHSs and their contribution to building climate resilience in the Pacific, there are other opportunities for NMHSs to engage and benefit from current and future initiatives under these climate change action streams.
    - 9.2 Through adaptation and loss and damage initiatives, NHMSs could benefit from improved capacity to undertake projection of future climate change and variability and potential impacts and address climate data and information.

### **Recommendations:**

The Meeting is invited to:



## SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL (PMG-7)

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

- Note the significance of climate science in determining national adaptation and loss and damage needs and the important role of NMHSs in ensuring quality and availability of climate data to support climate impact, vulnerability and risk assessments, identifying adaptation limits and loss and damage needs and priorities.
- Consider the nomination of an official to actively engage in the IPCC process. There are Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors, or Contributing Author roles. Governments and Observer Organisations have been requested to submit their nomination by 20 September 2024 (midnight CEST).
- Update the contact details of the National Focal Point on the IPCC Bureau's list.
- Note the update on preparations for COP29 and the important role NMHSs play in the negotiations of RSO related agenda items.
- Note the outcomes of the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable.

