

# Weather Ready Pacific

## A Decadal Program of Investment



The 10-year Weather Ready Pacific Program will reduce the human and economic cost of severe weather events across the Pacific by protecting communities and livelihoods, and making a strong positive contribution to the economy of the region.



### KEY BENEFITS OF THE WEATHER READY PACIFIC PROGRAM



#### PROTECT COMMUNITIES

Forecasts and warnings will be more specific about local conditions and clearer about potential impacts of the weather, enabling people to make better-informed decisions.

*Communities will know more earlier and be safer.*



#### STRENGTHEN SECURITY

Better access to reliable weather information supports the region's maritime surveillance and fisheries management initiatives, and enables better preparedness for events that could lead to political and/or social destabilisation.



#### SUPPORT ECONOMIES

Improved forecasts and warnings will support timely and targeted preparedness measures, limiting the economic impact of severe weather events (securing infrastructure, relocating stock and supplies etc); for some countries, strengthened ability to provide industry-specific forecasting, leveraging enhanced productivity.



#### ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY

Strengthening the Pacific's integration into the global meteorological system, the region is less vulnerable to peaks and troughs in resourcing and support.



The **Weather Ready Pacific** Program ensures that the Pacific doesn't get left behind: participating in, and benefiting from, advances in forecast and warning systems for weather, hydrological and oceanic events; and enabling increased accuracy, geographic specificity and lead time of forecasts. By being more integrated into the global system, the Pacific will be more empowered to advocate for Pacific interests in global settings.



# The Weather Ready Pacific initiative will strengthen our abilities to protect ourselves against the effects of climate change that are here and happening right now.



## WHY IS THE WEATHER READY PACIFIC PROGRAM NECESSARY?

Pacific Islands are highly vulnerable to extreme weather, hydrological and ocean events with three of our members ranked as the top three of the most vulnerable in the world. Climate change will exacerbate extreme events.

Economic losses from cyclones and flooding in the South Pacific region in 2020 were around USD 1 billion with at least 71 lives lost. Annual average losses are around USD 500 million.

The improvement of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services can reduce disaster losses in developing countries at a benefit-cost ratio (BCR) of 4:1 to 36:1.

If the improved services and delivery of forecasts and warnings from our national forecasting centres could prevent

just 5% of these losses, that represents around USD 250 million of positive return on investment. The human and financial costs of not acting are higher than the cost of acting through the proposed 10-year Program of Investment.

Meteorological and Hydrological services in the region face some critical gaps in governance, observation networks, forecasting, delivering impact-based messages to communities, capacity and training.

It is a Pacific homegrown solution to address long-standing coordination gaps that are created by implementing initiatives in silos. This will ensure that long-term coordination is established in the region and will build the Pacific NMHS and NDMO's capacity in extreme events.

## KEY ELEMENTS OF THE THE WEATHER READY PACIFIC PROGRAM

- ✓ Deliver a **Pacific Weather Exchange** through which Pacific nations will have assured access to localised, accurate and timely forecast and warning products derived using world-leading forecasting capability.
  - These products will be generated using World Meteorological Centre technology, and funnelled into the Pacific Weather Portal which will be supported by Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres.
  - National Meteorological and Hydrological Services will be supported by the program to identify and address their individual operational priorities to ensure this foundational capability is leveraged to best effect.
- ✓ Enable NMHS staff to communicate clear, simple forecasts and warnings so that their target audiences (communities, governments, industry) can understand likely impacts – what the weather will do rather than what the weather will be.
- ✓ Build an enhanced hydro-meteorological-oceanic infrastructure network and associated IT equipment that meets emerging and future needs and complements existing and planned infrastructure initiatives. Millions of additional data points to be ingested into the global forecasting system, improving forecasts for the Pacific and beyond.
- ✓ Strengthen a regional and national cohort of trained, skilled forecasters, hydrologists, observers, electronics technicians, and information and data technologists, anchored by accredited courses facilitated through a Regional Training Centre in Fiji, supplemented by on-line initiatives.
- ✓ Support and strengthen regional and national governance and institutional arrangements, targeting leadership, planning, and management, and regional coordination with the goal of leaving behind a robust and self-supporting regional network of NMHSs.



FIND OUT MORE: [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)

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The Weather Ready Pacific Program was endorsed by the Pacific Island Forum Leaders at the 51<sup>st</sup> Pacific Island Forum, 2021, and is recognised by Pacific Foreign Ministers as a comprehensive program that responds to the needs of the region.