

Second Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-2)

1-5 July 2013
Nadi
Fiji Islands

Agenda Item 12.7: Pacific Climate Information System (PaCIS)

Purpose

1. To report on activities and achievements conducted under the auspices of PaCIS since PMC-1.

Background

2. PaCIS provides a programmatic framework for the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to bring together on-going and future climate observations, operational forecasting services and climate projections, research, assessment, data management, outreach, and education – an integrated system of climate services – to address the needs of the Pacific Islands. It provides a forum for sharing the expertise, experience, and perspective needed to guide integrated program planning and product development.
3. PaCIS is composed of representatives of regional, national and local institutions and programs in the Pacific, as well as selected individuals from other regions, with experience and expertise in climate observations, science, assessment, education, outreach, users, and services.
4. A meeting of the PaCIS Steering Committee and partners held in March 2011 in Honolulu led to the formulation of a [December 2011 PaCIS Plan for Regional Climate Services](#) designed to develop and deliver regionally-relevant products and services that further the PaCIS vision – “Resilient and sustainable Pacific communities using climate information to manage risks and support practical decision-making in the context of climate variability and change”.

Update

5. Consistent with the priority actions identified in the December 2011 PaCIS Plan, projects and activities carried out over the past 12-18 months through PaCIS and its partners include:
 - The **PacificIslandsClimate.org (a.k.a. “piko”)** website. This website is a gateway to a broad range of information related to climate in the Pacific Islands. It includes summaries of programs, projects, and activities, as well as products and services.
 - A **Pacific Islands Climate Outlooks Catalog** (<http://www.pacificcis.org/outlooks/>). Developed in 2012, this website facilitate access to a broad range of information related to climate variability in

the Pacific Islands. Similar catalogs were developed for multi-decadal projections (i.e., scenarios) as well as historical hindcasts (i.e., climatologies) in 2013.

- **A Hawaii and Pacific Islands Climate and Impacts and Outlook.** This quarterly Outlook "one-pager" draws on the PEAC Climate Center's Pacific ENSO update quarterly newsletter and other sources to bring together seasonal predictions and projections information alongside recent impacts of weather and climate events in a concise and accessible format (http://www.pacificcis.org/new/Impacts_Q22013.pdf).
 - The report "**Climate Change and Pacific Islands: Indicators and Impacts**" published in December of 2012. This report is an assessment of the state of knowledge about climate change and its impacts on the Hawaiian archipelago and the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands, along with the adaptive capacity of island communities (<http://www.pacificcis.org/docs/PIRCA%202012%20Full%20Report.pdf>)
 - The **Pacific Islands Climate Services Forum** convened at the University of the South Pacific, in Suva, Fiji, January 21-25, 2013 (<http://www.pacificcis.org/picsf/>). The Forum brought together almost 200 people from the Pacific and the world to raise the awareness of and engage in a dialogue about climate services. Training that included regionally-relevant and regionally-requested content was held in conjunction with the Pacific Climate Services Forum.
6. PaCIS Focus Area Coordination Team meetings to support development of a document that outlines climate-related product requirements that take into account local and regional variation in climate drivers, issues, capacities, and cultures in the Pacific Islands. Scheduled for late July and early August, 2013 the outcomes of these meetings and the resulting document are intended to support activities to be carried out by NOAA working through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to support climate change adaptation in the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS).

Recommendations

8. The Meeting is invited to:
- **Note** through PaCIS and its partners considerable progress has been made on implementation of climate services in Pacific Islands since PMC-1;