

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

1-5 July 2013
Nadi
Fiji Islands

Agenda Item 13.2: Implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) in the Pacific Islands region

Purpose

1. To report on activities and achievements to date related to implementation of the GFCS in the Pacific Islands region.
2. To seek the PMC endorsement of the recommended actions in this paper to further support on-going multilateral exploratory efforts to implement the GFCS in the Pacific Islands region.

Background

3. The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) was established during the High Level Ministerial Meeting of the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3), held in Geneva, in September 2009. Its goal is to strengthen the production, availability, delivery, and application of science-based climate prediction and services to all stakeholders. The GFCS is structured under 5 pillars;
 - i. User Interface Platform;
 - ii. Climate Services Information System;
 - iii. Observations and Monitoring;
 - iv. Research, Modelling, and Prediction; and
 - v. Capacity Development.

Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) play a key role in the GFCS. The actual structure of RCCs will vary according to the specific needs and interests of each region.

4. The first SPREP meeting to consider the GFCS from a Pacific Islands perspective was a workshop held in August 8, 2011 in Majuro, prior to the 14RMSD/PMC-1. The report from that work (2011 Report on the Outcomes of the Pacific Regional Meteorological Services Directors Workshop in Support of Climate Adaptation Planning in the Pacific Islands adopted at the 14 RMSD/PMC-1 in RMI August 2011) recommended (1) that "NMS directors and development partners recommended that further investigation is required on organizational structures and functions at the regional level to support climate services consistent with the GFCS, to minimize gaps and overlaps, and to align climate service activities that already exist in the region. The investigation should consider geographic, sectoral and functional core capabilities (e.g., observations and data management) as a basis for supporting the effective delivery of climate products and services." The August 8, 2011 Report noted that good examples of cross-region collaboration, research and integrated delivery of climate services already exist within and between agencies, institutions, and organizations (including NMSs) in the region, conducting activities such as: PI-GCOS, PI-GOOS, Pacific HYCOS, PI-CPP, APAN, SPSLCMP, PCCSP, PASAP, CLIMRAP, METPI, CliDEsc, PaCIS, PEAC, PICCC, PRIMO, Pacific RISA, and PCCR, amongst others.

Update

5. The November 2011 meeting of the Working Group on Climate Services for WMO Regional Association V (RA V WG CLS) in the Solomon Islands reaffirmed that Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) are an important element of the GFCS Climate Services and Information System.
6. In January 2013, a consortium of national, regional and international agencies convened the Pacific Islands Climate Services Forum (PICSF) in Suva, Fiji. 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. A Partners Meeting was held on Day Five of the Forum, where representatives from almost 30 agencies, institutions, and organizations involved in climate services in the region met to exchange information on and align projects and activities in the context of the GFCS and the outcomes of the Forum, as a way to minimize duplication of effort, maximize the use of agency resources in the Pacific, and foster continued growth in the regional culture of cooperation. A group discussion during this meeting resulted in the identification of five 'Centres of Action' (CoA) that address key opportunities and needs in the region.
7. Relevant Items in the PMC-2 agenda, including 12.3: Climate and Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific (COSPPac), 12.4: Pacific-Australia Climate Change Sciences and Adaptation Planning (PACCSAP), and Project 12.7: Pacific Islands Climate Information System (PACIS) among others provides a range of activities already underway in the region to progress the implementation of robust and sustained climate services in Pacific Islands since PMC-1.
8. Consistent with the above, it is recommended that:
Investigations on organizational structures, functions, and technical developments to support climate services at the regional level continue. To this end, a Pacific Islands Climate Services Panel ((PICS Panel) be established to serve as the PMC Advisory Committee on PICS matters (see draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the PICS Panel attached as Annex I to this paper).

Recommendations

8. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **Note** considerable progress has been made on implementation of climate services in Pacific Islands since PMC-1;
 - **Note** the outstanding support provided by SPREP and collaborating partners such as WMO to date towards advancing the implementation of the GFCS in the Pacific Islands region;
 - **Reaffirm** the outcomes of the various meetings and workshops on the GFCS and related matters, in particular, the recommendation from the Majuro 2011 workshop to investigate organizational structures and functions to support robust and sustained climate services at the regional level and identification of Pacific CoA from the 2013 PICSF;
 - **Note** the critical need for a more strategic approach to and greater alignment and coordination needed to support robust and sustained climate services' activities and investments in the Pacific Islands region;
 - **Endorse** the establishment of a Pacific Islands Climate Services Panel (PICS Panel) to serve as the PMC's Advisory Committee on PICS matters,
 - **Requests the Director General of SPREP:**
 - (1) To make the necessary arrangements for the establishment of the Panel and to convene its first meeting as soon as possible after the designation of its members. In consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the PMC, determine the date and place of the first Panel meeting. The Chairman of the PMC will preside over the first meeting until the Panel elects its [independent facilitator][Chair], who shall preside over the meeting;

- (2) To provide support to the Panel and seek funding and other support for its work;
- (3) To keep the PMC Members, SPREP Council, and as appropriate, relevant partners, informed of progress and developments on the Panel's work;
- (4) To bring this matter to the attention of all concerned.

Attachments

- Annex 1: 13.2 –Draft Terms of Reference for the Pacific Islands Climate Services (PICS) Panel
- Annex 2: 13.2 – GFCS Implementation Plan
- Annex 3: 13.2 – Pacific Islands Climate Services Forum Outcomes and Final Report
http://www.pacificcis.org/picsf/PICSF%20Outcomes%20and%20Report_FINAL_small.pdf
- Annex 4: 13.2– Report of the WMO RA V Working Group on Climate Services