

WMO

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), founded in 1950, is a specialized agency of the United Nations for weather, climate, and water. WMO contributes to understanding the impacts of climate variability/change across socio-economic sectors. It also promotes capacity building in the application of meteorological and climatological data and products in assessing the impacts of climate variability/change.

Capacity development is a key priority of the WMO. To support Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), WMO established in 2003 a Programme for Least Developed Countries that coordinates the implementation of the WMO strategies for LDCs and SIDS.

SPREP

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) based in Apia, Samoa is mandated by the governments and administrations of the Pacific region with the protection and sustainable development of the region's environment.

Financed by:

Government of Canada

Government of Finland

WMO LDC Programme

GFCS

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Regional Consultation on Climate Services for Pacific SIDS

Rarotonga, Cook Islands
31 March – 4 April, 2014

A preparation for

The 3rd International Conference on SIDS

September 2014, Apia, Samoa.

INTRODUCTION

Considering that weather, climate and water related events and climate change have significant impacts on the socio-economic development of the LDCs and SIDS, the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) has a major role to play in sustainable development.

The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) was established in 2009, through a high-level declaration at World Climate Conference-3 organized by World Meteorological Organization (WMO), other United Nations (UN) agencies, Governments and partners to guide the development of climate services worldwide. The vision of the GFCS is to enable society to better manage the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change, especially for those who are most vulnerable through the development and incorporation of science-based climate information and prediction into planning, policy and practice.

The GFCS will build upon the following five pillars to address the entire chain for the production, management, delivery and application of climate information and services in support of decision-making, addressing initially four priority areas (agriculture and food security; water; health; and disaster risk reduction):

- **User Interface Platform:** a structured means for users, climate researchers and climate information providers to interact at all levels;
- **Climate Services Information System:** mechanism through which information about climate (past, present and future) will be routinely collected, stored and processed to generate and deliver products and services that inform often complex decision-making;
- **Observations and Monitoring:** to ensure that climate observations and other data, including metadata, required to meet the needs of end users are collected, managed, disseminated and its utility assessed;

- **Research, Modeling and Prediction:** to foster research towards continually improving the scientific quality of climate information and services, providing an evidence base for the impacts of climate change and variability and for the value of using climate information;
- **Coordination and Capacity Development:** to interpret, translate and use climate information to support decision making; identified in the other pillars and, for enabling GFCS-related activities.

It is with this background that WMO in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and key partners are organizing the Regional Consultation on Climate Services for SIDS in the Pacific and other related meetings from 31 March to 4 April 2014 in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

3rd INT. CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

In June 2012, world leaders at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) decided to convene the Third International Conference on SIDS. This decision came as a result of the acknowledgement and recognition that SIDS remains a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities. The 3rd International Conference will be held in September 2014, in Samoa. The theme of the 2014 Conference is “*SIDS Sustainable Development Through Genuine and Durable Partnership*”. The GFCS for SIDS will be presented to this conference as a key partnership for development of weather and climate services in SIDS.

The GFCS also contributes to implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs 2011-2020

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

- Review the current status of climate Services in the region and assess specific needs in the initial four priority areas (agriculture and food security; water;

- health; and disaster risk reduction) regional, national and local levels;;Review and characterize the current status of interfacing mechanisms and interactions between climate services providers and users, identify major areas for improvement and recommend effective mechanisms and practices;
- Articulate the capacity building needs for the region, in terms of mandates, infrastructure and human resources, in all the components of GFCS;
- Discuss and recommend improved arrangements for national observation networks, enhanced research and analysis of national and local climate issues including impacts indicators, improved access and utility of climate data and predictions
- Identify concrete follow up actions to enable climate services in SIDS in the Pacific; and
- Identify partnerships among relevant stakeholders.
- Refine the Document “Partnership for Weather and Climate Services in SIDS” to be presented to the 3rd International Conference on SID.
- Discuss the linkages of existing programs to strengthening climate services in the region

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

This workshop aims to bring together experts from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), key decision-makers, and practitioners from the initial four priority areas of the GFCS as well as relevant partners supporting climate services in the region. It will facilitate the identification of appropriate mechanisms and networks to improve and sustain the flow of climate information for different users. Specifically, it should result in: (i) enhanced understanding of the needs for climate services in different user sectors; (ii) improved knowledge of the existing interface mechanisms and recommendations for improvements where needed; (iii) clear understanding of capacity development needs to implement the GFCS at regional and national levels; (iv) strategic guidance on institutional arrangements, partnerships and processes required to operationalize the GFCS at the national level.