

Draft PICOF-2 Concept Note

SECOND PACIFIC ISLANDS CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (PICOF-2)

(Venue: Tanoa Hotel, Nadi Fiji, 17-18 October, 2016)

Concept Note (Updated 13 June 2016)

INTRODUCTION

1. The second session of the Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF-2), with a special focus on the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is co-organized and co-supported by the Secretariat of Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Government of Canada, the Government of Russia, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and the COSPPac Project, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Pacific ENSO Application Climate (PEAC) Centre, Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), the New Zealand National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Climate Centre (APCC), the Government of Finland, University of the South Pacific (USP), and the European Union-Global Climate Change Alliance (EU-GCCA).
2. The PICOF will be hosted by the Fiji Meteorological Service at the Tanoa Hotel in Nadi, Fiji from 17-18 October, 2016. The forum will bring together national, regional and international experts from the Disaster Risk Reduction, Meteorological and Climate Services sector.
3. In general, the aim of a Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum is to provide a platform to consolidate seasonal forecasts from multiple sources by issuing a consensus outlook. This process allows its participants to better understand the science behind seasonal forecasts and to better appreciate the related uncertainties that are relevant for the measures applied to adapting and reducing risks to climate variations.
4. For PICOF-2, the main purpose and overarching objectives are (a) to bring together national, regional and international experts on climate services and disaster risk reduction community; (b) to discuss seasonal climate forecast guidance for the Pacific Islands (PI) region (e.g. SCOPIC, ICU, PEAC, APCC); (c) to discuss application of climate information to the DRR sector; and (d) to co-explore common approaches and best practices for climate services that can be extended throughout the Pacific Islands (PI) Region.
5. The PICOF concept is an opportunity to bring together the providers of climate information i.e. the National Meteorological and Hydrological Science Services (NMHSs) and one of the end users of this information, the DRR Community or the National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) at the country level, in a roundtable discussion where information can be exchanged and guidance on decision-making.
6. The PICOF-2 will be an opportunity for the NMHSs to discuss the tropical cyclone season ahead for the southern Pacific Countries as well as discuss in depth the likelihood of an ENSO event and its likely impacts in the region.

7. The concept of PICOF has been implemented for several years in the PI region through online teleconferences offered under 3 separate arrangements; the Climate and Oceans Services Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF), the Island Climate Update (ICU) Forums and the Pacific ENSO Application Climate (PEAC) Centre Forum.

ENSO Impacts in the Pacific:

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is the main driver of climate variability in the Pacific and will likely to continue to influence the weather and climate of the Pacific well into the future. Sectoral impacts from hazards such as droughts, flooding, heat wave and crop loss observed across the Pacific are in most cases associated with climate variability influenced by ENSO. A warmer world under climate change could exacerbate and amplify observed impacts of ENSO episodes in the region. To reduce damages from extreme climate events through effective disaster risk management, seasonal climate prediction services play a critical role in utilising advanced climate prediction such as early warning outlooks, to understand the causes, impacts and necessary provisions to prepare for anticipated extreme climate events. It has however been observed that most PI countries, the linkage between the NMHSs and sectors is infant stage and significant efforts will have to be made to improve linkage and coordination for effective climate change response.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE SECOND PACIFIC ISLANDS CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (PICOF-2)

8. The specific objectives of PICOF-2 include the following:
 - i. To compare the various seasonal climate forecast guidance for the Pacific region and discuss how these are produced in terms of accuracy, utility, weaknesses and strengths of the regionally produced guidance;
 - ii. To compare and refine national level consensus-based climate outlooks for the upcoming season (November–December–January);
 - iii. To continue capacity building/human resource development activities for the Pacific region, particularly in seasonal prediction;
 - iv. To discuss how NMHSs are currently accessing and assessing the available guidance, making them nationally-relevant and disseminating them to users and the use of games to assist in this effort;
 - v. To provide a platform for the stakeholders through the PICOF to share and exchange experiences and knowledge on wet/tropical cyclone season and its prediction;
 - vi. To discuss how representatives from the DRR sector are using or may use the guidance (or some derivative from it);
 - vii. To identify the needs of the DRR sector for climate services;
 - viii. To build collaboration and partnerships among NMHSs and the DRR sector;
 - ix. To discuss opportunities for integrating climate information into disaster risk reduction and disaster management.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Forum is expected to improve the understanding of how seasonal climate outlooks are produced, how they are and can be made regionally and nationally relevant, and how they can be tailored to the needs of users from the DRR community.

9. The PICO-2 will also see the launch of the Disaster Resilience in Pacific Small Island States which is funded by the Russian Government and implemented through UNDP. These 3 year project will provide direct technical and financial assistance to 14 PICs in the area of climate early warning systems, disaster preparedness and recovery, and disaster risk financing.

Proposed Structure of Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda will focus on 2 different perspectives. Day 1 will focus on “Looking back and learning” and Day 2 will focus on “Looking forward and preparing. The specific sessions to be discussed are as following:

Day 1 – Looking Back and Learning		Day 2 – Looking Forward and Preparing	
Session 1	Introduction	Session 6	Presentation of 2016-2017 La Nina Forecast
Session 2	Presentation of 2015-2016 El Nino (NMHS and NMDO Representatives)	Session 7	Presentation on current Tropical Cyclone outlook
Session 3	Relationship between Tropical Cyclones/ENSO and DRR.	Session 8	Country Group Discussions
Session 4	Impacts Seen on the Ground	Session 9	Presentations from Selected Countries
Session 5	Evaluation of Response	Session 10	Plenary discussion on Key Next Steps and PICO-2 Statement

In terms of learning methods to be applied in the course of this meeting, a combination of Powerpoint Presentations, Panel and Plenary Discussions, as well as Group Work will be used to disseminate information and stimulate discussions. The overall intent of the meeting is to provide maximum exposure/scope to the representatives of the PI NMHSs and DRR sector to present their views and/or experiences on how inter-sectoral coordination was conducted during the current El-Nino phase and what could be improved in future, based on lessons learned and information gaps identified. Since the PICO-2 meeting will be the precursor to the workshop to develop the Pacific Regional Implementation Roadmap for Climate Services being held in Nadi, Fiji from October 19-21, 2016, it is ideal that issues addressed during the PICO-2 be given more strategic attention in the follow up meetings.

The PICO-2 will be followed by a workshop to develop the Pacific Regional Implementation Roadmap for Climate Services from **19-21 October 2016 at the Tanoa Hotel**. The intent of the workshop to continue the discussion on the implementation of the Global Framework on Climate Services in the Pacific Region.

Day 1 Theme is “Looking back and learning”

- Presentation on 2015/16 El Nino
 - How it was forecast, how it developed, when it peaked and dissipated

- What happened with SSTs, winds, temps, rainfall across Pacific
- How did it compare with 1997/98
- Relationship between Tropical Cyclones/ENSO and DRR Joint presentations (NMHS/NDMO) by each country on
 - Their ENSO advisories and climate outlooks over the period 2015/16
 - Partnerships with DMO
 - Process of info dissemination
 - Actions based on guidance (and other info)
 - Preparedness level
 - Level of awareness to community scale
 - Impacts seen on ground
 - Water availability, quality
 - Sanitation issues
 - Health impacts (related to sanitation and vectors)
 - Flooding / infrastructural damage
 - Coastal erosion / inundation
 - Coral bleaching and fish kills
 - Evaluation of response
 - Were you prepared?
 - Did the climate information help?
 - What more is needed (tailored outputs)?
 - What are the lessons learned?

Day 2 Theme “Looking forward and preparing”

- Presentation on the forecast for the coming wet season (possible La Nina)
 - Whole Pacific region (SSTs, winds, temps, rainfall)
 - Previous La Ninas
- Presentation on current Tropical Cyclone outlook
- Break out into country groups
 - Go through national climate outlook and ENSO guidance
 - Think about possible impacts and key messages
 - Design (or refine) the communications process
 - Think about monitoring
 - Regular climate updates
 - What impact data can be monitored?
 - What indicators can be used to set Watches/Warnings?
 - What are the actions for each level?
 - Plan how you will evaluate the process
 - Can you do any sort of cost/benefit (or qualitative assessment)?
- Presentations back from selected countries
- Plenary discussion on key next steps
- PICO-2 Statement on “Impacts and lessons learned from the 2015/16 El Nino for Climate/DRRDM and outlook and preparations for the 2016/17 La Nina”