

Third Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-3)

20-23 July 2015
Nuku'alofa
The Kingdom of Tonga

Agenda Item 6.3: Climate and Oceans Support Program for the Pacific (BoM)

Purpose

1. To Inform the Council of the Transition Strategy for 2016 - 2017, and the Work Plan for 2015 - 2016 for Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific.

Background

2. The Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) is funded by the Australian Government (DFAT) aid budget and implemented by the Bureau of Meteorology. COSPPac aims are to enhance the capacity of Pacific Islands to manage and mitigate the impacts of climate variability and tidal events. It has a large focus on seasonal forecasting, sea level monitoring and capacity building. It was initially a four year program with a total budget of \$31.5M, scheduled to be completed by June 2016.

The program is being implemented in fourteen Pacific Island Countries (PIC) in partnership with Geoscience Australia (GA) and the Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC).

Fourteen participating PICs are Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Update

3. DFAT has advised that COSPPac's budget will be reduced from \$7.4 million to \$5.25 million in 2015-16 but will receive a one year extension of \$5M in 2016 - 2017 and hence resulting in an overall increase in budget to approximately \$33.3M. The priority for the final two years of the Program is the transition of COSPPac's products and services to the Pacific regional partners where appropriate and as recommended by the recent independent mid-term review.

During the COSPPac Planning Meeting and the Sixth COSPPac Steering Committee (SC) meeting from 4 - 6 May 2015 in Apia, Samoa, the members endorsed the COSPPac Transition Strategy and the draft Work Plan for 2015 - 2016. A successful transitioning of COSPPac products and services to relevant regional agencies was the key focus and recommendation of the SC meeting. The meeting recommended individual transition plans be drafted and presented at the next Steering Committee meeting from 19-20 October 2015 in Suva Fiji. The meetings will be attended by the representatives from the Bureau, Pacific NMSs, GA, regional organisations Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and SPC), Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council (PGSC) and the University of the South Pacific (USP).

Recommendations

4. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **Note** the changes in the project's objectives and deliverables for the next two years.
 - **Provide any comments on** the COSPPac Transition Strategy and the Work Plan for 2015 - 2016.
 - **Provide support** to assist COSPPac in capacity building of Pacific NMSs and regional organisations and also in the successful transition of products and services into the Pacific.

Attachments

- 1: COSPPac Transition Strategy
- 2: COSPPac Annual Work Plan for 2015 - 2016

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