

Structure, role and functions of the Pacific Meteorology Council

The below briefly describes the formation, core role and functions of, and the type of secretariat support to be given to, the Pacific Meteorology Council. Should the Council's establishment be endorsed, it shall be integrated and given strong governance linkages to an upcoming revision of the Regional Strategic Action Plan for the Development of Meteorology in the Pacific region to be endorsed by the Pacific Meteorology Council in 2011 and circulated to SPREP Members.

Structure

1. The Pacific Meteorology Council shall be formed under the auspices of the SPREP Meeting. It shall serve as a subsidiary expert body primarily to report to the SPREP Meeting, with a mandate on issues relating to meteorology (including climatology and hydrology) and related issues. It shall also serve as a technical reference body under the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC), primarily in the delivery of PIFACC Principle 3, in particular to provide information, views and endorsement of scientific findings dealing with meteorology, climatology and climate science. The Pacific Meteorology Council shall meet biennially and have SPREP and the WMO serve as its co-facilitators (with the SPREP-WMO partnership framed in an updated MOU).

Membership

2. The Pacific Meteorology Council membership shall comprise the Directors of National Meteorological Services (NMS) of all SPREP Member Countries. Observer status shall be provided to CROP, international agencies, development partners, and donors. Meetings of the Pacific Meteorology Council shall be chaired by the Director from the country hosting the meeting (with hosts and chairs to rotate), and the serving Chair will represent the Council at relevant other meetings as required. A Vice-Chair shall also be appointed to assist the Chair and act in lieu. The Chair and Vice Chair shall both serve intersessionally and work closely with the Secretariat in setting Council meeting agendas and providing Council related reports.

Core role

3. The core role of the Pacific Meteorology Council is to oversee and monitor the progress of meteorology development in the Pacific region in accordance with the vision, goals, governance and guidance of a regional meteorology strategy.

Other functions

4. The Pacific Meteorology Council shall be open in its modalities of operation. While it shall focus in the main on the achievement of its core priority issues, it may also serve as a forum for requesting, endorsing and creating relevant new initiatives to further enhance the development of meteorology.

Reporting

5. The Pacific Meteorology Council is envisioned to have 3 key avenues of reporting: to the annual SPREP Meeting, the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, and the WMO Regional Association V Management Group and RA V sessions. The recent Review of Regional Meteorological Services recommended a direct line of reporting to the Forum Leaders, a recommendation which shall be implemented by approval and endorsement of the SPREP Meeting.

Support

6. The secretariat support shall be provided to the Pacific Meteorology Council by SPREP in partnership with the WMO Pacific Regional Office. This entails logistical planning and implementation of its biennial meetings including working arrangements with the host country, and implementing sustainable financing of Pacific Meteorology Council meetings (such as self-funding of PIC participation), and compilation of Pacific Meteorology Council related reports.

Logical framework of the SPREP Secretariat Pacific Desk

