

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

20-24 July 2015
Nuku'alofa
The Kingdom of Tonga

Agenda Item 16.3: Resources Mobilization - WMO Resources Mobilization and Partnership (WMO)

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to **inform** the Council about:
 - (i) Work of the Office for Resource Mobilization and Development Partnerships at WMO as it relates to Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS); and
 - (ii) Efforts to enhance education and training for Pacific SIDS.

Background

WMO Office for Resources Mobilization and Development Partnership

2. As WMO is a non-resident UN Agency, is less well capacitated to implement country by country projects compared with other development actors (UNDP etc) with strong in-country presence, Resources Mobilization at WMO focuses on project-based activities on specific global and regional priorities identified by members during WMO Congress and Executive Council and Regional Meetings, on demonstration projects with potential for upscaling and replication, on projects opening up new areas of services delivery and on projects piloting innovative technology.

3. Project Governance and Management at WMO consist of the Project Coordination Unit within the Office for Resource Mobilization and Development Partnership, the Project Management Board (senior executives) to enhance delivery of multi-disciplinary projects and donor reporting.

4. Many Pacific Island Countries benefited from the support from the WMO Voluntary Cooperation Programme (WMO-VCP). Pacific Islands region, is in fact one of the WMO regions that availed most of the opportunities for support afforded by the VCP. (see Annex to this paragraph for projects supported over past 4 years).

5. Significant bi-lateral support is being targeted to Hydrometeorological Services in Pacific SIDS under the banner of the VCP also development as evidenced by the reports of the Informal Planning Meeting (IPM) on the VCP. <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/vcp/InformalPlanningMeeting2014.php>).

6. WMO launched a partnership for strengthening weather and climate services in SIDS at the Third International Conference on SIDS (Samoa, September 2014). The new partnership will reinforce the capacity of SIDS to cope with weather-, climate-, and water-related extreme events. It will strengthen preparedness and multi-hazard early warning systems, and improve access to timely and user-friendly weather and climate information. The partnership will seek to do this in a systematic manner, rather than through a series of stand-alone projects. <http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?page=view&type=232&nr=1&menu=1507>

7. In addition WMO co-hosts the the Task Force to coordinate with the Africa-Caribbean-Pacific European Development Fund (ACP-EDF) to finance this programme under the 11th EDF Intra-ACP window.

8. The recent WMO Congress also approved the establishment of a specific Programme for SIDS at WMO (as proposed by Tonga and supported by Pacific SIDS, Aus , NZ and US)

Education and Training for Pacific Island Countries

9. For the Pacific SIDS benefit from their investment in National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) it is necessary for the staff of those services to be educated and trained to meet at least the minimum prescribed WMO qualifications and competencies.

10. There is currently no dedicated training centre or institutions addressing the operational needs of the Pacific SIDS NMHSs. The NMHSs in the Pacific SIDS region are able to access operational meteorological, hydrological and climatological education and training opportunities from Australia, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, the Philippines and the United States of America.

11. Whilst the quality and content of the long term programmes from education and training institutes in these countries are generally high and meet many of the needs of the Pacific SIDS's NMHSs, the costs for airfare, tuition and living expenses can be large, making it difficult to meet the initial and ongoing education and training needs of the Pacific SIDS's NMHSs this way. Under the South-South Cooperation, education and training opportunities are being developed with institutions such as the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) in Barbados but once again costs are high. Some funding to assist the Pacific SIDS's NMHSs access these education and training opportunities are available via donor mechanisms and through the WMO Fellowship Programme but it is not enough to address the expressed needs.

12. Some of the Pacific SIDS's NMHSs have local training capabilities for areas such as observations, and national institutions such as the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), the National University of Samoa (NUS) and Fiji Meteorological Service, and regional institutions such as the University of the South Pacific (USP) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) can address many of the more general education and training needs. The USP is developing some climate, meteorological and oceanographic subjects but these are not specifically tailored to operational services.

13. Online and distance learning covering weather, water and climate topics are becoming more accessible and over time will help to address some of the gaps, particularly in continuing professional development.

14. Many donor funded projects include support for implementation training but it is generally not ongoing and as staff move on the acquired skills are lost.

15. Two possible options:

- (a) no change from the current arrangements with the attendant risks and lost opportunities; and
- (b) further encourage the discussions between USP, UPNG, NUS, Fiji Meteorological Service, the Pacific SIDS's NMHSs and SPREP to propose a WMO Regional Training Centre (either central or distributed) and funding mechanisms, that could over time address a growing number of the education and training needs of the NMHSs. Such a centre may need to build strategic relationships with similar training institutions in Australia, the Caribbean, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, the Philippines and the United States of America to provide a seamless coverage of topics that it is not possible (at least initially) to provide directly from the Pacific Island Countries institutes.

16. If a WMO Regional Training Centre is to be proposed it is highly recommended that a business case identifying the needs (topic areas, academic or training level, staffing and facilities, projection of student numbers and funding options for at least a five year period) are identified. The CIMH provides one model of how such a centre could work and it demonstrates the advantages of a local institution that directly supports the NMHSs. The Caribbean situation is different to the situation in the Pacific so it may not be appropriate to directly transfer the model but it provides many examples of how a vocational training institution can successfully work with the university sector and regional institutions.

17. If it was decided to propose a WMO Regional Training Centre to the next session of WMO Regional Association V (South-West Pacific) in 2018 it would be necessary to prepare a paper for the session outlining the case for such a centre, who it would serve, how it would complement other regional and WMO institutions and how it would be funded. If approved, the proposal would then go the following WMO Executive Council for their decision. WMO does not provide any direct funding for the running of WMO Regional Training Centres but provides limited support for some staff development, engagement and coordination in education and training development activities and directs fellows to the institution.

18. Some of the relevant documents related to this agenda item are presented below.

- (i) Samoa Pathway;
- (ii) Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030);
- (iii) Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS-WMO);
- (iv) Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy (2012-2021); and
- (v) Draft Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific

Recommendations

19. The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the increasing priority placed on SIDS by WMO for extra-budgetary support; and
- **Consider** how to address the future education and training needs of the Pacific SIDS's NMHSs.

Attachments

- Annex 1 WMO Regional Projects
- Annex 2 WMO VCP Support to Pacific SIDS