

31st SPREP MEETING OF OFFICIALS

5, 6, and 7 September 2023, Apia, Samoa

Agenda item 7.2 – Sustainability of the Pacific Climate Change Centre

Purpose of the paper:

1. To seek Members' endorsement of the PCCC Sustainability Plan for Capacity Building and the Partnership Frameworks for Knowledge Brokerage, Science to Services and Research and Innovation.
2. To encourage commitment of Members and Partners in strengthening the services of the Pacific Climate Change Centre through investment in the PCCC Partnership Frameworks.

Background:

3. The Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) was established in 2019 and is now in its third year of operation. The PCCC is uniquely placed as the Regional Centre of Excellence for brokering knowledge, research, innovation, capacity building, learning, and training on climate change. It is a shared regional asset belonging to the people of the Pacific with the support of development partners committed to the resilient development of Pacific Island countries and territories.
4. The Pacific Climate Change Centre is in its 3rd year of operation. The PCCC continues to bring many broader benefits to the region. More specifically on:
 1. **Knowledge brokerage:** Building relationships between the producers and users of climate change knowledge so that Pacific Governments and other decision-makers receive timely, robust information in user-friendly formats.
 2. **Applied research:** The PCCC hosts research projects that are designed to address specific research objectives and priorities identified in the region and which lead to practical outcomes for the Pacific.
 3. **Capacity building through training and learning:** The PCCC is a one-stop-shop for the improved coordination of climate change training and to help the region to more effectively learn from climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts to date.
 4. **Innovation:** The PCCC supports the development of innovative products and services which can increase resilience in the Pacific.
5. The Government of New Zealand is the major donor of the PCCC for staffing support since 2019. The current grant funding will come to an end in June 2024.
6. In 2022, the Government of Australia through the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade made an investment of AUD\$5m to further operationalise and strengthen the key functions of the PCCC. Key operational activities have since being implemented under DFAT.
7. The Government of Japan in partnership with the Government of Samoa provides technical cooperation projects for Capacity Building since 2019-2022 and further investment for capacity building from September 2023-2026.
8. The development and ongoing management of partnerships are critical for the effectiveness and sustainability of the PCCC. The Pacific Climate Change Centre Sustainability Plan for its

Capacity Building function and the Partnership Frameworks for Knowledge Brokerage, Research, and Innovation are essential for the sustainability of the Centre. Each of the frameworks was socialised and developed through 4 key regional meetings based on the recommendation from the PCCC Advisory Board. These Frameworks will guide and determine the strategic directions for these key functions, and respective activities, and mobilize resources needed for the PCCC to deliver on its mandate.

9. The visions of the frameworks are:

- 1) **Knowledge Brokerage:** The Pacific Governments and Stakeholders receive timely and robust information in user-friendly formats for low-emission and climate-resilient development.
- 2) **Science to Services and Research:** Enhanced Climate Research Partnerships for Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICT)
- 3) **Capacity Building:** Improve skills and expertise within the region through the training provided by the PCCC.
- 4) **Innovation:** PICTs Access Innovative CC Solutions that are Cost-effective, Applicable and Relevant to build Climate Change Resilience and Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change

10. The frameworks are developed to align with Regional and National Priorities as well as the PCCC Governance and the Strategy and Business Plan. Each framework has a process for the incubation of the Partnership initiatives, engagement process, monitoring and evaluation and learning.

11. Despite the growing interest in the work of the PCCC one of the major challenges is the lack of long-term support and commitment for the work of the Centre. Securing long-term investments through the Partnership Frameworks will allow PCCC to make important contributions to the delivery of regional and global policies and agreements. The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific provided ambitious targets which bring together adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk management objectives. The key functions of the PCCC can act as catalysts to fill the gaps in evidence; enhancing the capacity of Members to contribute to both national and regional outcomes through training and improved access to information; enhance and strengthen climate change science to services; support access to innovative solutions for resilience; and building partnerships that are inclusive of the private sector and civil society.

Refer WP7.2/Att1, WP7.2/Att.2, WP 7.2/Att.3 for details.

Recommendation:

12. The Meeting is invited to:

- 1) **Endorse** the Sustainability Plan for Capacity Building and the Partnership Frameworks for Knowledge Brokerage, Science to Services and Research and Innovation; and
- 2) **Encourage** Members and Partners to commit strengthening the services of the Pacific Climate Change Centre through investment in the PCCC Partnership Frameworks.

8 Jun 2023