

Twenty Seventh SPREP Meeting of Officials

Alofi, Niue

19 – 21 September 2016

Agenda Item 10.1: Items Proposed by Members:

Regional Hydrology Programme

(Paper presented by the Samoa)



Background Paper

Purpose

1. To discuss and agree on the establishment of a Regional Hydrology Programme and institutional support within the SPREP.

Background

2. The First Pacific Ministerial Meeting for Meteorology (PMMM-1) and Third Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-3) called for *"REQUEST support from SPREP, Pacific Community (SPC), University of the South Pacific (USP) and other regional organisations and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to improve the capacity of National Hydrological Services (NHSs) in the region to ensure adequate level of service delivery in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) for flood and flash flood forecasting and early warnings; and CALL for further collaboration between WMO, SPREP and SPC to increase operational hydrology as part of the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP)"*.
3. The PMC-3 noted concern in the lack of progress made on recommendations of PMC-2 on hydrological services and call on PMC and partners with assistance from SPREP and SPC to urgently address these recommendations;
 - a. Note Fiji's recent successful transferred of the mandate for flood forecasting to Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS) which has improved service delivery and encourage other National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to adopt similar best practices to reduce the considerable risks faced by flooding;
 - b. Request SPREP to closely monitor progress on recommendations regarding hydrological services and report to PMC; and
 - c. Encourage SPREP to collaborate and draw on the SPC and other partners' expertise in hydrological services, as needed.
4. At the global level, WMO through its Climate and Water (CLW) Department provide operational support in the area of hydrology to its Members.
5. At the Regional Level, SPC Geoscience Programme houses a Water and Sanitation programme that focuses on capacity building, advocacy and awareness in sustainable water management for Pacific Island Countries (PICs). However, operational hydrology priorities in the region are not adequately addressed since the Pacific Hydrological Cycle Observation System (HYCOS) project came to an end.
6. The PMDP which is a partnership between SPREP, WMO and other partners has been effectively coordinating support to PICs' NMSs under the guidance of PMC and PMMM. There have been great advances in the NMSs' works in the region and NHSs still lacking behind.
7. Samoa believes that SPREP to expand its mandate to support National Hydrological Services in the region and not to overlap with water resources management mandates of SPC, will increase service delivery and support to SPREP members.
8. Samoa is requesting that a Regional Hydrology Programme be established at SPREP. This will align regional programme and institutional support with global initiatives and programmes.

Recommendation

9. The Meeting is invited to:

- **endorse** the request from Samoa;
- **recommend** that the SPREP and SPC work out the details for ensuring that there is a clear demarcation of mandates; and
- **commend** SPREP and SPC for their partnership, and request them to continue and strengthen their collaboration and partnership in cross cutting issues such as meteorological and hydrological services.

3 September, 2016