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The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Twenty Seventh SPREP Meeting of Officials

Alofi, Niue
19 – 21 September 2016

Agenda Item 9.2.1: Outcomes of the Finland-Pacific Project on Reducing Vulnerability in PICs (FINPAC)

Purpose

1. To update Members on the outcomes of and share lessons learnt from the implementation of the FINPAC Project.

Background

2. The FINPAC Project is a partnership between SPREP and the Government of Finland supporting Pacific communities to reduce their vulnerabilities to the effects of climate change through improved National Meteorological Services (NMS). The four-year project covers 14 countries[1] based on the growing needs of Pacific communities to prepare and respond to the changing weather patterns and climate trends. The project's focus is on providing NMS with the capacity and tools to accurately provide weather and climate services in a timely manner to support community adaptation planning and disaster risk reduction.

3. The project is delivered through a two-pronged approach. The first component was led by the Finnish Meteorological Institute and focuses on building the technical capacity of the NMS through the introduction of new forecasting and weather warning visualisation tools. The second component was led by SPREP Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership also to build the capacity of NMS to deliver accurate, timely, and easy to understand information for decision making. This is achieved through partnerships between NMS and Red Cross, National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) and the media.

4. The project comes to an end in December 2016.

5. The key outcomes of the project include the following:

   Component 1:

   - Establishment of the Pacific roving internal Quality Management Services auditing team of experts from NMS.
   - Improved Pacific response to the Global Framework of Climate Services through the documentation of lessons learnt and good practices in the development of climate services for a Pacific Climate Services Compendium.
   - Improved quality of forecasting services through the introduction of new forecasting and weather warning visualisation tools namely the SmartMet and the SmartAlert in the NMS of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

[1] including Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

- Enhanced aviation safety at Hanan airport, through the provision of a new iSTAR Automatic Weather Station for Niue.
- Improved availability of weather and climate data in the Pacific through the provision of weather and climate stations to NMS.

Component Two

- Enhanced community resilience through Community Climate and Disaster Resilience Plans developed in pilot villages complemented by village awareness training programmes and small scale community early warning and disaster risk reduction pilot projects.
- Improved visibility of the Pacific NMS through the successful hosting of the third Pacific Meteorological Council Meeting (PMC-3) and the first Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology in Nuku'alofa in 2015 with leaders endorsing the Nuku'alofa Declaration outlining priorities for the development of meteorology in the Pacific.
- Strengthened collaboration between NMS and the media and improved communication skills of NMS staff achieved through practical, tailored national media and communication trainings.
- Raised visibility on the promotion of gender specifically the promotion of Meteorology as a career in young women across the Pacific.

Lessons Learnt:

- Internet infrastructure in the Pacific is a key factor in the success of meteorological services, given most tools are online.
- Effective communication of weather, climate and early warning services is a gap that requires continued commitment from NMS and support from SPREP and partners.
- Partnerships between the NMS and the media need to be strengthened to ensure that communities receive simple, clear, timely and accessible weather, climate and early warning information for decision making.
- The tri-lateral partnership between NMS, NDMO and Red Cross has proven to be a successful model for the delivery similar projects of this nature in the future.

Recommendation

6. The Meeting is invited to:

   - **note with appreciation** the Government of Finland financial and technical support to the Pacific, the NMS and partners;
   - **note** the outcomes of the FINPAC Project; and
   - **encourage** SPREP to explore opportunities through a new project proposal to the GCF or other donors to replicate the lessons learnt and address the gaps from the FINPAC Project.

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2 September, 2016