



Pacific Island Climate Services Forum: Partners Meeting, January 25, 2013

A Pacific Climate Services Forum is being convened at the University of the South Pacific, in Suva, Fiji, January 21-25, 2013 by the Pacific Centre for the Environment and Sustainable Development, PACE-SD, and Pacific Climate Information Services, PaCIS. The forum is funded by the US Department of State, Australian AID Future Climate Leaders Program, the University of the South Pacific EU Global Climate Change Alliance (USP EU-GCCA) program, and US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administrations (NOAA) through USAID.

Objective: The forum will engage climate experts in a dialogue and share information with resource and disaster risk managers, community planners and other decision makers, the EU GCCA in country coordinators, meteorological service representatives, postgraduate students, and the greater climate services community. The Forum will be organized around three components; a Training, Workshop, and Partners Meeting.

The one-day Partners meeting will follow the workshop. It will bring together program and project managers from government ministries and non-government organizations in the region to:

- investigate organizational structures and functions that already exist in the region to support climate services, consistent with the WMO Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS); and
- considering user requirements and user feedback, evaluate the outcomes of the Workshop and begin to place ongoing and planned projects and activities in a GFCS context as a means to minimize gaps and overlaps and thereby harmonize the development and delivery of new or improved products and services that meet the needs of local, national, and regional decision-makers for actionable information.

Background: The Pacific Regional Meteorological Services Directors Workshop in Support of Climate Adaptation Planning in the Pacific Islands held Majuro, Marshall Islands - August 8, 2011 called for further investigation on organizational structures and functions at the regional level to support climate services consistent with the GFCS, to minimize gaps and overlaps, and to align climate service activities that already exist in the region. This is consistent with WMO RA V Resolution 2 (XV-RA V) "Establishment of Regional Climate Centres" which calls for an assessment of current RCC functions that occur within the region and a subsequent gap analysis. Such a gap analysis is to be placed within the GFCS framework which identifies the following priority areas: Agriculture and Food Security; Disaster Risk Reduction; Health; and Water Resources, and also the following functional components: User Interface Platform; Climate Services Information System; Observations and Monitoring; Research, Modeling, and Prediction; Capacity Building.

Outcome: Mechanisms and methods for communication, coordination, and collaboration directed towards the transformation of climate-related information into actionable knowledge (e.g., nurturing essential partnerships, conducting shared assessments, aligning complementary interests and activities, sponsoring joint projects, and leveraging funding) in a way that minimizes duplication of effort, maximizes the use of agency resources in the Pacific, and fosters the growth of a regional culture of cooperation.

