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1. Executive Summary

Weather and climate are major factors for the well-being and development of Pacific Island communities, impacting all sectors from individual lives to national economies. Pacific communities have flourished by adapting to and taking advantage of current weather and climate conditions. However, the interaction between weather, climate and Pacific communities is complex and has high impact. Considering the likelihood of more intense weather and climate events due to climate variability and change, and coupled with Pacific Islands enhanced vulnerability to weather, climate and related hazards, fatalities and economic losses are likely to continue to rise. Since current capabilities within Pacific Islands NMSs are not able to provide adequate weather and climate services to adequately meet Pacific communities' expectations, a new Pacific Island regional mechanism is urgently needed to develop capacity and advance the sustainability of weather and climate services in Pacific Islands. We propose the establishment of a **Pacific Weather and Climate Services Desk** (aka "The Pacific Desk") to address this urgent need.

The Pacific Desk would serve as the regional weather and climate services coordination mechanism managed by the SPREP Secretariat to deliver a regionally coordinated effort to service SPREP Members needs for capacity development, reporting, and governance in the area of weather and climate services. Additionally it will contribute to fulfilling SPREP's strategic goals under Climate Change related to improving capacity, knowledge, and understanding of climate variability and change and risk reduction. The Pacific Desk would comprised of two core components;

i. a Secretariat based component - an arrangement of Secretariat resources (staffing) and dedicated Pacific Desk resources .
ii. a Partners' Consortium component - the arrangement of technical partner agencies to the Pacific Desk and includes the organization of their related activities and outputs (note that donor partners are included elsewhere in a governance role rather than in this arrangement).

The total project cost is US$1.8 million (over 3 years).

The overall relationship and overview is illustrated below, with further discussion of the interaction with the SPREP Members, Pacific Meteorology Council and NMS in the following chapters.

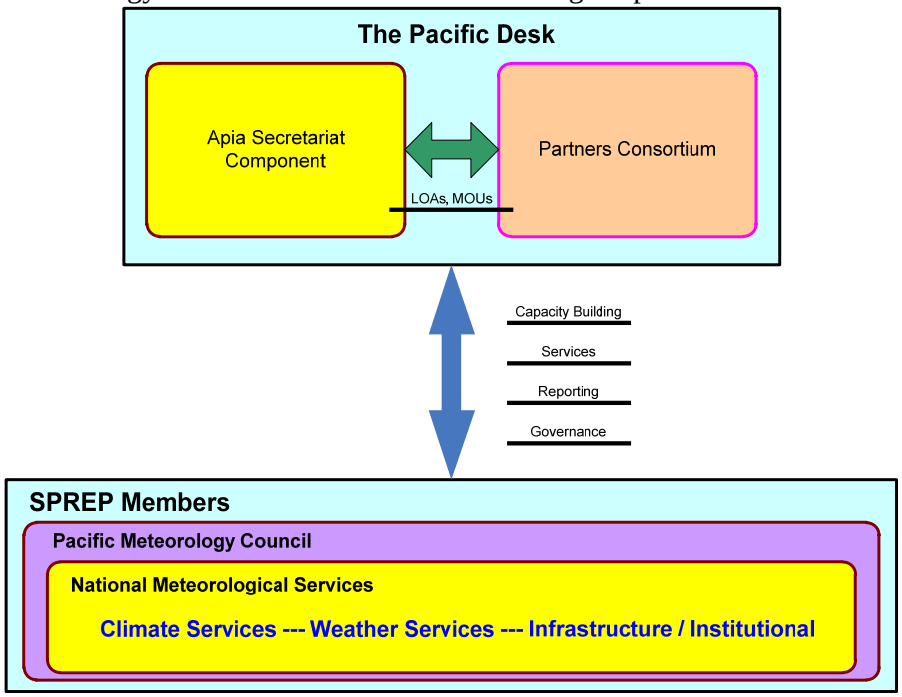


Figure 1. Illustration and overview of the Pacific Desk and its two core components) and its linkage to the SPREP Members in delivering on capacity building, services, reporting and governance in the area of meteorology and climatology. Note that donors to the Pacific Desk arrangement are reported to under the annual (SPREP Council or Pacific Meteorology Council Meeting) reporting process.]

2. Background

The emergence of climate change as one of the defining political and environmental challenges facing SPREP members in the early 1980s was one of the key drivers for setting up SPREP as an autonomous regional organization in 1992. SPREP was mandated to assist its member understand the science of and formulate response policies and measures to climate change.

While the progress the region has made to date on addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation agendas since the 1990s is well established, a notable area which has not been adequately addressed is the support and commitment by SPREP members, intergovernmental agencies and development partners to sustain, maintain and advance National Meteorological Services (NMS) operations that are fundamental to understanding and responding to current weather and climate conditions and climate change.

NMSs are the specialised services in weather, climate, water and related environmental issues. They provide expertise in weather and climate services (weather and climate monitoring, forecasting and seasonal predictions in particular) and so have a vital and crucial role in the provision of policy relevant advise to policy makers working on climate change, climate variability, extreme weather, and disaster management related issues. In early SPREP climate change projects (noticeably Pacific Islands Climate Change Adaptation Project (PICCAP), South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project (SLCMP) circa late 1990s) NMSs were seen as technical and scientific experts on climate change science at the national and regional levels. However, experience over time has shown NMSs have increasingly been called upon to provide advice on climate change related issues which are often outside of their normal day to day operations while financial and human resources remains static and in some countries suffer continual budget cuts which have led to deterioration and deficiencies in the quality of the core weather and climate services they provide. A landmark early report[1] in 1991 assessing meteorological services and their long term support of climate change adaptation in the region, raised concern of the generally poor state of Pacific based meteorological observation sites that were crucial to understanding climate change and monitoring of the Pacific climate system. These concerns resulted in the early efforts to establish a regional coordination mechanism or support system for NMSs.

This was the beginning of SPREP's involvement with weather and climate support for the region. The first dedicated position deployed by the Secretariat was the Meteorological/Climatological Officer (MCO) position, which the Commonwealth Secretariat funded for a 3 year period (1993 – 1996). This position was designed at the time primarily to support the annual Regional Meteorological Services Directors (RMSD) meetings recommended by the Paradise report and endorsed by the SPREP Council in 1992. The MCO main responsibility was to act as a Secretariat for the RMSD with support from Pacific Islands and a range of development partners such as Australia, New Zealand, the USA, France and World Meteorological Organization (WMO). In 1997, the SPREP RMSD agreed to give SPREP the regional mandate to coordinate regional meteorological services (weather and climate). A key output of this early regional partnership addressing the region's concern was the development of the Strategic Action Plan for the Development of Meteorology (SPDM) 2000-2009 in 1999[2]. The SPDM called for a comprehensive needs analysis of each Pacific Islands NMS. This was completed in 2000 under the Project "Pacific Meteorological Services Needs Analysis" (PMSNAP)[3]. Both the SDPM and the PMSNAP have played key roles in identifying priority need areas of Pacific Islands NMSs, and have provided a way forward for raising awareness of the regional need for support in weather and climate services.

3. Goal and Objectives

The goal of the Pacific Desk is to *improve regional coordination and advancing and sustaining the delivery of weather, climate and related services* for the protection of life and property of Pacific island communities and fulfilling SPREP members' international and regional obligations under international agreements and conventions, in particular, the UNFCCC, GFCS, WMO Convention, and the Pacific Plan.

[1] Brook, R.R, et al., (December 1991); The Changing Climate in Paradise. Feasibility Study on Climate
Monitoring and Impacts in the South West Pacific, Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories, Published by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne, Australia, 145 pp.

[2] Strategic Action Plan for the Development of Meteorology (SPDM), 1999; WMO, SPREP publication, Published by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Melbournem, Australia

[3] Ram, K'., et al., (2000), Pacific Meteorological Services; Meeting the Challenges, SPREP report

SPREP's interest in providing weather and climate services support for NMSs is in part due to its historical inheritance of this work area, and its role over time relating to weather and climate services capacity development. An additional and core rationale also for the SPREP Secretariat to undertake this role is the view that improving ~~the~~ understanding of current and past states of weather and climate is the key to understanding future changes and related extremes, in turn improving decision making about future climate change adaptation, and disaster management and risk reduction actions.

An impetus behind the establishment of the Pacific Desk for the Secretariat is that the Pacific Desk forms an implemented institutional response to a core recommendation of the 2009-2010 Review of Regional Meteorological Services, which advocated strongly for a regional entity to lead the effort for ~~on~~ effective regional coordination for meteorological and climate services and support via the establishment of such a Desk. The Secretariat's advantage point in requesting this function has been its aforementioned historical role, and its annual SPREP Meeting reporting mechanisms, which were key considerations for automatic endorsement at the Forum Leaders level (SIS, 2010) and by the 21st SPREP Meeting, to both form and host the Pacific Desk.

The 2009-2010 Review of Regional Meteorological Services recommended the establishment of the Pacific Desk to provide a permanent regional mechanism coordinating weather and climate services, to assist in mobilizing resources for weather and climate services and to improve donor liaison and coordination. The Secretariat views the Pacific Desk as a way forward to meet the challenges and recommendations of the Review in the following areas:

a. Regional Coordination and Support
    i Regional Desk
    ii Donor/Aid Surety of Support
    iii Donor/Development Forum
b. Strengthening National Weather and Climate Services
    i Raising the profile of NMS
    ii Integration and linkages
c. Regional Weather and Climate Services
    i Constitution of Fiji Meteorological Services/RSMC Nadi
    ii Fiji Government support to FMS
    iii Development and partner support to FMS
    iv Pacific Islands Forum Leaders – Call for Annual Report on Meteorological Capacity
    v FMS – Specifying services to other PICTs

(The details of these identified areas can be found in the Review's final report).

4. Problem Assessment

This problem assessment refers solely to the Pacific Desk. A number of policy papers and reports relating to meteorological developments in the region are reproduced in the Annex to this proposal. For the purposes of this proposal this section discusses the concept of the Pacific Desk and its makeup within the Secretariat.

3.1 Internal Secretariat leadership

An initial problem that has been with the Secretariat for well over a decade has been the issue of providing a dedicated organization and positions to oversee regional coordination of weather and climate services programmes and activities. The first position set up by the Secretariat was the Meteorological/Climatological Officer (MCO) position, funded by the Commonwealth Secretariat from 1993 to 1996. This position was designed at the time to service the Regional Meteorological Services Directors (RMSD) meetings as discussed above. The MCO was the sole staff (Programme Officer) within the SPREP Secretariat that supported the RMSD in its regional coordination, collaboration and cooperative work with technical partner agencies such as the World Meteorological Organization (the WMO Subregional Office of the Southwest Pacific being co-located within SPREP for this reason). The MCO, once it was vacated in 1996, was never filled, and duties were relegated to part time status over the years, being carried out sub-optimally by successive extra-budgetary project officers with related but full time programmes within the Secretariat - the US Department of Energy ~~OE~~ Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Programme in the Tropical Western Pacific (US DOE ARM TWP) and Pacific Islands – Global Climate Observing System (PI-GCOS). The former was fully

funded by the US DOE ARM TWP to assist with the establishment of Climate Atmospheric Research Test Beds (CARTs) across the TWP and the latter funded by US GCOS Program at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Climatic Data Center. The lack of a full-time MCO with complete focus on the needs of regional meteorological services has been a detriment to those regional services as well as to the extra-budgetary programmes.

An immediate need to establish the Pacific Desk is the deployment of a capacity position called the Meteorology and Climate Services Adviser (MeCA) for leadership and logical alignment of Pacific Desk staffing positions and resources.

3.2 Regional coordination mechanism

In the past decade, capacity building efforts in the Pacific for meteorological services have been at best loosely coordinated via the RMSD meeting. The Secretariat, while the primary organizer of the RMSD, has not had a dedicated position over ~~in~~ the past ten years to adequately support coordination of RMSD outcomes and thus outcomes were led by other institutions through their own support programmes. Developed SPREP member countries (USA, NZ, and Australia) have largely developed their own assistance programmes that at times clashed and duplicated efforts. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) also has provided a framework for coordination which currently has limited traction due to its providing a single WMO officer with limited and sometimes conflicting resources provided from the WMO Secretariat in Geneva to support the Officer's work the Pacific region (as well as not catering for the full Pacific membership of SPREP, some of whom are non-members of WMO). The Review noted the positive role of the RMSD and the potential that this collective could have in terms of leading on technical matters relating to meteorology. However in order to achieve the improvement of the RMSD, it is recognized that there needs to be a reconstitution of its own roles, functions and modalities of operation. In this regard, the SPREP Secretariat has sought and gained endorsement of the 21st SPREP Meeting to affect this reform via the establishment of the Pacific Meteorological Community (see Annex I).

3.3 Context of existing arrangements and roles

The Pacific Desk will operate as part of the Secretariat's core work programme and reporting mechanisms. That is, it will have an internal reporting structure within the overall SPREP corporate structure, while also servicing the reporting requirements of the Secretariat to its Members. This means having its own annual Work Programme and Budget (WP&B) and provide an annual reporting of its activities through the Performance Management and Evaluation Report (PMER). The dedicated positions will be reflected in a logical corporate structure showing a vertical reporting for the MeCA and subordinate positions, and horizontal collaborative effort across this and other thematic work areas.

As illustrated in Figure 1, there is also an emergent need to consider an arrangement of the interaction between the SPREP Secretariat component and the Partners Consortium. A reporting and accountability relationship will need to be established here as well and will be based upon individual MOUs.

The suggested solutions are posited in the next section.

5. Concept Solutions and a Framework Approach

Part 1. A framework approach

The Secretariat requires an internal arrangement of existing resources (and a plan for key new ones) in seeking an improvement of the meteorological and climatological services work area. The challenge is in having a framework approach improve on the current level of support, and be encompassing and robust enough to sustain a ten year strategic plan of support. In this vein, the approach is to focus on the core *structure* of national meteorological and climate services and then strategically position resources around that structure. The framework approach is illustrated and described below.

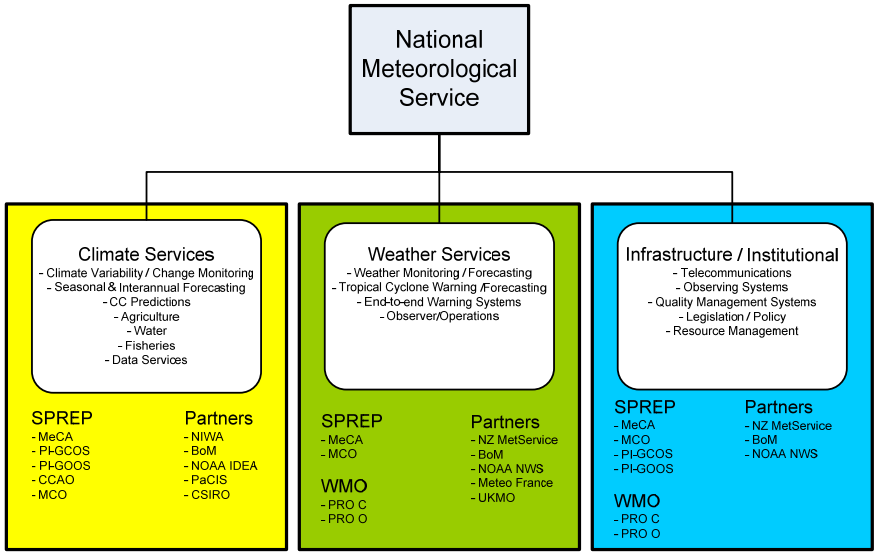


Figure 2: Layout of a national meteorological service core structure

Illustrated in Figure 2, a meteorological service is typically composed of 3 core thematic components:

i. Climate services component;
ii. Weather services component (and sometimes hydrological); and an,
iii. Infrastructure and Institutional component (interrelated constituents which provide the support framework for the other two components to operate).

Utilizing this core view allows an approach for the SPREP Secretariat (and the WMO Office for the Pacific as a key partner) to focus on where to cast *existing* and *future resources*. This framework allows for flexibility and allows in particular the Consortium component of the Pacific Desk to be distributed amongst these three accordingly at any particular stage, and at their preference of area of expertise. A brief description of each of these components is provided below.

Climate Services

The Climate Services thematic component deals with climate focused works and include (non-exhaustively) climate variability and change monitoring, seasonal and interannual climate forecasting, climate change predictions (related to IPCC etc.), and sectoral services to agriculture, water and health to name a few. For the SPREP Secretariat, the Climate Services has existing resources ready to be assigned to it, namely the PI-GCOS and PI-GOOS (Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing Systems) programmes. Partners such as NIWA (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research), NOAA IDEA (Integrated Data and Environmental Applications) Center, East West Center, PaCIS (Pacific Climate Information System), Bureau of Meteorology's PCCSP (Pacific Climate Change Science Program) and SLCMP (South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project) could be aligned here as well.

Economic and social activities are strongly affected by the climate and climate information is widely used in planning in many sectors. The climate of a locality is foundational to the daily life, economic activities and social and cultural attributes found there. Rainfall provides water for agriculture and industry; warm conditions accelerate plant growth and fruit setting; wind, rain and temperature dictate the design of houses. On the negative side of the ledger, prolonged drought, or flooding rains bring insecurity and sometimes death and destruction. The weather and climate of places are thus of considerable interest to most people. Climate knowledge and data, from both modern and indigenous sources, are widely used for a variety of purposes such as, for example, organizing agricultural activities, preventing infectious disease outbreaks, designing water supply systems and drains and choosing tourist destinations. The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) that is an outgrowth of the 3rd World Climate Conference in 2009, and that is being led by the WMO, recognizes the close linkages between how society functions, especially in a fragile environment such as the Pacific, and will require dedicated regional resources to ensure that the GFCS is beneficial to the Pacific Islands region.

Weather Services

The Weather Services thematic component deals with weather focused works and include (non-exhaustively) weather monitoring and forecasting, tropical cyclone warnings and forecasting, end-to-end

warning systems, and observer operations requirements. The WMO OOP (Office of the Pacific) has agreed that supporting efforts under the Weather Services theme lie more within the WMO domain and would feature strongly in the Pacific Desk support role. From the Secretariat, the MeCA and the MCO would contribute accordingly. Partners such as NZ MetService, Bureau of Meteorology, NOAA National Weather Service, Fiji Meteorological Service/RSMC Nadi, Meteo France, Finnish Meteorological Institute, could all be aligned here also.

Infrastructure/Institutional

This final important component deals with a diverse range of themes from actual physical infrastructure involving telecommunications and observing systems support including hardware equipment and software systems, to the more institutional focused support through items such as legislation and policy drafting assistance, implementation of quality management systems, and training in resource management for Directors and senior officers (proposal writing, bilateral projects development etc.). Other training regional training capacity building efforts (e.g. training efforts like the US Pacific International Training Desk under the auspices of WMO) would fall under this component. Within this thematic component the MeCA and the WMO OOP will work closely to co-lead regional coordination efforts here. The named partners above will also have presence and contributions in this area as well as it will be asked of all to consider supporting services for projects that may be added to the Climate Services and Weather Services components. It is noted that this particular component highlights and deals with the issue of the *sustainability* of the improvement of capacity delivered to NMS i.e. efforts delivered in either Climate or Weather Services components will require some thought as to what infrastructural and institutional impacts will be borne upon the NMS.

Part 2: Addressing the identified challenges

Long term deployment of key positions and programmes internally at SPREP

The MeCA is a key position that will play three main roles:

- providing internal leadership for the Pacific Desk at the Secretariat
- the key interface role with the Partnership Consortium,
- lead on overall reporting of the Pacific Desk

Internally, a logical (virtual) association of positions and resources will make up the Pacific Desk support. It is envisioned that existing resources such as the PI-GCOS Officer, the PI-GOOS Coordinator, and the CCAO position will provide services and support to the Pacific Desk, with a fourth tentative proposed position to be added as well (the Meteorology Climatology Officer, MCO). This is illustrated below.

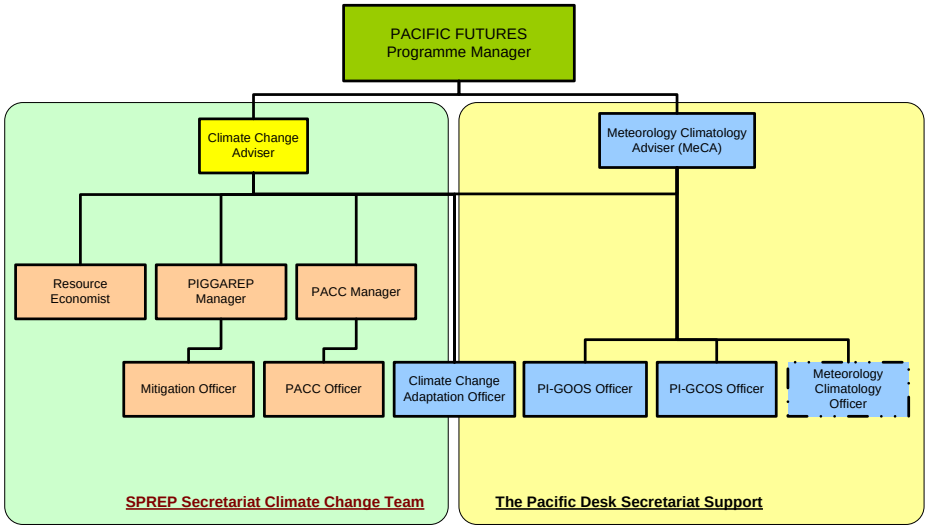


Figure 3. The logical structural arrangement of the Pacific Desk position and resources within the Climate Change Division at SPREP.

6. Operational Overview

The premise of the Pacific Desk is driven by the core recommendations of the Review to strengthen regional coordination on capacity building efforts targeting the NMS collectively. As described earlier (ref. Figure 1), the Pacific Desk has two key components, the Apia based Secretariats of SPREP and WMO, and the collective technical agencies under the Partners Consortium. Together these make up the Pacific Desk that then utilizes SPREP's reporting and governance mechanisms of the SPREP Meeting and the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) to ensure that the meteorology support work area is progressed.

While the SPREP Secretariat might not have the technical capacity to service directly the technical needs of the Members (e.g. weather forecasting training), its strength lies in its close coordination with and accountability to SPREP Members and donors in its reporting and governance obligations. This is SPREP's *core* advantage and provides for the Partners Consortium an opportunity and incentive to utilize this high-level governance and reporting mechanism to the Members in order that the efforts are measured in progress and accordingly profiled both at the national and regional levels (even to their *home countries*, where donor funds to these agencies are expended). Connections to other larger thematic areas such as Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Environmental Governance are integral to establishing the Pacific Desk at the Secretariat in that it *adds value* and assists progress in these areas of work, these linkages also being advantageous for coordination of needs of weather and climate expertise where it may be required by these other thematic areas.

Coordination exists on multiple levels in this case between these components and an explanation of what they are, where they lie, and with whom they will be provided by, is discussed below. Refer to Figure 1 for the illustration of this discussion.

6.1 The Apia Secretariat Component

This component is made up of the Secretariats of SPREP and the WMO working in close collaboration, and represents two key coordination elements:

- Overall coordination and leadership of the *entire* Pacific Desk function
- Overall reporting responsibility of the *entire* Pacific Desk function

Coordination required:

- the MeCA and the WMO PROC will lead on developing and preparing the annual work plan of the Pacific Desk, working closely with the Partners Consortium (and their lead representative/counterpart)
- The MeCA will take the lead in coordinating the Partners Consortium, or assisting it to establish a counterpart to work with the MeCA and WMO PROC
- the MeCA and the WMO PROC will also lead on reporting on the annual work plan of the Pacific Desk, working closely with the Partners Consortium (and their lead representative/counterpart) and the Chair of the Pacific Meteorology Council (pending funding availability, the Chair could be asked to travel to SPREP Meetings to present the Pacific Desk report).

6.2 The Partners Consortium

The Partners Consortium refers to the collective of technical expert institutions that will form the key technical expertise that will be delivered to build the capacity of Pacific NMS. Examples of such institutions are given in the previous chapter, where they are streamed into one of the three key components of the concept framework according to their area of support interest (Climate Services, Weather Services, or Infrastructure and Institutional Services components).

The core of the Pacific Desk is in the coordination mechanism that the Secretariat will take lead on via the establishment and execution of the Meteorology and Climatology Adviser (MeCA). This position will be at the crux of the Pacific Desk, providing leadership and management roles internally at the Pacific Desk, and a strong representation of the Pacific Desk to the respective reporting bodies it needs to report to (in this case, the Pacific Meteorology Council and the SPREP Meeting).

7. The Added Value of the Pacific Desk

The benefits to the Pacific Desk are essentially to provide a solution to the issues raised and identified by the Review of Regional Meteorological Services. In short, the improved coordination mechanism offered by the Pacific Desk should see overall a better coordination of capacity building activities and programmes put in place at the national and regional levels, benefiting all SPREP Members. Advantages in utilizing the Pacific Desk strategy include:

- improved highlighting, profiling, and tracking of individual country needs and monitoring of progress
- improved assessment of shared national needs/regional priorities
- improved coordination and making efficient targeted capacity building priorities of Partners Consortium
- matching specific country needs with specific technical expertise of Partners Consortium
- Desk flexibility to expand Partners Consortium where needed to resource expertise required by SPREP Members (e.g. invitation of GCM modeling expert agencies like UKMO, ECMWF)
- SPREP monitoring of regional progress against PIFACC and DRRM frameworks
- Improved visibility of NMS issues at national level and Leaders level
- Incorporation of Regional Strategy will provide regional strategic guide for implementation of needs
- Incorporation of Pacific Meteorology Council to provide high level overview and guidance on implementation of Pacific Desk
- Collective efforts in this coordination could lead to a development of a trust fund to fund needs of PICs

8. Evaluations

8.1 Limitations or Constraints

The identified limitations and constraints include amongst others:

- Sustainable funding of key SPREP Secretariat (and possibly WMO) positions such as the MeCA, MCO
- Partners Consortium may take time to form and agreements to settle between the Secretariat component and technical partner agencies
- Technical partners may still wish to conduct own bilateral approaches as in past
- Access to sufficient operational funding for the work of the Pacific Desk (Secretariat activities and costs)

8.2 Known Risks

Potential risks that the Pacific Desk may have to deal with are:

- Convincing of donors to adopt Pacific Desk approach and to allot new funding stream for this work and funding mechanisms need to work within new programmatic funding approach of SPREP
- Pacific Meteorology Council will be required to have an active role (largely via the Chair), and resources may need to be allotted for this as well
- Project based resources (PI-GOOS, PI-GCOS) have own steering committees which may or may not agree with direction and functions given to it by Pacific Desk, as well as questions of sustainability of these projects over the course of the Pacific Desk lifespan
- The Pacific Desk requires an active partnership with the World Meteorological Organization counterpart office based at SPREP. A lack of resourcing to strengthen this WMO office risks the majority of the work being undertaken solely by the SPREP Secretariat without WMO support.

8.3 Resources Required and Donor/Partner Considerations

An immediate priority to get the Pacific Desk underway is the deployment of the Meteorology and Climatology Adviser (MeCA) position at SPREP. This position, as detailed previously, will be core the leadership and implementation of the Pacific Desk, and is thus seen as a long term position at the Secretariat. The position workload and responsibilities have been cast and approved to be at the Adviser level, requiring thus a salary range of approximately USD$100k to USD$120k for total salary and benefits.

An officer level dedicated position is also required to assist the MeCA in the implementation of activities. This position calls for approximately USD$60k to USD$80k total salary and benefits.

The costs of Secretariat based Pacific Desk activities can be based on activities of previous similar activities carried out by other positions in support of meteorology in the past. These costs are associated at large with programmatic support costs, travel costs, and associated office expenses such as equipment. An approximate cost thus for both the MeCA and MCO positions would be approximately up to USD$100k annually (these include some capital costs such as computers etc.). This

figure includes some consideration for project based resources (e.g. PI-GCOS, PI-GOOS) which should also be allotted some of these resources in undertaking activities of the Pacific Desk where directed.

A total annual cost therefore of approximately US$600,000 is required to operate the Secretariat based component of the Pacific Desk.

Secretariat Item of Pacific Desk	**Estimated Costs (USD)**
MeCA position	120,000
MCO position	80,000
PI-GCOS position	80,000
PI-GOOS position	80,000
MeCA Support costs	60,000
MCO Support costs	40,000
PI-GCOS Support costs	30,000
PI-GOOS Support costs	30,000
Travel Costs	80,000
Total	**600,000**

Table 1. Calculation of approximate costs involved in the Secretariat based component of the Pacific Desk

In assessment of the approximate budget costs, the Secretariat component of the Pacific Desk will obviously need to source and secure additional funding from donors, despite its role being part of SPREP's core business. The bulk of these costs relate to the salary and support components (travel costs, miscellany office costs including hardware), which match Secretariat standards across other similar arrangements of positions and their support costs.

The above calculated approximate costs obviously do not include project type costs for implementation of capacity building activities (e.g. weather/climate forecast training etc.). In this vein, the use of the Pacific Desk arrangement of the Partnership Consortium would see these funds be virtually allocated to Pacific Desk activities, but be largely of in-kind type of funding support which many current partners currently operate on. Of course, agreements and MOUs between the SPREP Pacific Desk component and the individual Partner members may see the agreement on provision and transfer of funds to work that the Secretariat may agree to undertake for the Pacific Desk. This flexibility allows for the Pacific Desk to gain immediate traction (and attraction) for potential technical institutions that may wish to join the Partnership Consortium.

8.4 Governance, Project Management/Responsibility

Governance and project management responsibility of the Pacific Desk exists here on different levels, matching the differing levels of reporting and responsibilities.

In reference to the arrangements of the Pacific Desk (refer to Figure 1), the Secretariat based Pacific Desk component would be led and managed on a daily basis by the MeCA position. The position would have entailed in its terms of references the standard reporting requirements of its role internally within the wider Climate Change Team, and the Pacific Futures Programme. The organization and management of the Partnership Consortium would also be the responsibility of the MeCA through regular coordination, reporting and updating of it. The Partners Consortium would have with the Secretariat an overall agreed annual programme of work which the Partners would monitor jointly with the MeCA-led Secretariat based component.

At the level of the reporting of the entire Pacific Desk effort, the responsibility lies with the SPREP Secretariat with governance provided on two levels, the primary level with the Pacific Meteorology Council (made up of the Directors of Pacific NMS), and at the secondary level with the SPREP Meeting. The Secretariat shall be responsible for organizing the usual standard requirements of meeting and reporting papers and reports, remaining transparent and accountable for all its activities.

8.5 Long Term Sustainability

The long term sustainability of the Pacific Desk will largely be based upon the success of the implementation and leadership of the Secretariat based component of the Desk. Should this component be successful in securing long term funding and donor/partner support, provide attractive incentives for the Partnership Consortium to grow and expand its roles and list of activities in support of national needs identified by NMS, then long term support would be endorsed by the governing structure of the Pacific Meteorology Council and the SPREP Meeting.

The overall guidance of the work of the Pacific Desk will be provided by the Regional Strategy for Meteorological Services 2010-2020, a strategy spanning a ten year programme of implementation of identified national and regional needs. At minimum the Pacific Desk should seek to ensure the successful implementation of the Regional Strategy and arrive at a concluding position at its end where the Pacific Desk evaluation may consider its ongoing need for the region or its cessation of activities.

8.6 Probability of Success

The probability of the success of this approach is dependant obviously on many factors, but in particular the support of partners and donors to agree to join in the process to ensure that the Pacific Desk approach is a cost-effective and value-adding coordination mechanism that efficiently transfers the assistance to the national level the capacity building needs in the area of meteorology and climatology.

There is no small role that the SPREP Secretariat plays in the Pacific Desk function and its consequent successes. SPREP has agreed with its Members that climate change will continue to be a major development concern and issue impacting the lives of Pacific Islanders, and that meteorology development is a core issue relating to building the resilience and identifying adaptation solutions. In this vein, dedication of resources and ensuring a high priority of the Pacific Desk for the Secretariat will also help to ensure successes in areas of where responsibilities and governance comes into play. SPREP has a highly successful mechanism in this respect and this asset will play a major role in the long term success of the Pacific Desk. The Secretariat should also seek to ensure that the Pacific Desk successes are also regularly reported to the highest leadership level in the Forum Leaders, where the Pacific Desk recommendation eventuated and was first endorsed.

END