

Pacific Climate Information System (PaCIS) Implementation Plan and Steering Committee Meeting



The draft PaCIS Implementation Plan, developed in 2010, formed the basis for discussions that were held during a Steering Committee Meeting held on March 22-24, 2011 at the Hawaii Imin International Conference Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. This meeting brought together almost 50 individuals from institutions and programs working in the fields of climate observations, science, assessment, education, outreach, users, and services in the Pacific as well as selected individuals with expertise in similar regional climate science and service programs in other regions. Next steps include:

- Placing the meeting materials (agenda, participant list, presentations, etc.) on a regional website
- Developing a revised draft of the Implementation Plan and circulating it for internal review, external review, and eventual approval by the Steering Committee (SC).
- Drafting amended terms of reference that include the addition of Focus Area Coordination Teams (FACTs) and submitting them to the SC for review and approval.
- Developing materials for a website that include basic outreach materials as well as project and activities summaries; assessment summaries; and program summaries.
- Forming a working group to co-evolve an assessment framework and process that involves the FACTs and includes topical dialogs.
- Commencing work on Specific Actions including:

- Holding a State of the Pacific Climate ‘Forum’, starting with the formation of a working group to establish nature and scope of this activity.
- Cataloging and Synthesizing Rainfall and SLR/Inundation-related products and develop associated guidance materials.
- Creating new or improved products related to seasonal outlooks and/or decadal projections.

Following from above, efforts are underway to more formally establish these Focus Area Coordination Teams (FACTs):

- **Preserving Fresh Water Resources and Minimizing the Impacts of Drought** FACT: Work in this area is being carried in coordination with the Pacific RISA.
- **Fostering Community Resilience to the Impacts of Sea Level Rise (SLR), Inundation, Extreme Weather, and Community Resilience** FACT: Following an Initial gathering in the Fall of 2010 to share information among representatives of agencies, institutions, and organizations with projects and activities in this area, planning is underway among a group consisting of representatives from NCDC Regional Climate Services, NOS CO-OPS, Coastal Storms Program, CSC/PSC, and UH Sea Grant to coordinate activities in this area. One such activity tentatively identified is to bring together experts in the area of sea level rise and related processes, as well as providers of products and tools used to support decision making, to explore our current understanding and reach consensus on the best information and best practices with respect to the development and **application of sea level rise (SLR) scenarios in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands.**
- **Sustaining Marine and Terrestrial Ecosystems** FACT: Planning is underway among representatives from NCDC Regional Climate Services, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program and the DOI’s PICCC to coordinate activities in this area. Specifically, an email will go out next month inviting representatives of agencies, institutions, and organizations with projects and activities in this area to participate in an initial meeting/conference call on May 20 to share information.

More information can be found at: <http://noaclimatepacis.org/steering/>