

## **Building climate services capacity in Pacific Island countries**

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Pacific Islands Countries rely on climate services to alleviate the effects of climate variability and change. Seasonal predictions and related services such as drought monitoring have become an important part of the range of products offered by National Meteorological Services (NMSs). A former AusAID project, Pacific Island Climate Prediction Project (PICPP), was instrumental in developing capacity in the provision of climate services in Pacific Islands during the past eight years. AusAID is now funding PICPP's successor program, the Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac), designed to build on the achievements of PICPP.

Improvements to climate services have been delivered through the use of: an Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF); a state-of-the-art software package called Seasonal Climate Outlooks in Pacific Island Countries (SCOPIIC), designed to run on personal computers; as well as the provision of in-country and regional training for National Meteorological Services. Improved climate services have been shown to positively affect the social and economic well-being of Pacific communities. In this talk, we will present some of the outputs from the Online Climate Outlook Forums, a sample of SCOPIIC analyses, and explain how together they are helping to build Climate Services in Pacific Island Countries.