

Pacific Climate Information System (PaCIS) Focus Area Coordination Team (FACT) Discussions on Focus Area Products and Services Requirements and Opportunities

The Pacific Climate Information System ([PaCIS](#)) is sponsoring a series of discussions with climate experts, resource and disaster risk managers, community planners and other decision makers, as well as representatives of government ministries and other program managers and policy makers about product and services requirements and opportunities that take into account local and regional variation in climate drivers, issues, capacities, and cultures. These discussions build upon previous PaCIS-supported dialogs about climate services – the transformation of climate-related information into actionable knowledge – that took place during the formulation of the [2011 PaCIS implementation plan](#) and more recently during the development of the Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment Report ([PIRCA](#)) and Pacific Islands Climate Services Forum ([PICSE](#)). They are also informed by several needs assessments, both general in nature and specific to the focus areas, which have occurred within the region over the last few years.

The discussions are intended review and provide input toward a document consisting of focus area-specific plans that: 1) describe individual product lines that meet the requirements of unique sets of decision-makers in terms of content, format and timing; and 2) identify synergies with existing efforts and thus opportunities for leveraging and alignment. The document will constitute an update to and refinement of the 2011 PaCIS plan, and serve as a guide to PaCIS product development and delivery activities over the next 12-18 months. As such, it will also serve as a menu of products from which individual Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) can select as part of U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and NOAA efforts to support climate change adaptation in the PSIDS by enhancing scientific and technical capacity. Further, these efforts will establish next steps within the sustained assessment processes embodied in the PIRCA.

Background

PaCIS is composed of representatives of regional, national and local institutions and programs in the Pacific, as well as selected individuals from other regions, with experience and expertise in climate observations, science, assessment, education, outreach, users, and services. PaCIS provides a programmatic framework to bring together ongoing and future climate observations, operational forecasting services and climate projections, research, assessment, data management, outreach, and education – an integrated system of climate services – to address the needs of the Pacific Islands. It also provides a forum for sharing the expertise, experience, and perspective needed to guide integrated program planning and product development.

In 2011 PaCIS developed a plan for regional climate services based on a synthesis of regional information needs from a variety of sources and outcomes of meetings, starting as early as 1999, and culminating in the March 22-24, 2011 PaCIS Steering Committee Meeting. Key elements of that plan include the establishment of the following focus areas associated with climate issues critical to the region as a means to target products and services to unique user needs. These include:

- Preserving Fresh Water Resources and Minimizing the Impacts of Drought
- Fostering Community Resilience to the Impacts of Sea Level Rise (SLR), Coastal Inundation, and Extreme Weather
- Sustaining Marine, Freshwater, and Terrestrial Ecosystems

A Focus Area Coordination Team (FACT) was established for each focus area. The FACTs consist of a mix of and are led by different sets of agency, institution, and organization representatives leading or overseeing projects and activities that fall within a given focus area and across capability areas. As such, the FACTs are the nexus between science and service and play a key role within PaCIS.

NOAA, working through the USAID, has begun a two-year program to support climate change adaptation in the PSIDS by conducting a series of activities to enhance scientific and technical capacity. These activities are designed to strengthen end-to-end climate services and adaptation capabilities by helping NOAA's U.S.-focused PaCIS expand into the broader Pacific. With an emphasis on engagement and consultation between service providers and users, activities to be carried out over the next two years include packaging and dissemination of existing climate-related products and services; development of new or enhanced products and services; and the advancement of sub-regional and in-country training and core capacity-building. The FACT discussions and outcomes identified through these calls are intended to kick-off an extensive round of product and training development based on needs identified by the region and by individual PSIDS.

Anticipated results of these efforts include a significant increase in the capacity of regional, national, and local decision-makers to understand climate impacts and implement adaptation and/or mitigation measures, as well as increase regional coordination and collaboration among programs and partnerships across the Pacific.

Focus Area Discussion Dates and Times – each call will cover the same info with focus on the topic area listed. Please [RSVP](#) to ensure you receive materials to review during the call. Call-in information and reminders will be sent 48 hours before each call.

Preserving Fresh Water Resources and Minimizing the Impacts of Drought
30 July 2013 - 2:00-3:30pm Hawaii Standard Time
8 August 2013 - 10:00-11:30am Hawaii Standard Time

Fostering Community Resilience to the Impacts of Sea Level Rise, Coastal Inundation, and Extreme Weather
30 July 2013 - 10:00-11:30am Hawaii Standard Time
1 August 2013 - 2:00-3:30pm Hawaii Standard Time

Sustaining Marine, Freshwater, and Terrestrial Ecosystems
1 August 2013 - 10:00-11:30am Hawaii Standard Time
8 August 2013 - 2:00-3:30pm Hawaii Standard Time

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