

Evaluation of the Climate and Oceans Support Program for the Pacific MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Initiative Summary

Initiative Name			
AidWorks investment number	INJ488		
Commencement date	1 July 2012	Completion date	30 June 2016 [extended to 30 June 2017]
Total Australian \$	\$31,502,460 [increased to \$33,270,036]		
Total other \$	N/A		
Delivery organisation(s)	Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)		
Implementing partner(s)	Pacific National Meteorological Services, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) GeoScience Division (GSD), Geoscience Australia (GA)		
Countries/Region	Pacific Islands partner countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. (Nauru hosts a tide gauge but has no meteorological service.)		
Primary sector	Climate and sea level monitoring and provision of meteorological services		
Initiative goal and objectives	<p>The goal of the Climate and Oceans Support Program for the Pacific (COSPPac) is that Pacific island countries' National Meteorological Services (NMSs) and other relevant agencies will understand and use climate, oceans and sea level products for the benefit of island communities and governments.</p> <p>The objective is that NMSs and related Pacific government agencies will communicate information (generated by COSPPac products) to target audiences.</p>		

Evaluation Summary

Evaluation Objectives: To assess COSPPac's relevance, efficiency and effectiveness after two years of implementation and make recommendations to improve the activity and identify how support for meteorological services (including climate, oceans and sea level products) can best be provided to the Pacific region during the remaining life of the activity.

Evaluation Completion Date: March 2015

Evaluation Team: Ms Deborah Rhodes (Monitoring and Evaluation Expert and Team Leader), Ms Lesley Hoatson, and Mr Mulipola Ausetalia Titimaea of the Samoa Meteorological Service (nominated representative of Directors of Pacific NMSs).

DFAT's response to the evaluation report

- DFAT commissioned the COSPPac Independent Progress Report (IPR) in 2014-15 to assess relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability after two years of implementation and make recommendations for the remaining life of the program.

- The review had a well-constructed methodology, significant participation from all COSPPac stakeholders and has been endorsed by the COSPPac Steering Committee (comprising DFAT, BoM, Pacific Meteorological Service Directors, GA, SPC, SPREP and Department of Environment).
- DFAT and COSPPac stakeholders broadly agree with the findings and recommendations in the COSPPac IPR.
- Pacific Island Meteorological Service Directors all agree that the products and services provided under COSPPac are of great benefit to them and have improved the dissemination of information to decision-makers and communities.
- COSPPac's work is more relevant now than it was at the time of the design, given social and economic pressures on fragile environments as well as growing awareness of the need for accurate and timely climate and oceans information for planning, policy and decision-making.
- The Program is highly effective in many different ways across 14 partner countries. While it attempts to use a mix of regional and national customised approaches, the IPR found some issues associated with trying to deliver support to suit diverse contexts.
- The role of BoM as managing partner and the relationships developed with all the implementing partners is continually cited as a stand out feature of the COSPPac program.
- There are a number of areas of an administrative nature that could be improved to ensure greater efficiency and effectiveness for the remaining time of the activity.
- The report finds there are many reasons to justify ongoing Australian support for climate and oceans activities and partners in the Pacific Islands region: a combination of national interests (as expressed in the new aid program policy), demand from and commitment to partners as well as Australia's international obligations. While there are clear signs that shifting coordination of support in this sector from Australia to a Pacific Island location should be considered, the report finds a strong partnership connection should be retained with BoM, given its technical resources, history and expertise in the Pacific region.
- The IPR also identified opportunities to transition COSPPac products and services to the Pacific region as capacity increases. New regional structures and activities for weather, climate and oceans are currently being established or planned for the next two years. These include: the Regional Climate Centre (a Japan-funded centre being built at SPREP); the Regional Climate Outlook Forum; and the Regional Meteorological Training Centre (a joint initiative of the Fiji Meteorological Service and University of the South Pacific). In addition, the Pacific Meteorological Council is now established and demonstrating its effectiveness as a specialised subsidiary body of SPREP that coordinates the scientific and technical activities of meteorological services in the Pacific region.
- The University of the South Pacific (USP) plans to establish graduate and post-graduate degree courses in climatology and oceanography with Pacific and international students. It proposes to use COSPPac products in its coursework where relevant.
- DFAT is supportive of this approach and is working with the COSPPac Management Unit and Steering Committee to start the transition of several of COSPPac's products and services over to Pacific partners commencing 1 July 2015. It is recognised that this transition is likely to take longer than one year, so DFAT has agreed to extend COSPPac by one year to 30 June 2017.
- By June 2016, more components will be ready for transition. Integration of these products and services into Pacific organisations demonstrates Australia's commitment to capacity building and, if done well, will help ensure the products and services are sustained for ongoing commercial and community use.
- DFAT recognises that some highly specialised scientific and technical work (mostly in the sea level monitoring project) will still have to be done in Australia. As such there will still be a role for Australian Government agencies, such as BoM and GA.
- The future of the Climate Data for the Environment (CliDE) software was raised as a particular concern to Pacific Island NMSs. DFAT acknowledges the importance placed by Pacific NMSs on a well-functioning climate data management system. A separate review of CliDE was conducted and CliDE has since been included as part of the suite of IT products under COSPPac. Funds have been

allocated to fix known issues with CiIDE and the program will be fully available for the region by 30 June 2017.

- A consultation and design process for the next phase of COSPPac will commence in July 2016.

DFAT's response to the specific recommendations made in the report

Recommendation	Response	Actions	Responsibility
1. Australian Government support for Pacific Island NMSs should continue beyond the current end of COSPPac in July 2016, to reflect ongoing shared national, regional and global interests, subject to budgetary considerations.	Agree, subject to budgetary considerations. It's likely there will be a role for Australia to provide technical support and training to the Pacific for the foreseeable future. However, the nature of Australia's engagement may change to reflect the new regional structures and activities for weather, climate and oceans are currently being established or planned for the next two years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a Transition Strategy and Plan for COSPPac products and services to the Pacific region. • Commence a design process for COSPPac Phase 2 in July 2016 	DFAT, COSPPac Management Unit
2. Prior to the design process commencing no later than July 2015, discussions between senior officials from Australia and SPREP, SPC and USP should negotiate agreements about an agreed Pacific Islands location for the coordination and Program management of any future support.	Agree. DFAT proposes to extend COSPPac to 30 June 2017 to allow two years for the transition of products and services to the Pacific region as appropriate and set up of agreements and program management support structures as required. The design process for COSPPac Phase 2 will now commence in July 2016.	The Transition Plan Sub-committee will discuss and make recommendations on the location for the coordination and program management functions of COSPPac Phase 2. DFAT may be involved as required.	Transition Plan Sub-committee and DFAT
3. Transition planning should be undertaken and a plan considered by the Steering Committee in May 2015 (as already agreed). Transition arrangements could include shifting a number of Program management and administration roles from the Bureau of Meteorology to SPREP and/or other regional organisations (particularly SPC and USP) over the remaining two years of the	Agree. In November 2014, the COSPPac Steering Committee agreed to establish a Transition Plan Sub-Committee tasked with making recommendations on which products and services could be transitioned to the region, which regional partners would take over products and services, and developing a proposed timeline and work plan for transitioning activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Transition Plan Sub-Committee will develop a Transition Strategy and provide its recommendations to the COSPPac Steering Committee at the May 2015 meeting in Samoa, Apia and update for the meeting in October 2015. The work plan for 2015/16 will be updated to 	Transition plan sub-committee and DFAT

<p>Program, if considered feasible within the existing budget. Consideration should include the recommendation of this IPR that an additional liaison position be located within SPREP.</p>		<p>reflect transition activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The COSPPac Program Management Unit will discuss with SPREP when the liaison position should be established. 	
<p>4. The next phase of cooperation should be based on a comprehensive and consultative planning and design process, taking into account other donor supported programs and Centres, as well as issues emerging during the transition arrangements. Key stakeholders in the process should include the Bureau of Meteorology, Pacific Island NMSs and other relevant Pacific Island government agencies as well as regional organisations (SPREP, SPC and USP). Consultations with other development partners and stakeholders including NIWA, NOAA, WMO and the Governments of Japan, Finland and Korea will also be required.</p>	<p>Agree. The COSPPac Steering Committee has established a Transition Planning Sub-Committee, which will largely lay the foundation for the next phase of COSPPac. The Transition Plan Sub-Committee will consult widely and make recommendations.</p> <p>Steering Committee meetings during the commencement of the transition phase will include all NMS Directors (instead of 2 representatives) where possible.</p> <p>The COSPPac Program Manager is a member of the Pacific Meteorological Services Council and will use the various regional meetings as opportunities to consult on COSPPac matters.</p> <p>Other donors and interested organisations will be invited to attend the formal design process for COSPPac Phase 2.</p>	<p>Given the extension of COSPPac by one more year to 30 June 2017, the design process for COSPPac Phase 2 is now scheduled to commence in July 2016.</p> <p>DFAT will work with COSPPac partners to develop a consultation process for the design of Phase 2.</p>	<p>Transition Plan Sub-committee and DFAT (Pacific Regional Branch and Suva Post).</p>
<p>5. Regardless of the agreed Program management location, future cooperation between Australia and the Pacific should consider funding and support for The Bureau of Meteorology to play an ongoing partnership role. This might include tasks such as provision of advice, implementation of selected activities or collaboration on joint</p>	<p>Agree. BoM has an important role to play in supporting technical products and advice to the Pacific region. The partnerships established under COSPPac, including its preceding activities and more broadly through BoM's own networks will be important to maintain in the future. As the new regional structures and activities for weather, climate and oceans are currently being established or planned for the next two years in the</p>	<p>As part of the Transition Strategy, BoM will clearly articulate what role it is able to undertake in the region and how this fits into the emerging regional architecture for meteorological services.</p> <p>There should also be some provision for BoM advice or technical intervention</p>	<p>DFAT and COSPPac Management Unit</p>

activities.	Pacific.	<p>should some activities require during or early after transition.</p> <p>BoM's future role will also be expressed within COSPPac phase 2.</p>	
<p>6. Future support should continue to recognise the great diversity among NMSs and Pacific Island stakeholders, such as Land and Survey Divisions and ensure the availability of flexible funding to suit each country context to at least the level of current annual allocations (\$36,000). Future support should maximise country-specific engagement (e.g. in-country activities) and avoid 'one-size-fits-all' support and training.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>DFAT acknowledges that support to Land and Survey Divisions, flexible funding, and a tailored approach to country-specific support and training have had an important role in COSPPac. Where possible, these will be incorporated into the design for COSPPac Phase 2, subject to budgetary considerations.</p>	To be considered in the design of COSPPac Phase 2.	DFAT
<p>7. In terms of specific issues for COSPPac until mid-2016, the following should be considered:</p> <p>a. Support for extending communications skills among scientists (who have already benefited from previous COSPPac-funded communications training) so they can work more effectively and extensively with communities and public/private sector stakeholders</p> <p>b. Strengthening of SCOPIC (Seasonal Climate Outlooks for Pacific Island Countries) to include dynamical model outputs such as POAMA (to complement statistical models) (while remaining</p>	<p>a. Agree. This activity will be transferred to SPREP and USP to become part of their training program – this was agreed and endorsed by the COSPPac Steering Committee in May 2015.</p> <p>b. The priority for 2015 - 2016 is to deliver a fully-tested and bug-free SCOPIC to SPREP by June 2016 therefore adding new features may delay this process.</p>	<p>a. To be considered during the drafting of individual transition plans.</p> <p>b. If funding and time permits, COSPPac will include POAMA outlooks into SCOPIC. This may also be included as a possible further modification in SCOPIC under the new management.</p>	COSPPac Team Transition Plan Sub-committee

<p>aware that new Korean software using dynamical modeling may obviate the need for SCOPIC to do so).</p>			
<p>8. In terms of specific issues for post-2016 support, the following should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use of Pacific Islands institution(s) for the coordination and delivery of ongoing training and education (including both formal and informal, pre and in-service customised training) rather than dependence on external trainers b. Continued funding and engagement with GA and the National Tidal Centre for data collection, calibration and maintenance of essential equipment in Pacific Island locations c. Increased responsibility within SOPAC for supporting the ongoing use of ocean focused software products as well as work with tidal gauges, land-based GNSS stations, surveys and calibration d. Ongoing maintenance of CliDE Database, subject to detailed further review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Agreed. DFAT acknowledges that Pacific Island institutions are well placed to deliver a range of education and training options in a well-targeted and cost effective way. b. Agreed, subject to budgetary considerations and a review of costs for this service. c. Agree. The partnership between GA and SPC – GeoScience Division is an important one and Australia supports an increased role for SPC – GeoScience Division in providing technical support in the region. d. Agree. CliDE is now part of COSPPac – under the new arrangement the current Bureau CliDE team will report to the COSPPac Steering Committee. DFAT acknowledges the importance of a stable, user-friendly, open-source climate data management system for the Pacific. A separate review of CliDE was completed in March 2015 by DFAT and recommended fixing existing bugs and issues in CliDE be fixed prior to handing over to the region. DFAT's response to the CliDE review is outlined in a separate management response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. DFAT and BoM are actively discussing with Pacific Islands institutions (such as SPREP, SPC and USP) for the coordination and delivery of ongoing training and education. b. DFAT to discuss funding considerations with GA. c. To be considered under the transition plan. d. DFAT to discuss the options outlined in the CliDE Review and develop a management response in consultation with BoM and COSPPac partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. DFAT (Pacific Regional Branch and Suva Post), COSPPac Management unit , SPREP, SPC and USP. b. COSPPac Management Unit, Geoscience Australia and SPC – GeoScience Division. c. COSPPac Management Unit, COSPPac Sea level Team, SPC, GA. d. DFAT, BoM