

# FOURTH PACIFIC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON METEOROLOGY

**PMMM-4**

Nuku'alofa, Tonga • 15, 16 September 2026

## Agenda Item 4.1 Regional Meteorological Centres of Excellence

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**Weather Ready for a Secured and Sustainable Pacific**



PACIFIC  
METEOROLOGICAL  
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Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
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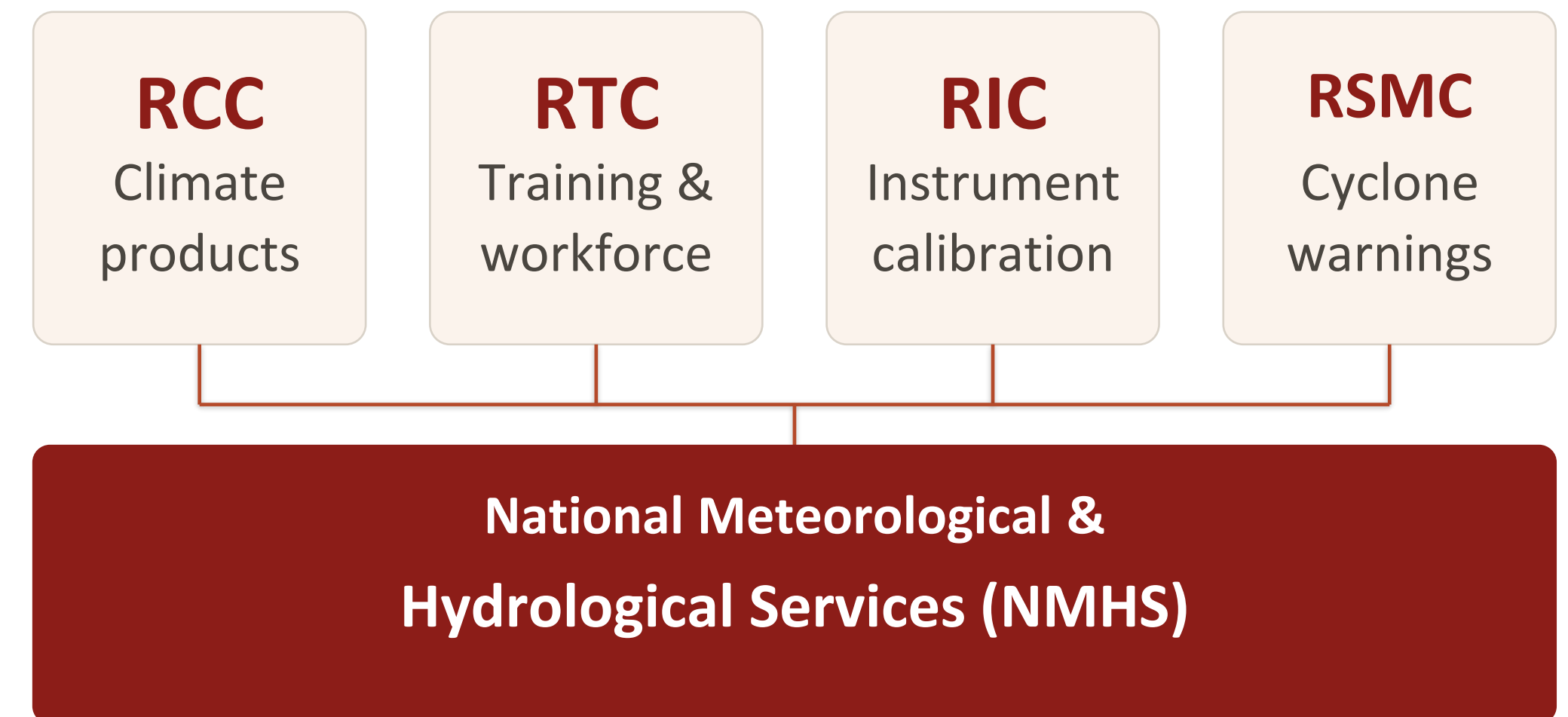
## Purpose of the Paper

- 1) Update Ministers on progress toward WMO designation of the Pacific's Regional Centres of Excellence — the RCC Network, RSMC Nadi (Tropical Cyclone Centre), RTC, and RIC, all hosted in Nadi, Fiji.
- 2) Highlight their strategic value for strengthening NMHSs and regional climate resilience.
- 3) Seek Ministerial endorsement of sustainable financing for these centres beyond 2027.

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## Background

- Pacific Island countries face high exposure to cyclones, flooding, storm surge, drought, and climate variability, making regional observations, forecasts, and warnings essential for safety, aviation, marine operations, and climate services.
- WMO's Regional Centres of Excellence, the RCC Network, RTC, RIC, and RSMC Nadi (tropical cyclone centre), give national services access to regional-scale products, training, calibration, and cyclone early warning no single Pacific NMHS could sustain alone.
- RSMC Nadi has held WMO designation since 1995 as one of only six global tropical cyclone centres. The Fiji-hosted RTC has now also achieved designation, with the RCC Network and RIC still pursuing it under PMC's endorsement (Nukualofa Declaration – 2015).
- Development partners including Japan (JICA/JMA), the Bureau of Meteorology, ESNZ, SPC, CSIRO, and Météo-France are supporting this work alongside SPREP and WMO.



Regional-scale support no single Pacific NMHS can sustain alone

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## Pacific RCC Network – Progress Update

- The Pacific Regional Climate Centre (RCC) Network is a consortium of BOM, ESNZ, SPC, CSIRO, Météo-France, SPREP, APCC and affiliates NOAA and University of Hawai'i, generating regional-scale climate products for Pacific NMHSs.
  - Designation application submitted to WMO Regional Association V on 23 February 2026 and resubmitted on 2 September 2026 following updated membership; technical assessment (SERCOM/INFCOM) continues through October–November 2026, with formal WMO Congress approval expected 3–14 May 2027.
  - Recent milestones: launch of the Regional Climate Watch service, a new Pacific Regional Climate Centre Network logo and website ([pacificmet.net/rcc](http://pacificmet.net/rcc)), active social media products, and a near-complete Operational Manual.
  - SPREP provides Secretariat and coordination functions, including hosting the RCC Network Coordinator role.
- **23 Feb 2026**  
Designation application submitted to WMO RA V
  - **2 Sep 2026**  
Resubmitted following updated membership
  - **Oct–Nov 2026**  
Technical assessment (SERCOM/INFCOM)
  - **3–14 May 2027**  
Formal WMO Congress approval expected

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## RTC & RIC – Nadi, Fiji

- The WMO Executive Council, at its 80th Session in June 2026, designated the Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS) as a new Regional Training Centre (RTC) in Regional Association V.
- A new two-storey RTC/RIC building is under construction at FMS Nadi with Government of Japan support, expected complete in mid-2027; it will house expanded training facilities, an instrument calibration laboratory, and a disaster risk reduction awareness exhibition.
- Regional Instrument Centre (RIC) progress is focused on achieving ISO/IEC 17025 laboratory accreditation, a prerequisite for formal RIC designation, with technical guidance from RIC Tsukuba (Japan) and a preliminary FMS calibration-system assessment completed in August 2026.
- FMS already provides calibration support to Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru, Tonga, Samoa and the Cook Islands, building on its established regional hub role for cyclone forecasting and aviation/marine weather services.



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## RSMC Nadi – Tropical Cyclone Centre



### RSMC Nadi at a Glance

**Designated:** 1995, WMO Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre for tropical cyclones

**Area of responsibility:** Equator to 25°S, 160°E to 120°W

**Operates:** 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during cyclone season

**Full forecast & warning services:** Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Cook Islands & Others

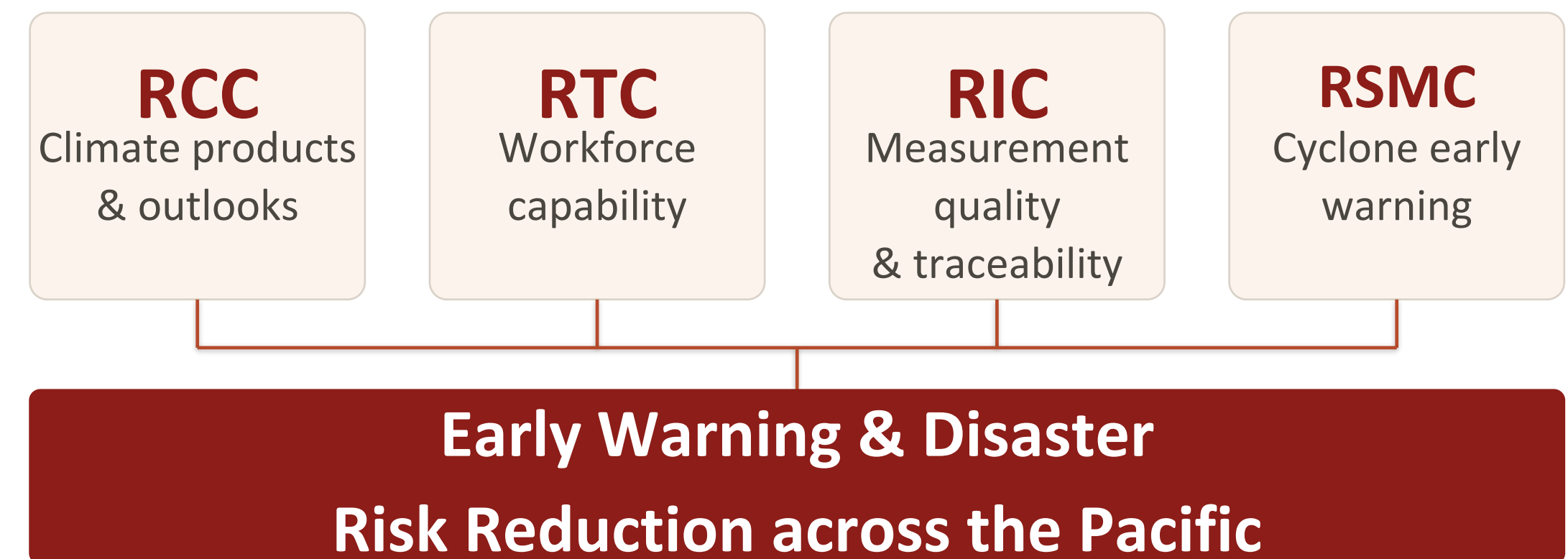
**Special advisory services:** Samoa, Vanuatu

**One of six:** tropical cyclone RSMCs worldwide (with La Réunion, Miami, New Delhi, Tokyo, Honolulu)

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## Strategic Importance for the Pacific

- The 2026 El Niño has been assessed as strong and forecast to strengthen further, with significant impacts already being experienced across the Pacific and likely to continue into 2027, reinforcing the urgency of stronger regional climate capability.
- Strong National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, supported by fully operational and sustainable Regional Centres of Excellence, are fundamental to anticipating these risks and translating regional and global science into decisions at national, sectoral and community level.
- Together, the RCC Network, RTC, RIC and RSMC Nadi form an integrated regional architecture: climate products and outlooks (RCC), workforce capability (RTC), measurement quality and traceability (RIC), and cyclone early warning (RSMC) – each reinforcing early warning and disaster risk reduction across the region.
- As several major regional programmes conclude in 2027, future investment must be Pacific-led, respond to community priorities, and build enduring national and regional capability rather than recreating project dependency.



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## Sustainable Financing Challenges

- Regional Centres of Excellence are designed by WMO to be substantially financed by their own members, yet in the Pacific they have relied heavily on time-limited projects (e.g. ClimSA, COSPPac) to fund core functions such as the RCC Network website, PICOOF forums and NCOF support.
- This creates risk to ongoing essential roles, including the Pacific RCC Network Coordinator and is not consistent with the WMO expectation that Regional Centres of Excellence are enduring, unending institutions.
- A proposed approach is a modest annual-expenditure project funding selected core roles (coordination, product generation, training and engagement, including PICOOF/NCOF support for all Pacific Island Countries), with members continuing to contribute an estimated 30–50% of costs.
- While the RCC Network is technically ready for designation, securing operational resources for the post-2027 period, when several major regional climate programmes conclude, is a priority for Ministers' attention.

### Proposed Core-Function Funding Mix

|                                            |                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>30–50%<br/>Member<br/>contributions</b> | Balance:<br>Development<br>partners & WMO CREWS |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|

Time-limited projects (ClimSA, COSPPac) currently cover core roles — not consistent with WMO's expectation that Centres of Excellence are enduring institutions.

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## Concluding Remarks

“Ministers are invited to note progress on Regional Centre designations, request continued partner commitment, and endorse a long-term funding pathway to sustain these centres and strengthen climate resilience across the Blue Pacific Continent”