



# Disaster Resilience for Pacific SIDS

## Minutes of the Fifth Disaster Resilience for Pacific Small Island Developing States

### (RESPAC) Project Board Meeting, Pearl Resort, Pacific Harbour, Fiji

18 March, 2020 -1430hrs

1. The fifth RESPAC project Board meeting was held at the Pearl Resort, Pacific Harbour, Suva, Fiji. (Meeting agenda attached as *Annex 1*; Attendance list as *Annex 2*.)
2. **Devotion** – Mr. Mafua Maka, Director National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) said the opening prayer. A moment of silence was also observed by Board members to remember those affected by COVID-19.
3. **Opening Remarks**
  - 3.1 **The Fiji Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services**, Honorable Jone Usamate opened the Board meeting. In his opening remarks, the Minister highlighted the following:
    - Acknowledged the funding support from the Russian Federation for the RESPAC project as well as the virtual presence of the First Secretary for the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Canberra, Australia Mr. Ruslan Arutyunov;
    - Noted the Statement of Intent (SOI) prepared by the National Disaster Managers as part of their collective undertaking to combat COVID -19;
    - Pledged for a regional approach to combat COVID-19;
    - On behalf of the Prime Minister, thanked RESPAC project on work done for climate early warning systems, capacity building and training for Fiji Meteorological Services (FMS) staff as well as systems upgrading and functionality for National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and FMS.
    - RESPAC project footprints are visible across the region and have greatly enhanced quality deliverables through targeted interventions.
    - Acknowledged RESPAC salient intervention modality – its versatility to adapt and adjust to be responsive to the changing country needs;
    - Thanked UNDP for its continuing support and commitment to the Pacific region development aspirations;
    - RESPAC project will be ending in December 2020 intervention and there is still room for continuity and space to build on the work started in 2017;
    - The Fijian government fully support the scaling up of the RESPAC project and will formally put up a communication to UNDP on the subject matter. The Minister also encouraged all Pacific Island countries to do the same. He proposed that it to be a resolution of the Board meeting.
  - 3.2 **Opening Remarks - Senior Supplier, Russian Federation.** Mr. Ruslan Arutyunov, First Secretary for the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Australia. In his opening remarks he highlighted:



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- The Russian Federation contribution to international efforts to promote the sustainable development of vulnerable categories of countries including Small Island Developing States (SIDS);
  - UNDP remains as a strategic partner in promoting development whose assistance is unconditionally and exclusively depoliticized;
  - The Russian International Development Assistance and UNDP share common strategic development priorities which includes combating poverty, sustaining economic growth, creating jobs, and providing access to basic services and infrastructure;
  - RESPAC is the largest project financed by the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development (TFD);
  - Many Pacific Island Countries (PICs) assisted by the RESPAC project have acknowledged the relevance of the key areas of the project in supporting their long term and sustainable development initiatives;
  - The Russian Federation appreciated the project Mid-Term Review (MTR) report and noted project accomplished project activities aimed at providing technical assistance to countries of the region, as well as training seminars and a number of national and regional fora on the climate agenda;
  - The Russian Federation are concerned about the slow progress in implementing of the project components;
  - The Russian Federation requested for the enhanced presentation of information not only on the number of results achieved but also on their relation to the planned indicators;
  - The Russian Federation requested additional information on how the delivery, repair and configuration of automated meteorological stations will be completed in 2020 (details about the status of the process);
  - There is shortage of data on how to activate the Pacific Early Recovery Fund (PERF). The only initiative so far is Vanuatu. What other sub-programmes are planned to be implemented under it, and which countries will benefit from it? What efforts are undertaken by UNDP to mobilize additional resources to the Fund in addition to crowdfunding?
  - The Russian Federation is interested to receive a project sustainability and exit strategy to be presented to the TFD Steering Committee meeting as mentioned in the mid-term review report recommendation; and
  - The Russian Federation would also like to get clarifications regarding UNDP plans to involve Russian expertise in the implementation of the project in 2020.

### 3.3 Opening Remarks from Executive/Project Director, UNDP Pacific Office – Deputy Resident Representative, Ms. Karin Takeuchi highlighted the following:

- Welcomed Board members to the 5<sup>th</sup> RESPAC project Board meeting;
- The world and the Pacific region are confronted with issues never thought existed 20-30 years ago which include climate change, poverty, human rights violation, global financial crisis and the new challenge of COVID-19;
- These issues carry far-reaching effects thus making the Pacific region more vulnerable than ever. They challenged the region's sustainability and development as well as livelihood and survival;
- Climate Change has been and continues to be the biggest challenge facing our Pacific region today;



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- With stories shared, the campaigns made and the leadership taken as a region the international community was able to learn so much about climate change;
- Through collective work and effort the Pacific region have managed to influence global thinking and action on this matter, with the achievement of the Paris Agreement in 2016;
- UNDP is committed to promoting the people's welfare and wellbeing and over the years, it has been tirelessly engaged in supporting development policies by government and civil society;
- While UNDP has made significant progress in in the areas of inclusive growth to eradication of poverty, political and economic governance, gender equality, youth development, environmental management, climate change and disaster risk management, much more is still needs to be done;
- Recognised that governments and partners have done a lot of work in facilitating sustainable and resilient development in the Pacific region. However, more can be achieved if we strengthen co-operation with governments and regional agencies;
- RESPAC collaboration and partnership with the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), Japan International Cooperation Agency amongst others in order to deepen its work across the fifteen countries;
- The Project MTR was completed in 2019, with recommendations and finding incorporated into the revised results framework and the 2020 Annual Workplan. A final evaluation will be conducted at the end of this year, from which we expect to learn further as we contemplate future steps and 'what next'; and
- Partnership and collaboration are critical in building the resilience and sustainability of PICs.

#### 4 **Introductory Comments on behalf of the Beneficiary countries, Mr. Ofa Fa'anunu, Director Meteorology Services (Tonga) and President of World Meteorological Organization Region V.** He highlighted the following:

- The PICs are in trying times with existing development issues of size and remoteness, climate change, sea level rise and recently COVID -19 manifests their vulnerability;
- Due to the limited resources and the geographical spread of the islands, monitoring and maintenance of climate early warning systems is a big challenge;
- PICs forecasting and early warning systems suffer from a lack of baseline data and in-situ coastal monitoring/information— it is very expensive to collect data, particularly in remote areas;
- Waves, storm surge and coastal inundation affect the dispersed Pacific Islands very differently than they do continental coastlines. Wave is the dominant factor for coastal inundation, especially in the reef-fronted islands common in the Pacific Islands.
- Tsunami is real and significant threat to all Pacific Island countries because we are surrounded by the Ring of Fire (75% of all fatalities from tsunami have occurred in the Pacific). Countries like Samoa, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tonga are located just beside active tectonic plate boundaries and trenches which makes near-source tsunami warning systems a critical but extremely complex service that these countries require;



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- A number of PICs still do not have a dedicated tsunami warning system. Staff competency within national tsunami warning centers is poor and inadequate to provide reliable tsunami watch keeping services;
- The Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) is working with World Meteorology Organization, IOC and regional partners like the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the UNDP (implementing Project such as RESPAC graciously funded by the Russian Federation) and others to improve multi-hazard early warning systems;
- Expressed sincere appreciation on behalf of beneficiary countries to the Russian Federation for the funding of the RESPAC Project to enable the Pacific Island Meteorological Service as well as respective Disaster Management agencies to build capacities enhancing resilience towards natural disasters;
- RESPAC has made a huge impact in the Region in terms of Climate Early Warning Systems (CLEWS) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Especially in reaching out to the smaller islands and territories and making sure no one is left behind;
- Many Regional projects usually try to address issues that are common among regional member and so usually country specific challenges are often ignored. The greatest strength of RESPAC is working within the Meteorology and Disaster Management Community Regionally to ensure that country specific challenges are addressed;
- With the success of RESPAC project representative of beneficiary countries would like to request the Board to pursue a continuation and scaling up of the project and that all avenues are sought to make that possible;
- The top Meteorological priorities of the Region for the next 4 years include:
  - i. Strengthening national multi-hazard early warning/alert systems within the region particularly in impact-based forecasting which follows on well from the traditional knowledge works funded under RESPAC;
  - ii. Broaden the provision of climate information and services by improving production and delivery of national climate information products and services that meet the needs of specific users;
  - iii. Strengthen services in support of flood forecasting, warning and water management particularly forecasts and warnings for water resources, drought and flood risk management and planning;
  - iv. Strengthen services in support of aviation weather services to address significant deficiencies in aeronautical services in the region and establish a workable cost recovery mechanism; and
  - v. Enhance decision-supporting information and services in Marine Meteorology
- The top Disaster Management priorities of the Region for the next 4 years include:
  - i. Disaster Assessment and Disaster Risk Management capacity development;
  - ii. Capacity building to strengthen legislation and operation procedures;
  - iii. Gender approach to DRR;
  - iv. Institutionalization of traditional knowledge; and
  - v. Strengthen interagency collaboration



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- Acknowledged the Russian Federation, UNDP, RESPAC project team and partners for the project outcomes realized todate.

## 7. Presentation of Regional NDMO Directors Statement of Intent for COVID-19 (Refer to Annex 3). Fiji NDMO Director Mrs. Vasiti Soko highlighted the following:

- With its wide-ranging economy-wide implications on government machinery, industry, livelihoods, culture, traditions and households, the COVID-19 will prompt the activation of emergency operations procedures and NDMO Directors are committed to:
  - Activate the national emergency response coordination committees as well as the sector working groups/clusters in order to promote a coherent and effective multisector intervention;
  - Working together with the Ministries of Health in assessing the humanitarian needs and to prepare a response plan to cope with the potential impact of the COVID 19;
  - Support the dissemination of user-friendly messaging to all population tailored to their culture and language;
  - Coordinate with the corresponding entities to ensure an adequate quarantine of the affected families, covering all basic needs in terms of food, medical assistance and transportation;
  - Enhance active and permanent channels of communication and information sharing between the national disaster/emergency management offices within the Pacific region in order to inform national decision making;
  - Provide transboundary collaboration to all countries in the Pacific region including the deployment of human resources to support the intervention in the most affected areas;
  - Make appropriate judgement calls on policy considerations being mindful of practicality and logic, ensuring that common sense prevails in the conduct of focused intervention;
  - Explore the option and availability of regional surge capacity of medical personnel in a situation where some countries are acutely suffered than others and resources are made available within the region;
  - Working with the Joint Incidental Management Teams (IMT) for COVID-19 established by the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) for information exchange, deployment of Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) and promote resource sharing particularly Covid-19 testing of suspected case and supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) when there is availability; and
  - Working with the Private Sector through the Chamber of Commerce to avoid business disruption, continuity of supply-chain logistics and early mitigating interventions for key sectors driving economic activity across the region.
- The Minister acknowledged the NDMO Directors Statement of Intent (SOI) as a framework for regional collaboration to address COVID-19. It is similar to regional approaches adopted to address climate change and ocean issues. The SOI subscribed to the Fijian Government approach to address COVID-19.
- Mrs. Vasiti Soko moved the motion for the adoption of the SOI for COVID-19. Director Met (PNG), Mr. Samuel Maiha supported the motion. NDMO



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Directors from Cook Islands, FSM, Palau, Solomon Islands and RMI confirmed their support via emails.

- Mr. Roy Harris (Nauru) requested for an amendment to the SOI with the inclusion of:
  - i. Place emphasis on BOE Declaration Strategic focus area no. 2 human security and humanitarian assistance to develop a regional coordination mechanism for disaster preparedness and response and humanitarian assistance; and
  - ii. Reiterating the WHO's DG statement of "CHECK, CHECK, CHECK"
- The Board members endorsed the SOI for COVID-19.

## 8. Presentation of the 2019 achievements on the 3 Components of RESPAC Project.

- **RESPAC Project Manager**, Mr. Noud Leenders presented an overview of the project. These include project title, ID, budget, start and end date, reporting period, date of last project board meeting and the relevant SDG supported by the project.
- **Associate Project Manager**, Mr. Navin Bhan, presented the 2019 achievements for **Component 1: Strengthening Early Warning Systems and Climate Monitoring Capacity**. He highlighted the following:
  - Climate data interface improved through assessment of gaps and collaboration with external partners including SPREP, SPC, WB, ADB, JICA, NIWA, BOM and KOICA;
  - Two male staff from Fiji Met Office completed Graduate Diploma in Meteorology from Australia Bureau of Meteorology (BOM). So far RESPAC has supported five Met Officers from three countries including Fiji (3), Kiribati (1) and Tonga (1) for training at BOM. Mr. Bhan also noted the strict intake criteria for BOM enrollment which hinders wide participation of member countries;
  - Collaborated with WMO Climate Resilient and Early Warning Project (CREWS) and supported participation of Disaster Managers from Fiji, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu attended Impact Based Forecasting Training in the Solomon Islands.
  - Training attachment at the Fiji Met Services for 8 Met staff from four countries including Kiribati (3), Nauru (1), Solomon (2) and Vanuatu (2). A similar activity is planned for the Phase 2 design.
  - As part of South-South Cooperation, Mr. Atish Kumar, Senior Technical Officer at the Fiji Met Services trained Vanuatu Met staff with CLiDE and data digitization;
  - In collaboration with JICA supported 7 Met officers from 4 countries including Kiribati (3), Nauru (1), Solomon (2) and Vanuatu (1) for a week-long Himawari Satellite Training;
  - Supported 3 Met staff from two countries including Fiji (2) and Solomon (1) to attend Quality Management Systems training in NZ and Aust respectively;
  - AWS installation for Cook Islands at the Suwarrow and Nasau stations is planned for 2020;
  - Supported Fiji Met Services with the installation of 4 AWOS at the Nadi International Airport. These AWOS was initially procured by the Fijian Government;



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- For Kiribati, 5 sites (mainly rural airports) have been identified to receive AWOS installations (Butaritari, Nikunao, Tabiteua, Kanton and Phoenix);
  - For Nauru, AWS will be installed at the Top Site;
  - For Niue, the I-Star system at the Atofi International airport will be repaired;
  - For Papua New Guinea, 2 AWS systems were installed at Jackson International Airport and Chimbu. 6 AWOS systems at domestic airports were contracted. Aiyura NARI AWS – Goroka, Misima AWS - Milne Bay, Siassi AWS - Por/Umboi Island, Morobe, Tambul HAES AWS - Mt Hagen;
  - For Solomon Islands, 5 AWS will be installed at Agriculture Research Stations and 1 at the Henderson International Airport;
  - For Tokelau, 2 AWS will be installed at Fakaofu and Atafu stations;
  - For Tuvalu, 3 AWS will be installed at Nanumaga, Vaitupu and Nukulaelae stations;
  - For Vanuatu, 1 AWS will be installed at Linua Airport on Loh Island in the Torba Province;
  - Funded participation of Mr. Bipendra Prakash from Fiji Met Service to attend the Regional Climate Outlook Forum (RCOF) in Noumea. RESPAC in collaboration with SPREP has supported the RCOF from 2016-2019.
  - Supported the Fiji and Vanuatu National Climate Outlook Forum (NCOF). Vanuatu has conducted 2 NCOF and both supported by RESPAC;
  - The Pacific Meteorology Council (PMC) has endorsed the Regional Training Center (RTC) Feasibility Study findings;
  - RESPAC is developing a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with the University of the South Pacific to elaborate the set up of the RTC;
- **RESPAC Project Manager, Mr. Noud Leenders, presented the achievements for Component 2: Preparedness and planning mechanisms and tools to manage disaster recovery processes strengthened at regional, national and local.** He highlighted the following results:
- National Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF) trainings were conducted for Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. In total two trainings have been conducted in Solomon Islands (1) and Vanuatu (1).
  - There were no training for Early Recovery (ER), Regional PDNA/DRF as well as Training of Trainers (ToT) conducted in 2019. However, so far two ER trainings have been conducted in Palau and FSM respectively and one regional PDN/DRF training and ToT;
  - There was no support for Country Preparedness Packages (CPP). However, RESPAC has todate supported CPP for RMI and Cook Islands; and
  - The ongoing collaboration with UNOCHA for early recovery network and SPC to upgrade existing Disaster Risk management Database in the Pacific comprising of and linking to multiple DRM and CC related databases. As well as on the refining and adapting of PDNA/DRF training across the region. The RESPAC Team can mobilise within 48 hrs after a



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request and can rely on the PHT and SPC for strengthening the Team when required.

- **RESPAC Project Manager, Mr. Noud Leenders, presented the achievements Component 3: Increased use of financial instruments to manage and share disaster related risk and fund post disaster recovery efforts.** Mr. Leenders highlighted the following:
  - In collaboration with Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) signed up 46 and 50 members of the Fiji Meat Industry Association and Tavua Market Vendors Association respectively for bundled micro insurance;
  - Supported PFIP on insurance demand study and business plans for the fisheries sector. The Fisheries Insurance Report was finalized and shared with the Fiji Ministry of Fisheries;
  - Established the PERF;
  - Collaborated with Vanuatu Government Department of Strategic Planning, Policy and Aid Co-ordination (DSPPAC), and allocated USD 211,000 to implement the Ambae Volcano recovery plan;
  - Developing the crowdfunding mechanism to sustain PERF;
- **RESPAC Project Manager, Mr. Noud Leenders, in presenting the 2020 AWP highlighted the following:**
  - Component 1 consists of three Priority Areas (PA). PA-1 focus on upgrading of auxiliary systems to support AWS installation and data collection. The target countries include: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Solomon Islands, PNG, Vanuatu, Niue and Tuvalu with an allocated budget of USD140,000. PA-2 involves the installation of AWS and upgrade of manual equipment. The target countries are those supported under PA-1 with a budget of USD 678,956. PA-3 focused on the RTC and regional priorities. A budget of USD110,000 is allocated for this regional initiative;
  - The activities for Component 2 include the following: Vanuatu PDNA/DRF training – USD 20,000 (completed); Regional TOT in collaboration with SPC on Early – USD 100,000; Country Preparedness Plans for Fiji and Tuvalu – USD 20,000; Further Adapt Pacific Damage and Loss Assessment Database in collaboration with SPC – USD 20,000; Transitional Traditional Shelter for Tonga – USD 60,000 and Functional Equipment Upgrade/Capacity Supplementation (Fiji NDMO) – USD 20,000.
  - The activities for Component 3 include: Rolling out of bundled micro-insurance for Vanuatu in collaboration with PFIP – USD150,000; and Pacific Early Recovery Fund (PERF) – USD 625,000 (USD 211,000 allocate to Vanuatu for the Ambae Volcano recovery plan).
  - With regards to project risks, Mr. Leenders highlighted that COVID-19 has a high likelihood and high impact for project activities in 2020. In addition, other risks identified in the mid-term review report which are still relevant include:
    - ✓ Lack of prior scoping on equipment and staff;
    - ✓ Sustainability of training and lack of Accreditation;
    - ✓ Lack of follow-up and country level initiatives;
    - ✓ Availability of mechanisms to support crowdfunding.





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- Mr. Leenders highlighted some lessons learnt which include: the need to strike a balance between delivery and quality customer satisfaction; enhance diversity of suppliers of goods and services in the Pacific; and flexible approach which gains more traction from beneficiary countries.
  - With regards to future plans for the project, Mr. Leenders highlighted the following:
    - ✓ Ensure the availability of enough capacity at national level in terms of maintaining pools of CLEWS technicians and meteorologists trained to basic and advanced levels;
    - ✓ Reliable supply of maintenance and spare parts;
    - ✓ Funding the RTC initiative for the next 3 – 5 years;
    - ✓ Ensure the availability of sufficient capacity at national level for the continuity of developing preparedness, planning and recovery processes such as the PDNA, DRF, and CPP given the evolving technical nature of the subject matter;
    - ✓ Flexibility in the implementation of Activities given current scenarios;
    - ✓ In partnership with PFIP developed a project proposal. The Pacific Insurance and Climate Adaptation Programme (PICAP); and
    - ✓ Further detailed the proposed business case for continued support to the Pacific.
  - With regards to the financial report as at 31 December 2019, Mr. Leenders highlighted that the total fund expended is approximately USD 5.0 million. Component 1 has expended USD 2.4 million or 48 percent of the total expenditure. A sum of USD 1.3 million was utilized for Component 2 or 25 per cent of total expenditure. Component 3 expended USD 0.8 million or 16 percent of total expenditure. Component 4 which is the Project Management Unit expended USD 0.5 million or 11 percent of total expenditure.
8. **Presentation of Resource Results Framework (RRF). Associate Project Manager, Mr. Navin Bhan, in his presentation highlighted the following:**
- ✓ The RRF is basically a results matrix captures project outputs, indicators and targets;
  - ✓ As part of the mid-term review recommendation, the project Board should endorse the revised RRF;
  - ✓ The targets which have not been achieved in 2019 or in previous years are set as targets for 2020 where relevant;
  - ✓ The Chairperson recommended that the RRF is circulated to Board members for their comments within a set timeframe.
9. **Discussions.** In the ensuing discussions the following were highlighted:
- Mr. Leenders in responding to the issues raised by Mr. Ruslan highlighted the following:
    - Some initial feedback was provided to the Steering Committee during the discussion for no cost project extension;
    - The Project team is working on the presentation of results viz-a-viz to the planned indicators and targets. The revised RRF has also been presented to the Board for endorsement;



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- In terms of planned AWS installation for 2020, Mr. Bhan highlighted that the contract for the supply of AWS has been awarded to OTT Hydromet which is partially based in Germany and USA. Installation of AWS is expected to commence between May and June;
  - With regards to the activation of PERF, Mr. Leenders highlighted that the guideline is flexible. Similar to PDNA/DRF it just takes a phone call or email to any of the RESPAC project team. Who will then work with country focal point to develop a PERF proposal. There is discussion with Kiribati and Tuvalu NDMO to support early recovery for TC Tino. Other efforts undertaken by UNDP to mobilize additional resources to the PERF in addition to Crowdfunding is liaising with countries to establish disaster early recovery trust fund;
  - With regards to project sustainability and exit strategy, Mr. Leenders highlighted that Board members have identified focus areas for National Meteorology and Hydrology Services as well as National Disaster Management. These were highlighted by Mr. Ofa Faanunu in his opening remarks. The Minister also stated the need to scale up the RESPAC initiative.
  - In terms of plans to involve Russian expertise in the implementation of the 2020 AWP, Mr. Bhan stated that RESPAC will continue collaboration with ROSYHYDROMET. The services and expertise of Dr. Maria Mamaeva will be sourced for the establishment of the RT
- NDMO Director (Fiji) Ms. Vasiti Soko enquired the flexibility of PERF to support COVID-19 response. Mr. Leenders stated that PERF was initially meant to support natural rather than biological disasters. In addition PERF supports early recovery rather than response. Furthermore, the Russian Federation should approve and change of project scope. In summary, PERF will not be able to support any COVID-19 response;
- Met Director (Cook Islands) Mr. Arona while noting the salient features of RESPAC project – flexibility and adaptive, enquired of any back-up plans of spending or disbursing unused money to countries once project term ends. Mr. Leenders stated that RESPAC is a direct implementation modality (DIM). That is funds are directly disbursed by UNDP. The national implementation modality (NIM) is cumbersome and bureaucratic. RESPAC team is confident that all funds will be expended when project term ends on 31 December 2020.
- Mr. Max Sitai (Solomon Met Services) expressed appreciation to the Russian Federation and UNDP for supporting the Met Services and NDMO. He further enquired the possibility of assisting countries that have not been assisted in anyway by RESPAC on any remaining uncommitted funds. Mr. Leenders highlighted that most funds for Component 1 have been committed for AWS procurement and installation. Likewise, for Component 2 which seems to have reached it allocation. In addition, RESPAC was initially designed for 3 countries. However, with a risk analysis approach the project team have expended to nine countries. Furthermore, Mr. Bhan emphasized that Met Services for countries in the Northern Pacific are supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). RESPAC also supported in mobilizing USD 21.4



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million from the Government of Japan for disaster risk reduction in FSM, Palau and RM.

- National Emergency Services Director (Nauru) Mr. Roy Harris highlighted the status of the Pacific Disaster Net (PDN) and the OCHA training for Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) which seems to be dormant. Mr. Leenders highlighted that the PDN has went offline as the project cannot sustain the database. With RESPAC support PDN will soon be online again. OCHA has also scheduled a PHT training in October 2020.
- Met Director (Tonga) Mr. Ofa Faanunu acknowledged RESPAC support and admitted that Tonga has not been supportive in expediting delivery. For instance, on the Traditional knowledge under Component 2. Many countries are requesting for RESPAC scaling-up and continuity. Delivery and results are ingredients for scaling up. He reaffirmed Tonga's support for implementation to the RESPAC team. Mr. Leenders reaffirmed that funding not spent gives no business case for scaling up.
- Met Director (PNG) Mr. Samuel Maiha expressed PNG appreciation to the Russian Federation and UNDP. He registered his concerns on possible delays for the timely implementation for Component 1. It involves a lot of work and there is no additional support for Mr. Bhan. In response, Mr. Bhan confirmed that there is not issue with the supply of AWS as he is constantly in touch with the suppliers. He expected that entry for foreign cargo ships will not be denied with the existing COVID-19 response measures. The remain activities for PNG are upgrading of fiber optic lines, refurbishment of Met training center and uniforms for staff. Mr. Bhan added that PNG has not given due recognition and visibility to the RESPAC project.
- Met Director (Tuvalu) Mr. Richard Gorkrun expressed Tuvalu appreciation to the Russian Federation and UNDP. He enquired of possible additional support on two AWS installation at Nukufetau and Niutawa.

**10. Summary of Key Points and Recommendations.** The Chairperson summarized the key points and recommendations and highlighted the following:

- i. Board members in the spirit of regionalism unanimously endorsed the NDMO Directors Statement of Intent for COVID-19.
- ii. Board members reviewed and endorsed 2019 project achievements.
- iii. Board members supported the scaling up of the RESPAC project with each country formally communicating to UNDP on the subject matter.
- iv. Joint request for scaling up of RESSPAC initiative.
- v. The RRF to be forwarded to Board members for comments and endorsement together with the Board meeting minutes within one month after the meeting.
- vi. PMU to provide clarification to the Russian Federation on the issues raised by Mr. Ruslan.
- vii. The Board in principle endorses the 2020 AWP and will provide any objections or clarification during their response to the board meeting minutes.



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viii. Countries to send detailed country needs/plans for scaling up actions as part of RESPAC - 2.

11. **Vote of Thanks.** Fiji Met Services Director, Mr Misaele Funaki in moving the vote of thanks:

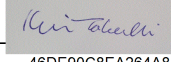
- Reaffirmed Fiji Met Services commitment and unwavering support for national and regional Met service's needs;
- Acknowledged UNDP for requesting the Minister to open the Board meeting thus leveraging Met and NDMO profile, needs and priorities. The Minister's presence also speaks testament of the respect and recognition for RESPAC project; and
- Acknowledged Russian Federation and UNDP support to the Fiji Met Services and regional needs.

12. Closing Prayer. Mr Jone Biaukula (Fiji) delivered the closing prayer. The meeting was successfully concluded at 16:30hrs.

**Endorsed by:**

**Ms. Karin Takeuchi, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Pacific Office, Chairperson**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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