
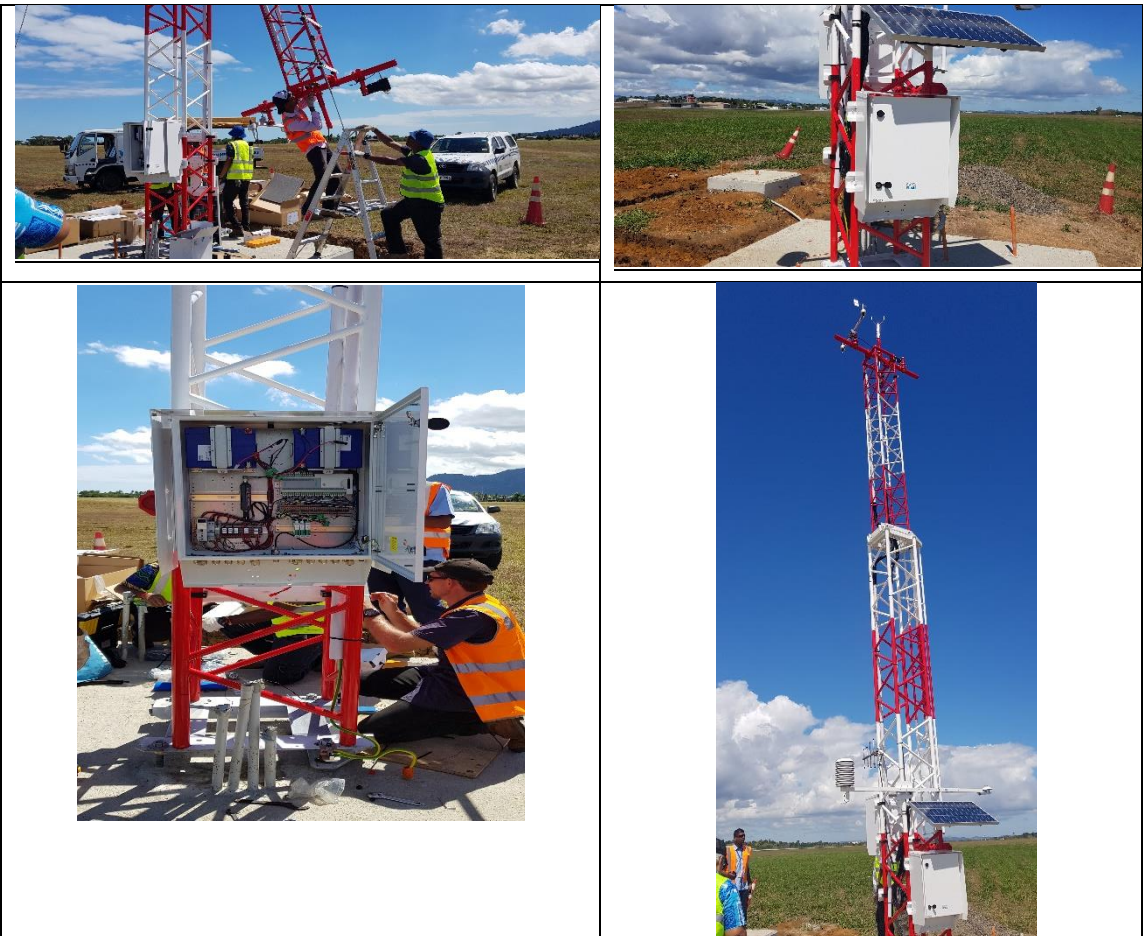


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|   | <b>United Nations Development Programme<br/>Pacific Office</b>  | <b>BACK TO OFFICE REPORT (BTOR)</b>   |
|  |   | Submitted by: Navin Bhan<br>Title: Associate Project Manager<br>Date Submitted: September 30, 2019<br>TA Serial Number: |
| 1. Practice Area: RESPAC Project, Pacific Office<br>2. Service Line(s): Climate Early Warning, Disaster Preparedness and Recovery and Innovative Financial Instruments for Disaster Financing  |   |   |
| 3. Mission Period (incl. of travel days):  |   |   |
| From: 29 August 2019   |   | To: 31 August 2019  |
| 4. Type of Service/Mission<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy<br><input type="checkbox"/> Analysis<br><input type="checkbox"/> Policy Advice<br><input type="checkbox"/> Programme / Technical Backstopping<br><input type="checkbox"/> Resource Person<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional Technical Consultations<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Training / Capacity Development<br><input type="checkbox"/> Others (specify):   | 5. Client(s)<br>Fiji Meteorological Services (FMS)<br>Pacific Met Council (PMC)<br>University of the South Pacific (USP)<br>SPREP - PMC |   |
| 6. Purpose of Mission:<br>Post PMC Meeting on the Regional Training Center Proposal and inspection of the Nadi Airport Aviation Weather Observing Systems (AWOS) facilities  | 7. Documents, Materials, Resources from Mission<br>- RTC Feasibility Report   |   |
| 8. Mission Member(s) (include consultants if any)<br>Navin Bhan – Associate Project Manager - RESPAC<br>Mr. Arona Ngari – Cook Islands Met Director and Chair of the Pacific Island Education Training and Research Panel  | 9. Cost (for RCC staff only)<br>Air ticket = USD200<br>DSA and Terminals = USD500   |   |
| 10. Brief Summary of the Mission:<br>10A. Findings<br><b><u>Follow up to the Regional Training Center Proposal post the Apia Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) Meeting</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At the recent PMC Council Meeting held in Apia, Samoa, members endorsed the findings of the Feasibility Study of the Regional Training Center which was conducted in 2018 with funding support from the RESPAC project.</li> <li>- The PMC while thanking UNDP and the Government of Russia for the funding of the feasibility study made a parallel call for all stakeholders (PMC, Fiji Met, USP) to work together and advance its findings and to operationalize the courses by January 2021.</li> <li>- Following the meeting in Apia, UNDP was invited by the JICA representative in Fiji to explain the purpose and the outcome of the RTC report. A meeting was held at the JICA Office in Suva where the JICA representatives were briefed on the likely shape and structure that the Training Center will take. One key area of doubt was the role of FMS in the newly established RTC and this was explained, albeit in summary and without any prejudice to the eventual findings of the consultant who will be hired soon to draw up the course and management structure. University of the South Pacific (USP) will play a leading role under the auspices of the SPREP and the PMC whereas FMS will play a critical supporting role to USP.</li> <li>- While there was no mention of funding, the JICA representatives were interested in the shape and outcome of the RTC hence asked to be informed as the RTC proposal moves to the implementation phase.</li> </ul> |   |   |

- The meeting with the FMS Director and the PIETR panel chairperson in Nadi was primarily to convey the message from the JICA meeting and to discuss potential donor interest in funding the RTC. Since several agencies were involved SPREP, PMC, USP, FMS, etc. It was recommended that any discussion on funding take place when all key stakeholders are present and when the structural consultant has submitted an initial report that will detail the course structure and management arrangements of the RTC.

### **Nadi Airport AWOS Installation**

- The APM and the PIETR visited the Nadi Airport Aerodrome Area and managed to get a first-hand on-site experience with the installation. A consulting engineer from Vaisla was on site to carry out the installation and 2 out of 4 units were established. The other 2 AWOS units are currently with FMS and will be installed once the site preparations has been completed and the return of the Vaisala Engineer.
- 2 of the 4 airport AWOS were not operational at the time of the visit however this was due to other operational matters. The FMS and Airport Fiji provided assurance that the current state of operations or lack thereof was not related to the sub-contractors (Krishika Construction) work portion. This was done in full compliance with the contract and the concrete pads supporting the AWOS equipment has been completed.
- The remaining work on the site is to provide a 240v direct electrical connection which in turn will supply power to the visibility sensor and the ceilometer. This work will be done in 2020.



### **10B. Results Achieved (concrete outputs)**

- Discussion on the RTC involving FMS and the PIETR Panel chair proceeded mutually however a clear message has been established that the funding arrangements for the implementation of the RTC will have to be collectively agreed at the PMC level. Now, UNDP under RESPAC has been taking all the risks and despite that, managed to successfully steer the concept to inception. Additional funding from RESPAC will guide through the inception phase but more funding will be required

- during implementation. It is at this stage where some critical decisions will have to be made in order to avoid parties have different viewpoint in terms of who gets what portion of the resources.
- Nadi Airport AWOS systems after lying dormant for 2 years is finally in the implementation stage and the largest beneficiary is the aviation sector. UNDP and RESPAC's role will need to be acknowledged and this will be organized at some point this year.

**10C. Expected Outcome(s) and Impact**

With the RTC feasibility report, the emergence of a clear pathway for quality and accredited training for Meteorological Staff and well as those intent on working in this field has been achieved. Additional investments to improve service delivery, training and certification facility is now included in the pipeline and will be fulfilled once UNDP has signed the LOA with the USP.

The aviation industry in Fiji provides a critical revenue stream for the country and UNDP RESPAC's investment in strengthening the backbone infrastructure is laudable and noteworthy. Further investment in critical airports and shipping docks across the region will help safety and provide assurance to people as they move around the region.

**11. Key counterpart (s) and persons you met in each location and their contact details:**

Name:

**Fiji Meteorological Services**

Mr. Misaeli Funaki - Director

**Cook Islands Meteorological Services**

Mr. Arona Ngari – Director

**University of the South Pacific**

Dr. Morgan Wairui and Dr. Awnesh Singh

**SPREP**

Mr. Salesa Nihomei – SPREP Pacific Met Desk

**Contact Information:**

**12. Follow-up Action Matrix**

**12.1 Disaster Resilience for Pacific SIDs (RESPAC)**

| Actions to be taken  | By Whom    | Expected Completion Date |
|--|------------|--------------------------|
| Compile and share draft of LOA with USP and other stakeholders | Navin Bhan | 6 October                |
| Negotiate with FMS and Airports Fiji on the launch of the AWOS | Navin Bhan | 30 October               |
|  |            |                          |

**13. Distribution List (BTOR sent to): Internal Clients: - RESD Group Email, MET Directors**