

International Civil Aviation Organization

INFORMATION PAPER (IP/15)



ICAO

**ICAO Asia and Pacific (APAC)
Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Meteorology Sub-Group
(MET SG/29)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 18 - 22 August 2025

Agenda Item 6: Research, development and other initiatives**NEW ZEALAND VONA INPUT SYSTEM (VIS)**

(Presented by New Zealand)

SUMMARY

This paper presents an overview of the volcano observatory notice to aviation (VONA) Input System (VIS), developed by New Zealand to assist Pacific State volcano observatories (SVOs) in creating and disseminating information on volcanic activity, in the form of a VONA.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Amendment 82 to Annex 3 introduces a Recommended Practice for SVOs to provide volcanic activity information in the form of a VONA.

1.2 Given most SVOs do not have access to aeronautical fixed services (AFS), it will be a significant challenge to disseminate any VONA into the aviation system. This is a particular challenge for SVOs in the Pacific region, where often the State meteorological service may not have access to the AFS.

1.3 New Zealand has been considering how to assist Pacific SVOs for some time and developed a concept for the VONA Input System (VIS). At the Sixth Meeting of the Pacific MET Council (PMC-6), held 14-16 August 2023 in Denerau, Fiji, the PMC:

- i. Noted the proposed elevation of the Volcanic Observatory Notice for Aviation (VONA) to recommended practice;
- ii. Requested New Zealand to progress concept for a 'VONA Portal' that will allow Pacific Island States' SVOs to create and issue VONA; and
- iii. Endorsed the New Zealand proposal for the volcano observatory notice for aviation (VONA) Portal for use by Pacific State volcano observatories (SVOs)

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Following the endorsement and request from PMC-6 for New Zealand to progress the VONA Portal – now referred to as VIS - the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand (CAA NZ), in coordination with MetService NZ and Earth Sciences NZ (New Zealand's designated SVO, formerly

called GNS Science NZ), in coordination with Pacific volcano observatories, further refined the concept.

2.2 In June 2024, following coordination with the CAA NZ, the Ministry of Transport for New Zealand agreed to fund MetService NZ to develop the VIS.

2.3 At a high level, the VIS will be a website that ICAO designated Pacific SVOs will log into to create their VONA. The SVO will be able to select a previous VONA to update, or they may create a new VONA by selecting the volcano of interest and then selecting or entering information for each required VONA field.

2.4 Upon submission of the VONA draft, it will be disseminated via AFS in both traditional alphanumeric and IWXXM format to a pre-arranged set of recipients, including the associated meteorological watch office, volcanic ash advisory centre and area control centre/flight information centre, as required in the PANS-MET provisions.

2.5 The VONA will also be distributed to APAC RODBs, using NZKL as the originator CCCC, in the bulletin abbreviated heading. Coordination will be carried out with RODBs in the coming months to test delivery and receipt of test VONA.

2.6 It is not anticipated that the VIS will be available to SVOs outside of the Pacific region, however this may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

2.7 There is no plan to provide a display of VONA issued to aviation users. However, the VONA will be made available via regional meteorological data distribution schemes, allowing users to access the VONA either directly or via their flight planning tools.

2.8 Training will be provided to Pacific SVOs who wish to use the VIS. However, to be eligible to use the VIS, the SVO must be designated in the APAC Air Navigation Plan Volume I, Table MET I-1 *State volcano observatories*.

2.9 It is noted there is a long outstanding action for Pacific and other APAC volcano observatories to be designated as SVOs in Table MET I-1 (MET/S WG/10, virtual meeting held 27 – 31 July 2020, Action 21 refers), and ICAO is urged to coordinate with relevant States and resolve this critical action. At the time of writing, the only SVOs that will be eligible to use the VIS are those designated by New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the information contained in this paper.
