



## SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

First Meeting of the Steering Committee (SCPRC 1) of the Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and the Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific Region integrated within the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (Pacific Regional Centre)

Apia, Samoa  
30 April 2008

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### **Agenda Item 1: Official Opening**

1. The First Meeting of the Steering Committee (SCPRC 1) of the Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and the Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific Region integrated within the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (Pacific Regional Centre) met in Apia, Samoa on 30 April, 2008.
2. Based on the recommendation of the Waigani COP3 in 2006 on the make up of the Steering Committee, the Meeting was attended by Australia and a representative each from the sub-regions of Melanesia (represented by Papua New Guinea, PNG), Micronesia (represented by the Federated States of Micronesia, FSM) and Polynesia (represented by Samoa).
3. The representative of Papua New Guinea (PNG) opened the meeting with a prayer.

### **Agenda Item 2: Organisational Matters**

4. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Basel and Waigani Secretariat on behalf of their COPs, establishing the Pacific Regional Centre (PRC) does not prescribe for rules of procedure for the SCPRC. The Secretariat therefore proposed to adopt on an interim basis and so far as they were appropriate, until the SCPRC has had the opportunity to fully consider the matter, the rules of procedure of the Waigani Convention as they apply to a properly constituted subsidiary body of that Convention.

5. The Secretariat informed the Committee that not all rules of procedure of Waigani Convention applied to this Meeting but looked forward to the decision of the SCPRC over what procedures to follow.

6. Based on the recommendation of the Waigani COP3 in 2006 on the make up of the Steering Committee, the Meeting was attended by Australia and a representative each from the sub-regions of Melanesia (represented by Papua New Guinea, PNG), Micronesia (represented by the Federated States of Micronesia, FSM) and Polynesia (represented by Samoa).

7. The Chair requested clarification on the current MOU which was signed in December 2003 and should run out by December 2008. He asked if the Secretariat had received word from the Basel Secretariat as to whether the MOU was going to be extended as the extension or non extension of the MOU would have an impact on the meeting discussions.

8. The Secretariat clarified that the MOU was automatically renewed for the next 5 years and that the only amendment to make would be to the list of Parties, to include Vanuatu.

**(a) Rules of Procedure**

9. The SCPRC having agreed to the proposal by the Secretariat, elected officers.

**(b) Election of Officers**

10. Australia nominated by FSM and seconded by PNG was duly elected as Chair. Samoa was elected as Vice-Chair.

11. The Chair thanked the participants for selecting him to lead this important meeting and welcomed all the observers saying that he looked forward to a successful and fruitful meeting. He also stated that he looked forward to assistance from the Secretariat in tackling the issues tabled.

**(c) Organisation of work**

12. English was the working language of the meeting and working documents were available only in English.

13. A draft summary report would be prepared by the Secretariat for consideration and approval of the Committee. The Committee also approved its working hours and programme of work.

### **Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the Agenda**

14. The proposed agenda adopted by the Committee is attached as Annex 2 of the report.

### **Agenda Item 4: Relationship to the Stockholm Convention**

15. The Secretariat introduced SCPRC1.WP.04, which provided background information on the mandate upon which the PRC would be established. Recalling decision SC-2/9 of the Conference of the Parties for the Stockholm Convention, the call for nominations by COP-3 of the Stockholm Convention, and STAC 2's recommendation, the Secretariat sought the Committee's guidance and approval in extending the role of the PRC to host the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre.

16. The Secretariat sought also the approval of the Committee to initiate the process of nominating the PRC, through the regional representatives on the bureau, to serve as the Stockholm Convention regional centre or sub-regional centre.

17. Recalling also the recommendations made by STAC 2, the Secretariat also requested the Committee to consider the question of resourcing the Stockholm Convention activities as well as staffing issues, if the PRC were to act as host of the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre. The Secretariat pointed out that there are more countries of the Pacific that are Parties to the Stockholm Convention than the Waigani Convention so the combined regional centre was a logical move for the Parties. The Sect stated that these recommendations go directly to the Stockholm Convention COP.

18. The Chair called for the Committee's consideration of the paper tabled by the Secretariat recapping the recommendations of the STAC 2.

19. The representative of PNG asked whether the decision paper referred to was available. The Secretariat summarized the discussion at the Stockholm COP where the discussion on the process of establishing Stockholm Centres was discussed. He stated that the COP had only asked for nominations but administrative and governing issues were not discussed. This was because it was considered not appropriate to discuss financial and governing issues until nominations were put in for approval.

20. The Chair recapped the discussions and recommendations and agreement in principle of the STAC2 in relation to the Secretariat coming up with a paper listing benefits to the Parties on the establishment of such a centre. The Sect. was again reminded that there would be more work required prior to putting the nomination in and urged the Committee to note the paper from the Secretariat taking into account the recommendations of the STAC 2 Meeting.

21. The Secretariat stated that the additional information required would have to be circulated to the members of the Steering Committee for comments before any paper was sent to the Stockholm Convention COP.

22. The Chair reminded the members that they would need to put in their comments in a timely manner in order to get the proposal to the COP in September 2008.

23. The Committee after due discussion of the issues presented by the Secretariat requested the Secretariat to initiate the process of nominating the PRC, through the regional representatives of the bureau, to serve as the Stockholm Convention regional centre, taking into account the request by Parties to the Waigani Convention for the Secretariat to draw up a paper listing benefits to the Parties on the establishment of such a centre.

#### **Agenda Item 5: PRC Business Plan 2009-2010**

24. The Secretariat tabled SCPRC1.WP.05 and drew the attention of the Meeting to SCPRC1.WP.05 Att.1 stating that under Article VII of the PRC MOU 2003, the Steering Committee was responsible for developing the PRC Business Plan and overseeing its implementation. The Secretariat sought the Committee's consideration of the PRC Business Plan 2007/2008 with a view to developing a Business Plan for the 2009/2010

biennium for approval by the Basel Secretariat process and the Waigani Conference of the Parties.

25. The Secretariat reminded the Committee to be mindful of the resources to be mobilized in achieving the work required. He referred to discussions of the STAC 2.

26. The Chair thanked the Secretariat for preparing the paper as a framework for discussion of the Committee members and asked that during the discussions of the Work Programme, for the Committee to consider the planned activities in relation to available budget and resources and as well, baring in mind the discussions and recommendations of the STAC 2.

27. The representative of Micronesia stated that all the activities listed were important to the countries and asked the Secretariat which of the activities listed were already implemented for the Committee's information. The Secretariat accordingly provided a summary of Activities and Sub-activities implemented.

28. The Chair enquired about the status of the the POPs in PICs and whether the Secretariat had anything to report on that issue. The Secretariat sated that they had received documentation from the GEF saying that funding of about USD590,000 had been approved but these activities would only be implemented in 5 countries. The implementation agency would be USP.

29. Australia asked if reference to this work should be included in the PRC work programme. The Secretariat stated it be best left out as it would be under USP's jurisdiction.

30. The Chair requested of the Committee that whilst looking at including new activities, that they should bear in mind Waigani Convention activities and to make sure they were aligned with the activities of the PRC.

31. Polynesia enquired about the work under Activity 1, Sub-activity 1 and that if it had already been done in Samoa, whether it meant that Samoa was no longer eligible for assistance under that activity. The Secretariat responded that the pilot project had already begun in 5 countries, including Samoa, so the text of the work programme would only have to change to reflect the work that had already been done. In light of the query by

Polynesia, a new sub-activity was inserted to reflect the continuation of the work for countries that had already implemented pilot projects (see WP.Activity1.Sub-activity 2).

32. Australia stated that ULABs was a major issue in Australia and preferred that it stayed in the Work Programme. The Secretariat stated that in the region, there were countries that were already doing some work on this activity and asked whether the Committee could look at changing the title of the activity to reflect the work being done or already done by Parties. The title of sub-activity 3 changed and was reflected in the WP accordingly.

33. The Chair stated that unless the problem had gone away then the activities should all be retained but prioritization of activities would need to be looked at seriously.

34. The representative of Melanesia asked if there was a limitation to the number of countries to be included given that there might be other countries also interested in this sub-activity. Solomon Islands indicated their interest for inclusion and the WP was amended accordingly.

35. The representative of Polynesia suggested amending title in Activity 2 to truly reflect sub-activities 6-8. The Secretariat suggested that for consistency purposes, the term “relevant staff” should be replaced by “designated staff” to be aligned with the STAC 2 WP text. A new title for Ac

36. The representative of Melanesia asked if training of other stakeholders was relevant to the implementation of the strategic plan and if yes, that the text under Activity 2 sub-activities 6-8 be changed to include reference to other stakeholders. The Committee agreed to include “as well as relevant stakeholders”.

37. The Secretariat stated that the development of NIPs assisted countries in drawing up National Hazardous Waste Management Plans but NIPs only covered 11 hazardous materials. The representative of Melanesia requested that the activity remain given that PNG required a specific strategy to deal with hazardous waste.

38. The representative of Micronesia asked if the Secretariat had actually done any work with OCO. The Secretariat responded in the affirmative. The representative of Polynesia suggested an amendment to the title of the sub-activity to better reflect the work that had already been done and to include work that needed to be done.

39. The representative of Melanesia asked if there was scope for involvement of other enforcement bodies under this particular sub-activity. The representative of Polynesia supported the suggestion by Melanesia and suggested the title of the sub-activity be amended to include “relevant law enforcement agencies”.

40. The representative of Melanesia asked if the activities could use the term “Pacific” and drop the word “north” to make the WP more inclusive.

41. The Committee broke into sub-regional working groups to ensure any new activities proposed adequately covered issues that individual Parties needed for inclusion.

42. The representative of Melanesia proposed three points:

- 1) Need for increased cooperation with development parties which could be covered under Section C of the WP but SPREP to make information available to countries so they could make an informed decision as to which organization to choose to access resources.
- 2) Networking and information exchange in the region
- 3) Capacity building on socio-economic issues and impacts of hazardous waste

43. The Chair stated that there was already reference to a number of agencies that SPREP/PRC worked with but to include a statement for “SPREP to report back to the Parties” to encompass the suggestion by Melanesia. The Chair also clarified that the information sought by Melanesia was information from the SPREP which would show the status of the particular activities relating to priority concern of individual Parties across the various Conventions.

44. The Secretariat stated that under the NIP there was scope for the Stockholm Convention to work with countries in that area. Melanesia asked for the capacity building activity to be included as a new sub-activity under Activity 3. There was also a suggestion that this sub-activity be implemented in all three sub-regions.

45. The representative of Melanesia requested that Vanuatu be included under Activity 1-Output (ie: Development and implementation of region-specific hazardous and other waste minimization programmes in Pacific Island countries).

46. The representative of Polynesia suggested Activity 2 – a new sub-activity to assistance to establishment of assessment, treatments, prevention and disposal plans for hazardous waste. She also asked for clarification in relation to Activity 2 Point 4 on whether the Secretariat actually provided equipment for cleaner technologies or whether it was just through technical advise.

47. The Chair responded that there was already a lot of work currently undertaken by the Basel Convention on this issue and that there was also a lot of information available on it. The Secretariat responded that information could be made available to Polynesia and then work with Polynesia to see which cleaner technology was applicable to each respective country represented.

48. The representative of Polynesia also suggested the inclusion of “provide facilities for NGOs to assist in the implementation of pilot projects” under Activity 2 Output-Point 4. The Secretariat again pointed to the availability or non-availability of resources which limits the work of the Secretariat.

49. The representative of Micronesia requested assistance for Palau with their ratifying process to the Stockholm Convention.

50. The Chair recapped the discussions and stated that there would need to be amendments to the text but in terms of moving the process forward that he would, with the assistance of the Secretariat, disseminate the draft WP a week from the meeting and allow a maximum of 2 weeks for Committee members to comment and send to the Chair for compilation and forwarding to the Secretariat. He stated that the Secretariat would draw up a budget befitting the current and new activities requested by the Committee and he as Chair would forward to respective members for comments.

51. The Chair urged the Committee to work closely with the Secretariat in finalizing figures for the 2009-2010 ready for insertion into the report for the Basel Secretariat.

52. The members congratulated the Sect. on work undertaken under Section E and encouraged it to continue.

53. The Committee having considered all of the activities as presented under the WP congratulated the Secretariat on the work undertaken especially in the area of resource mobilization.

54. The revised Work Plan for 2009-2010 is attached as Annex ??.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Other Matters**

55. The Secretariat clarified for the information of the Committee, that Waigani COP has taken responsibility for financing the convening of the Steering Committee.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Date and Venue of next Meeting**

56. The Secretariat proposed that the date and venue of the next meeting follow the formula adopted by the STAC2. The suggestion was supported by Australia.

57. The Committee agreed to meet earlier than June 2010 and that the Secretariat would inform the members accordingly of the exact date and venue of the next meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 8: Adoption of the Meeting Record**

58. The Chair suggested that the draft report would be given to the representatives and the adoption of the report would be done *remotely*. The Chair would liaise with the Committee members to find the best option for this to be implemented.

59. He reiterated that a draft WP would be sent to members a week from the Meeting and there would be allowance for a maximum of 2 weeks for Committee members to comment and send to the Chair for compilation and forwarding to the Secretariat. Adoption will be done remotely and coordinated by the Chair.

**Agenda Item 9: Closure of Meeting**

60. The Secretariat thanked the Committee members for their guidance and in identifying their country/regional priorities which helped the Secretariat in drawing up a functional work programme.

61. The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the time put into arranging the meeting and as well their support during the meeting. He also thanked the representatives for their contributions and hard work in making the meeting a success.

62. The Chair then closed the Meeting.

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