



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Eighteenth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa
11-14 September 2007

**Agenda Item 4: Action Taken on Decisions Made by
Seventeenth SPREP Meeting**

Purpose of Paper

- To report on action taken on the decisions of the 17th SPREP Meeting as outlined below.

Agenda Topic	Report Paragraph Number	Matters Arising	Action Taken
Agenda Item 4: Action Taken on Matters Arising from the Sixteenth SPREP Meeting	37	The Meeting noted the paper and actions taken by the Secretariat on the decisions of the 16 th SPREP Meeting. It also urged the Secretariat to pursue its discussion with New Zealand and Australia to establish the position as soon as possible, so Members could access GEF funds as early as possible.	Immediately subsequent to SM17, Australia, New Zealand, SPREP and GEF reached agreement on the post which was advertised during the last quarter of 2006, and an appointment made in March 2007. A Tripartite Funding Agreement between NZAID, AusAID and SPREP has been signed.
Agenda Item 5.3: Financial Reports <i>Agenda Item 5.3.1: Report on Members' Contributions</i>	120	The Meeting, having considered the report and addressed the substantial arrears problem, agreed to: a. note the unsatisfactory status of debts relating to Members' contributions; and b. Commit itself collectively and individually to paying current contributions and arrears in full in 2006.	By the end of 2006 subsequent to SM17, members (American Samoa, FSM, RMI and Wallis and Futuna) had either settled all current or owing contributions or made partial payments, leaving a total arrears of \$381,477.
Agenda Item 6: Staff Remuneration — Triennial Reviews <i>Agenda Item 6.1: Triennial CROP Remuneration Review on Professional Staff</i>	140	The Representative of Vanuatu thanked the Secretariat for the presentation. Vanuatu indicated that the reasons for the increases were justified but raised two issues. The first was in relation to the sustainability of the increases. He felt that to continue to fund increases in salary from cost-saving measures only was not sustainable. He requested the Secretariat to come up at the next SPREP Meeting with a long-term strategy so that current and future increases would be considered in an informed manner, taking into account a range of factors such as Member contributions, arrears, delivery of priority programmes, appropriate resourcing for its programmes, and other funding sources.	

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	<p>142</p> <p>150</p>	<p>The Representative of Tonga supported the recommendation to be adopted. Given the Secretariat's explanation that this increase will be funded from gains in cost savings, he recommended that the gains from the cost-savings measures be reported to the next SPREP meeting. He noted the example of Japan's effort at energy conservation and welcomed that an organization such as SPREP was carrying out measures that could set an example for Member countries.</p> <p>The Chair concluded that the discussions had been very positive and that the Meeting's consensus was to approve the recommendations of the paper while noting the proposal by Vanuatu for a longer-term strategy, and by Tonga for a report on cost-saving measures to be tabled at the next Meeting.</p>	<p>A paper by the Secretariat will be addressed under Agenda Item 7.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 8: Island Ecosystems Programme Issues</p> <p><i>Agenda Item 8.1.4: Strategic Priorities for Biodiversity Conservation: Regional Framework for Marine Protected Areas</i></p>	<p>241</p>	<p>The SPREP Meeting then agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. note the increasing regional and international interest and developments in marine biodiversity conservation; b. invite FFA and SPC collaboration on a regional initiative for the establishment and management of MPAs to strengthen the conservation of marine biodiversity of coasts and oceans; and c. endorse the Secretariat's plan to convene a regional workshop in 2007 in collaboration with relevant CROP Agencies and international partners, to scope and develop a programme of work (including a resourcing strategy for the implementation of a regional framework to support the establishment of MPAs) and report on outcomes to the 18th SPREP Meeting. 	<p>A regional workshop is being planned in conjunction with the Conference on Nature Conservation in PNG (October 2007) to develop the regional framework. A concept note has been developed. Some funds have been secured while more funding proposals are being submitted to a range of donors and partners.</p>

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<p><i>Agenda Item 8.1.5: Regional Arrangements for the Conservation of Marine Species of Special Interest and the Regional Marine Species Programme Framework 2003-2007</i></p>	255	<p>The Meeting then agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. encourage participating PICs to sign the MOU for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific islands region under the auspices of CMS; b. note the development and progress of the MOU for the Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Pacific under the auspices of CMS; c. urge Members who are parties to the CMS, and partners, to support the timely development and finalization of the MOU on the conservation of marine turtles; d. encourage dugong range states and territories to be fully involved in the development of the MOU for conservation and management of dugongs in the South-east Asian region under the auspices of CMS; e. endorse the review process of the Marine Species Programme Framework 2003-2007 and to consider inclusion of other marine species of special interest to the region; f. direct the Secretariat to submit the revised Marine Species Programme Framework to the 2007 SPREP Meeting for endorsement by members; and g. encourage Members who are not parties to CMS to consider becoming parties given the relevance of CMS to the region. 	<p>Regional meetings to review the Marine Species Programme Framework were conducted in Apia on 6-16 March 2007. Consultation for consideration of other marine species for inclusion in the Framework took place during these meetings. Consultations with members continued after the meetings and a paper will be submitted in SM18 on “other selected” marine species. The Marine Species Programme Framework (with Action Plans for 3 groups of marine species of special interest) was revised during the meetings mentioned above. The revised Marine Species Programme Framework will be submitted at SM 18 for endorsement.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 8.2: Pacific Futures Programme Issues</p> <p><i>Agenda Item 8.2.1: Regional Strategy on Shipping-Related Introduced Marine Pests</i></p>	266	<p>The Meeting then agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. approve the draft Regional Strategy on Shipping Related Invasive Marine Pests in the Pacific Islands (SRIMP-Pac) with the change to paragraph 25 in relation to the precautionary principle; and b. commit itself and all Members to fully support and participate in implementing the Strategy. 	<p>The changes in paragraph 25 were made to the SRIMP-Pac document.</p> <p>Certain activities of the Strategy have been included in the IMO Globallast 2nd Phase Proposal to GEF. Other aspects will be addressed in cooperation with the invasive species work carried out through Island Ecosystems.</p>

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<p><i>Agenda Item 8.2.4: Regional Strategy for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol in the Pacific Region</i></p>	303	<p>The Representative of Tuvalu requested technical assistance from the Secretariat to progress on its regulations and licensing system.</p>	<p>Consultations were undertaken with Director Environment of Tuvalu, SPREP legal Adviser, and UNEP to clarify the nature of the problem TORs were developed for review of draft regulations. A Letter of Agreement has been arranged with Tuvalu and funding secured for the finalisation of ODS regulations and the set up of an ancillary licensing system.</p>
	304	<p>The Representative of Vanuatu noted that Vanuatu had phased out CFCs and, like Tuvalu, requested assistance from the Secretariat to progress on its regulations and licensing system.</p>	<p>Consultation was undertaken with the focal point and UNEP to clarify nature of the problem. UNEP and SPREP agreed to provide direct assistance through a joint mission in April</p>
	310	<p>The Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia admitted it had not been compliant for three years, but had returned to compliance with assistance from the Secretariat. It now has national legislation ready for enactment. FSM still requested technical assistance from the Secretariat for a licensing system. She thanked New Zealand for supporting the development of the national strategy and legislation</p>	<p>The Secretariat has followed this up this issue, providing resources to the office of the Attorney General to assist development of regulations and proposing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the option of placing an immediate ban on CFCs at the national level and seek help of the State governments to implement a licensing system • a visit by UNEP or SPREP to raise the profile of ODS in May 2007
	314	<p>The Meeting agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. note progress with the control and phasing out of ODS under the Regional Strategy; b. note the Secretariat plans to continue to provide technical support and advice to countries under the current project until its conclusion at the end of 2006; c. urge countries that have not yet done so to implement ozone regulations as soon as practicable and complete their reporting requirements under the Montreal Protocol; and d. note that SPREP is working with UNEP and the Government of Australia to maintain ongoing support for control/phase-out of ozone depleting substances beyond 2006. 	<p>Formal letters were sent out in March to National Focal Points from the Director SPREP as well as similar letters by the Director of UNEP ROAP reminding them to comply with requirements A project proposal was submitted to the 50th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol in November 2006. The Committee approved additional support for a period of one year through 2007.</p>

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Agenda Item 8.4: Country Profiles as a Means for Members' National Reporting under the SPREP Action Plan (2005-2009)	363	The Meeting adopted the Country Profile template for immediate implementation, while taking note of the issues raised earlier; and agreed that at next year's Meeting members exchange information on developments related to Natural Resources Management, the first focal area of the Action Plan.	An Agenda Item 6 has been included to enable the 18 th SPREP Meeting to exchange information on Natural Resources Management as directed by 17 th SM.
Agenda Item 10: Regional Cooperation <i>Agenda Item 10.1: Report of the CROP Heads Meeting</i>	396 397	The Secretariat noted the concerns and advised that the report was based on the best information given to them at the time; and expressed regret if this was inadequate. The Director would advise other CROP Heads of the concerns. The Meeting agreed to note the report with the concerns expressed by delegates and requested the Director to inform his CROP colleagues of the concerns and comments raised.	The CROP Heads were informed of the concerns and their report was accordingly amended.