



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Eighteenth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa

11-14 September 2007

Agenda Item 9.3: Independent Corporate Review of SPREP

Purpose of Paper

1. To propose to the Meeting the conduct of an independent corporate review of SPREP in 2008 and its terms of reference (TORs) for consideration and approval.

Background

2. SPREP, as with other CROP organisations, has a 3 year MoU with the Government of Australia in relation to funding support by that Government and SPREP Member to SPREP. The MoU's term will expire at the end of 2008 when it is expected that another MoU would be negotiated to replace it.

3. As a condition for continuing funding support, a term of the MoU requires SPREP to "undertake a major independent corporate review involving a team approach that includes Pacific, private sector and donor representatives".

4. The review was to occur this year but because of funding and other work commitments of the Secretariat this was not possible.

Comments

5. Although originally a requirement of the MoU with Ausaid, the Secretariat is convinced that such a review would benefit the Secretariat and organisation but Pacific island countries and territories through wide consultations with PICTs on the quality of the Secretariat's services and the relevance of its programmes and mandate to PICTs priorities and needs and how service could be improved.

6. Since the inception of operations in Samoa in 1992 and as a fully independent intergovernmental organisation in 1995, SPREP as a corporate entity had not been comprehensively reviewed, except for an Ausaid review in 2000 which because of a very crowded SPREP Meeting agenda did not receive focused attention.

7. Periodic corporate reviews are a normal and needed feature of reputable and responsive organisations and the Secretariat executive believes the initiative by Australia is appropriate at this life in the life of SPREP. SPC had undergone a similar review in 2005 and in the true spirit of the CROP mechanism SPREP has learned from and been informed by the SPC experience in formulating this proposed review.

Proposed Terms of Reference

8. The proposed TORs, suggested review team composition, methodology and estimated budget are attached for the Meeting's consideration and approval.

9. To arrive at a balanced budget, required by the Financial Regulations, the Secretariat had not included this in its proposed 2008 budget. The Secretariat however is committed to making some savings in the 2008 budget so it could make an appropriate contribution to the cost of the review which Australia and New Zealand had indicated would be prepared to contribute to.

Recommendation

10. The Meeting is invited to:

- **Consider, amend** as appropriate and **approve** the proposed terms of reference, team composition and budget of the review.