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The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Twenty Fifth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Majuro, Marshall Islands
 30 September – 2 October 2014

Agenda Item 10.1.3: Pacific preparations for CBD COP12, CMS COP11 and Ramsar COP12

Purpose

1. To update Members on activities undertaken by the Secretariat and to seek endorsement of the outcomes of the joint preparatory meeting including proposed plans by the Secretariat to harmonize preparations for the CBD COP12, CMS COP11 and Ramsar COP12.

Background

2. Three biodiversity MEAs will convene COP meetings as follows: CBD COP12 from 6-17 October, 2014 in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea; CMS COP11 from 4 -9 November, 2014 in Quito, Ecuador; and the Ramsar Convention in June 2015 in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

3. The Secretariat has, as in past COP meetings, organized regional preparatory meetings and provided technical assistance and support to Pacific Islands that are contracting parties to the CBD, CMS and Ramsar to strengthen engagement and participation at COP meetings.

4. The Secretariat is working closely with the Secretariats of the CBD, CMS, CITES and Ramsar to implement activities of the conventions in the region in addition to increased efforts to recruit additional Parties particularly to join the CMS, CITES and Ramsar Conventions.

5. Harmonising and streamlining of MEA activities in the Pacific is a priority for the Secretariat as articulated in the SPREP Strategic Plan 2011 -2015. Limited country capacity, excessive reporting, and overlaps in activities are some of the challenges the Secretariat is working on to harmonize activities across the biodiversity MEAs, particularly the CBD, CMS, CITES and Ramsar.

6. In preparation for the CBD COP12, CMS COP11 and Ramsar COP12, the Secretariat convened a joint preparatory meeting for the Pacific Islands region in August, 2014. The CITES Secretariat participated and shared outcomes of the CITES COP meeting as input into the preparatory meeting. This was the first time a joint preparatory meeting was held in the Pacific which brought together Secretariats of the CBD, CMS, CITES and Ramsar to engage in a dialogue with Pacific Island countries and partners on substantive priority biodiversity issues of relevance and importance to the region. This is a significant initiative towards greater coordination and harmonisation between biodiversity related Conventions. The *Pacific Voyage: One Pacific Voice* campaign was again utilized as a mechanism to coordinate input and feedback on key messages and priorities for the Pacific to advocate for at COP meetings. In view of the timing of the meeting in relation to the SM, outcomes of the MEA meeting will be presented at the SM.

Recommendation

7. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** progress towards harmonizing and streamlining activities of the biodiversity MEAs in the Pacific island region; and
- **endorse** the outcomes of the joint preparatory meeting including planned activities in support of Pacific island delegations, and invite members in a position to do so to provide technical or financial support.

16 August, 2014