



PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa  
 E: [sprep@sprep.org](mailto:sprep@sprep.org)  
 T: +685 21929  
 F: +685 20231  
 W: [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)



*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 20014

### AGENDA ITEM 10.4.1: GEF Support to Members

#### Purpose of Paper

1. To provide an update on GEF support services provided by SPREP to Members and to seek approval for proposed activities and modalities for continued GEF support services.

#### Background

2. SPREP has provided the following services to support Members in accessing funding and implementing activities under GEF 5:

- a) Development of ridge to reef national projects;
- b) Conducting GEF familiarization trainings;
- c) Providing general information on GEF to Members
- d) Assistance for Member countries' application and reporting for the national prioritization formulation exercise fund;
- e) Assistance for Member countries' application to the GEF OFP Support Funds;
- f) Providing information and support for Pacific Island Country Delegates at the GEF Pacific Constituency Meeting in Sydney, Australia and the Expanded Constituency Workshop in Apia, Samoa in 2013;
- g) Providing GEF 6 Replenishment Updates to members, including the preparation of 2 regional position papers for input into the replenishment discussions;
- h) Technical support for Members at the GEF Council and other relevant GEF meetings.

3. This support has been coordinated and delivered through the GEF Support Adviser. SPREP has established a GEF Advisory Group, comprising staff involved with GEF from different Divisions, that coordinates SPREP assistance to Members, and supports the development of SPREP positions on GEF.

#### Issues and Proposed Approach for GEF 6

4. The Fifth GEF Assembly met in Cancun Mexico and approved the Sixth Programmatic Cycle (GEF-6) in June 2014. The GEF 6 cycle started on the 1st July 2014 and will end on the 30 June 2018. **New** funding allocations for SPREP Member countries eligible for GEF funding is now available. The GEF Secretariat has confirmed that they have sent communication regarding each country GEF-6 STAR allocation on the 1st July 2014 to all Pacific GEF Operational Focal Points and Political Focal Points. Additional funding windows or non-STAR funds are also available within the GEF and include other focal areas such as international waters, chemicals, ozone layer depletion, sustainable forest management (REDD +), cross cutting capacity development, and the small grants programme.

5. SPREP PIC Members need to undertake national prioritization and planning to identify priorities for GEF-6 programming. This will involve the GEF Operational Focal Point in consultations and discussions with stakeholders. Countries may also wish to dispatch letters inviting their preferred GEF Implementing Agency to work with them to produce their Project Identification Form (PIF) proposal.

6. Ongoing consultations and requests from Members, during country consultations and from previous SPREP meetings, indicate they will require continued SPREP technical support for GEF 6. We intend to continue to offer this support through the GEF Support Adviser, supported by and through the GEF Advisory Group. These proposed support services to Members include:

- a) Support the development of National and Regional Project Proposals (PIF/PPGs).
- b) Conduct GEF related training programmes.
- c) Support for Project Document Formulation.
- d) Provide policy updates on GEF, including from the GEF Council.
- e) Coordinate the preparation of Pacific Regional Position Papers on GEF, including for GEF Replenishments.
- f) Support GEF Pacific Constituency Meetings and Expanded Constituency Workshops.
- g) Support the Pacific Constituency Representative to the GEF Council.
- h) Support the implementation of the GEF medium size project for building SPREP's capacity to meet the GEF's minimum accredited standards.
- i) Provide support for SPREP's Application for Accreditation.
- j) Coordinate the Secretariat's GEF services, including through the GEF Advisory Committee, to respond effectively to requests from member countries.

#### **Funding for the GEF Support Adviser**

7. The GEF Support Adviser position is currently funded through a dedicated allocation from Australia. This funding will conclude at the end of 2015. We have identified a number of avenues for continued funding of this position:

- Approaching Australia or another metropolitan member or partner to continue funding the position;
- Include the position within the core funding;
- Charge fee for services delivered to members and internally within SPREP to cover position and operational costs;
- If SPREP achieves Implementing Agency accreditation funding is factored into the management service fee;
- Provision of services on a fee basis to existing GEF Implementing Agencies

#### **Recommendations**

8. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the services provided through the GEF Support Adviser for SPREP Members;
- **consider** whether there is a need to continue the position for GEF 6; and
- **recommend** modalities for continued funding of the position from 2016.