



Secretariat of the
Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

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SPREP Circular

File: SPREP 1/3
Date: 27 June 2011
Circular: 11/56
To: SPREP National Focal Points
Subject: Sub-Regional Presence for SPREP

Background

The 21st SPREP meeting held in Madang, Papua New Guinea in September 2010 endorsed the concept of establishing a sub-regional presence for SPREP in the Pacific region and called for the Secretariat to investigate options. The rationale for establishing a sub-regional presence is to further strengthen and better align SPREP Member activities with the 2011 – 2015 SPREP Strategic Plan

The SPREP meeting noted in particular the expressed interest by the Delegations of Vanuatu, Fiji, PNG and the Solomon Islands in establishing a sub-regional SPREP office in the Melanesian sub-region.

The issue of decentralization was raised by the 2009 Report on the Independent Corporate Review (ICR) of SPREP – which called on Members to consider implementing a strategy of decentralizing Secretariat activities within the region in order to improve its effectiveness at the operational level.

Rather than employing the current “fly-in, fly-out” approach, the ICR called for the placement of Secretariat staff in strategic sub-regional locations which would allow for sufficient time for both Government staff in the relevant PICTs that require extensive support, and Secretariat personnel to achieve planned outcomes. (Recommendation 113 of ICR)

During the sub-regional consultations on the development of the new SPREP strategic plan in May 2010 – it was noted that the idea of a sub-regional presence could be beneficial in implementing the new strategic plan. The merits of establishing a Suva Office was also discussed during the Regional Institutional Framework (RIF) discussions in 2009 but that was largely negated by the outcomes of the RIF.

Questionnaire

To facilitate the work on options for establishing a regional presence, a study will be commissioned to explore the various options including the technical and resource implications of each option. As an initial step in this process the Secretariat will circulate a questionnaire (attached) to all Members for their comments. The responses to the Questionnaire will be analyzed and feed into the follow-up work to be undertaken by the consultant(s) who will be selected to undertake the study.

The outcomes of the study will be presented to the 22nd SPREP meeting to be held in Apia, Samoa from 13-16 September 2011.

The study is expected to be completed by early August 2011. Therefore it would be appreciated if the attached questionnaire is completed and sent to the Secretariat by 8th July 2011. Please send your responses to Apiseta Eti @ apiseta@sprep.org.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely,



Kosi Latu
Acting Director

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