



## SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

### Twenty-Second SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa  
13 – 15 September 2011



#### Information Paper 3:

#### **Update on the EU funded project “Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries”**

##### **Purpose**

1. To note the progress made by SPREP in the implementation of the EU funded project “Capacity building related to MEAs in ACP countries”.

##### **Background**

2. The European Commission supports through the European Development Fund Capacity building related to MEAs in ACP countries. SPREP is the Pacific Hub for the project and the 4-year project was initiated on 1 March 2009 with an overall budget of US\$1,410,301.
3. The target group is the 15 Pacific ACP countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
4. The overall objective of the Pacific Hub is to strengthen and enhance the endogenous capacity of Pacific ACP countries to effectively implement and comply with MEAs and related commitments, and thereby improve management of the environment and the natural resources therein. This will address poverty alleviation in a sustainable development perspective and improve peoples’ livelihoods, and address the adverse effects of climate change, loss of biodiversity, drought, land degradation, waste and other threats to the environment.
5. The specific objective of the Pacific Hub is to strengthen the capacity for implementation of MEAs at the national and regional levels in Pacific ACP countries through the enhancement of SPREP as the Pacific Hub. The Pacific Hub will in turn deliver quality capacity-building services to the Pacific island countries, such as project writing skills, negotiations training, drafting and information management and exchange.

6. The main Pacific hub achievements over 2010 were:

- First iterations of the negotiation skills workshop in the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Solomon Islands.
- Negotiations booklet « Taking the Floor. A Pacific Island Country Guide to Negotiating International Environmental Agreements » produced and in use. Negotiation handbook “Multilateral Environmental Agreements Negotiators Handbook” in final draft format.
- Successful completion of the Pacific CBD COP10 Preparatory Meeting which identified key thematic issues of interest and relevance to the Pacific to pursue at the CBD COP10, and developed a range of strategies to support the effective and efficient participation of the Pacific Island parties at COP10 through a One Pacific Voice approach.
- The impact of the CBD COP10 preparatory meeting was seen at COP10 with strong coordination within the Pacific delegation.
- Successful start of pilot national training workshops on the Pacific MEA clearinghouse mechanism and its use to support Pacific ACP countries’ MEA implementation-related information requirements, with pilot held in Fiji and the Cooks Islands.
- The first two national workshops on information management took place in Tonga and Vanuatu and first national workshop on mainstreaming of MEAs took place in Kiribati. Lessons learned from these first iterations indicate that it is strategically appropriate to integrate capacity building, emphasizing the need for evidence based policy and decision making.
- Environmental impact assessment training held in three countries: Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Nauru.
- Appointment and start of SPREP’s role as the Pacific Regional Reference Centre for the UNCCD’s new monitoring system Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) Project for improving the capacities of the Pacific Country Parties to report on the status of their implementation of the UNCCD convention.
- Development of the draft Pacific Environment and Climate Change Outlook report that contributes to the GEO-5 report’s regional process of selecting relevant policy options with the potential to scale up or speed up the achievement of internationally agreed environmental goals in the MEAs, Millennium Development Goals and other key international agreements.
- Advice and support on the Waigani/Basel convention and UNCCD PRAIS (monitoring and reporting system) given to 14 ACP countries.
- An initial visit was made to Timor Leste to discuss capacity needs and project involvement over Years 3 and 4. Negotiation skills training were identified as top priority, linked to the UNCCD COP10 meeting.
- Increasing tempo of awareness raising and communication activities to promote awareness among Parties about the COPs in the MEA process, and strategies to participate effectively in and benefit from these global processes.
- Increasing tempo in the production of awareness materials, with 4 banners, 11 factsheets (total 3200 copies) and 1 poster (200 copies) produced, media support and training given at the UNCBD COP and UNFCCC COP in 2010, and the 2010 Pasifika Media Award awarded.

7. In 2011 work will continue to extend capacity building through national training in negotiation skills, MEA mainstreaming and knowledge management to all 15 Pacific ACP countries. In addition, regional capacity building events will include a CBD post-COP10 meeting, UNCCD COP10 preparatory meeting, and training in hazardous waste data collection for customs officers.

### Recommendations

8. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the progress being made by the EU funded project Capacity building related to MEAs in ACP countries.

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16 July 2011