



# SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

## Twenty-Second SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa  
13 – 15 September 2011



### **Information Paper 5:**

### **Update of Regional Waste Management and Pollution Prevention Initiatives**

#### **Purpose**

1. To provide an update on regional solid and hazardous wastes management and pollution prevention initiatives, comprising the JICA/SPREP J-PRISM Project, the AFD Regional Solid Waste Management Initiative, the GEF-PAS POPs Release Reduction Project, and the Ozone Depleting Substances regional programme.

#### **Progress**

#### **JICA/SPREP J-PRISM**

2. The Regional Cooperative Framework for the JICA<sup>1</sup>/SPREP Japan Technical Cooperation Project for the Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management (J-PRISM) was signed during a side event at the 21<sup>st</sup> SPREP Meeting in Madang, Papua New Guinea in September 2010. The project purpose is to strengthen the human and institutional capacity base for sustainable Solid Waste Management in the Pacific Region through implementation of the Pacific Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy (2010-2015).

3. Bilateral exchange of official Records of Discussion between JICA and Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Each Record of Discussion includes details on the outputs, activities, administration, execution, and evaluation of the activities for the respective country. Broadly, the activities cover integrated waste management (reduce, reuse, recycle, waste collection, disposal), awareness, capacity development, and policy development.

4. Regional project activities to be implemented include a standard waste audit program, and development of a waste management system for atolls.

5. The Project Office has been established in SPREP, and the project officially started with the arrival of the Chief Advisor to Samoa in February 2011. Other project personnel already installed are the Long-term Local Expert, and 1 short-term expert dispatched to Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and PNG, and 1 short-term expert dispatched to Marshall Islands and FSM (Kosrae and Pohnpei States).

<sup>1</sup> Japan International Cooperation Agency

6. Additional JICA experts have been recruited to cover the other Project Member Countries. Project activities have begun in several countries and SPREP will continue working with JICA to ensure that the project delivers on the agreed outputs.

### **AFD/SPREP Regional Solid Waste Initiative**

7. In April 2010, SPREP and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) signed the 1 million euro financing agreement for the Regional Solid Waste Initiative covering three components:

- the development and delivery of a vocational training program in waste management through regional institutions;
- the reduction of the negative impacts of waste oil on the environment through the development of appropriate frameworks for waste oil collection and disposal; and
- an AFD Fund which provides support to PICTs to prepare country activity proposals that will be considered subject to additional funding being secured.

8. The financing agreement stipulates that the project should be implemented through a Consultant (Technical Expert) hired through a competitive bidding process. The first request for proposals for the Consultant was launched in July 2010, but there was a poor response. A second request for proposals was issued in October 2010 for which 4 proposals were received and evaluated, and a Consultant provisionally selected with the approval of AFD.

9. SPREP has commenced negotiating a contract with this Consultant. Following the successful conclusion of these negotiations, details of the successful Consultant will be released, and the Consultant will mobilize and begin implementing the project.

### **UNEP- GEF-PAS POPs Release Reduction Project**

10. The POPs release reduction through Improved Management of Solid and Hazardous Wastes Project is a GEF-PAS<sup>2</sup> funded project implemented by UNEP. The project will focus on technical assistance and capacity building for implementation of Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and the demonstration of feasible, innovative technologies for reducing the release of unintentionally produced Persistent Organic Pollutants (uPOPs). The project also aims to improve the use of chemicals in an environmentally sound manner, to reduce releases of POPs and other persistent toxic substances to the environment, and to better manage previously contaminated sites.

11. The Project Preparation Grant was approved in April 2010, and SPREP was subsequently contracted by UNEP in October 2010 to oversee the development of the full-sized project document.

12. Regional Consultants were engaged by SPREP to undertake the country consultations and develop the component details for the project, which were subsequently presented to participating countries and other beneficiary PICs at a regional workshop in April 2011.

13. The project document has been developed based on the workshop outcomes and circulated to countries for confirmation of project activities and co-financing contributions. It is anticipated that the project document will be submitted to UNEP for further submission to GEF Secretariat in July 2011.

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<sup>2</sup> Global Environment Facility Pacific Alliance for Sustainability

### Ozone Depleting Substances

14. Pacific Island Countries have successfully complied with the Montreal Protocol by phasing out the use of CFCs by 1st January 2010. During this phase-out, Pacific Island Countries also collectively established institutional and regulatory system for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol at the country level.

15. However, the region still faces the challenge of the national accelerated phase-out of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), the use of which need to be frozen by 2013 and then reduced to 90% of the average level of consumption in 2009-2010 by 2015, and to 65% of consumption by 2020. Additional challenges faced by the region to manage Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) into the future include:

- The critical importance of the depletion of the ozone layer and its impacts on the environment, as well as linkage with the impacts of climate change have not been well publicised to the broader Pacific community;
- ODS Acts and Regulation have not yet been adopted in some Pacific countries;
- Licensing system for the import and control of ODS are in place in all countries, but have not yet been enforced in most countries;
- National Ozone Units (NOU) are still not operational in some countries, even though the Multilateral Fund (MLF) has allocated US\$ 30,000 per year to each country to assist putting a licensing system in place with the assistance of a full-time ozone officer;
- The capacity of National Ozone Offices, refrigeration servicing technicians and customs and enforcement officers are still low in comparison with other region. It is critical that this addressed to allow the phase-out of HCFC over the next few years; and
- Three countries have not yet ratified the remaining Amendments to the Montreal Protocol.

16. To address the above challenges, SPREP and UNEP have assisted 12 PIC countries to develop national HCFC Phase-out Management Plans (HPMPs) and have secured support from the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund to support ODS activities in the region until 2020 (\$USD 1,696,000). The implementation plan of the HPMP at the national and regional levels has been reviewed during the annual PIC Ozone Officer network meeting in May 2011.

17. SPREP will continue to work closely with UNEP to provide the necessary policy and technical assistance to enable Pacific Island countries to comply with HCFC phase-out targets. The ultimate phase-out of HCFCs will also result in a significant reduction in country greenhouse gas emissions

### **Conclusion**

18. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** progress on regional waste management and pollution prevention initiatives.