



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Twenty-Second SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa

13 – 15 September 2011



Agenda Item : 6.1

Study on options for establishing a Sub-regional presence for SPREP

Purpose of the Paper

1. The purpose of this Paper is to outline the progress made by the Secretariat in exploring all relevant options for establishing a sub-regional presence in the Pacific Region.

Background

2. 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. Moreover, the 2009 Report on the Independent Corporate Review (ICR) of SPREP called on Members to consider a strategy of de-centralising Secretariat activities within the region to improve its effectiveness at the operational level. Rather than employing the currently '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 to achieve planned outcomes.
3. In this regard, SPREP initiated an open-tendering process to select a consultant with expertise in this area to prepare a report on *all* relevant options for establishing a sub-regional presence for SPREP, including co-locating staff at other CROP agencies.
4. A total of nine bids for the consultancy were received, from which Mr David Gowty was selected.

Process

5. Under the terms of the consultancy, the process comprised of:
 - (i) Development and distribution of a questionnaire to all Members to gather key input on their views on the establishment of a sub-regional presence for SPREP, and how it will contribute to a better delivery of services to PICTs, and enable SPREP to achieve the new strategic priorities identified under the new SPREP Strategic Plan 2011-2015
 - (ii) Consultation with key government officials of SPREP Members through meetings, teleconferences and email
 - (iii) Consultation with relevant CROP Agencies regarding the possibility of co-location with SPREP Staff

- (iv) Consultation with staff from the Secretariat
- (v) Consultation with relevant donors to ascertain options and interest in providing support for the establishment of a sub-regional presence for SPREP
- (vi) Follow-up of questionnaires with SPREP Members and Partners/Donors
- (vii) Consultation with certain SPREP Member Countries through selected country visits in the 3 sub-regional areas (Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia).
- (viii) Development of the Draft Report and submission to the 22nd SPREP Meeting.

Recommendations

6. The Meeting is invited to:
- **consider** the Draft Report (Attached as Annex I) and Presentation given by Mr. Gowty on the establishment of a Sub-regional Presence for SPREP; and
 - **provide** additional feedback where relevant.
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23 August 2011