

## Twenty Third SPREP Meeting of Officials

4-6 September 2012  
Noumea  
New Caledonia

### Agenda Item 9.3.2: Regional E-waste Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2015

#### Purpose

1. To seek adoption of the Regional E-waste Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2015 (*Pacific E-waste: A Regional Strategy and Action Plan, 2012*) in Attachment 1.

#### Background

2. The management and disposal of end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment (E-waste) is an increasingly important issue for Pacific island countries as increasing quantities of electrical and electronic equipment are imported into the region.
3. E-waste typically refers to end-of-life electrical and electronic products including computers, printers, photocopy machines, television sets, washing machines, radios, mobile phones and toys.
4. Proper management and disposal of E-waste is important for the long-term protection of local and regional Pacific environments, as well as for the maintenance of long-term regional sustainability.
5. Enforcement of national legislation to ensure that the cost of disposal of end-of-life electrical and electronic goods is fully paid by the consumer of the electrical and electronic goods is essential if E-waste is to be managed sustainably into the future in the Pacific region.

#### 1. Regional E-waste Management Strategy

6. The 21<sup>st</sup> SPREP Meeting in 2010 placed a priority on the improvement of E-waste management in the Pacific.
7. This regional E-waste Management Strategy includes:
  - Provision of background information on the environmental and health risks associated with E-waste disposal;
  - Provision of guidance on best practice in E-waste handling and disposal options;
  - Description of an integrated framework to progressively assess, collect, store and dispose of E-waste in the Pacific region;
  - Presentation of draft model National E-waste Management Policy for further discussion and consultation prior to national adoption; and
  - Supports co-ordination and capacity building in hazardous waste management.

Assistance will be provided by the Secretariat to island states for E-waste related activities including acquisition of funding, technical assistance and other relevant work.

8. The draft strategy and action plan was circulated to Members for comment and review in July 2011. ***America, Australia, Cook Islands, France, New Zealand, Samoa, SPC and JICA are thanked for their input to the draft strategy.***

**2. E-waste Action Plan 2012-2015**

9. The E-waste Strategy is supported by an Action Plan (2012-2015) which presents a four year timeframe and framework in which to improve regional E-waste management.

10. The E-waste action plan includes a time-bound framework for:

- Completion of national E-waste policies including E-waste disposal options;
- Development of Standardised Operating Procedures (SOPS) for E-waste handling and collection;
- Enforcement of national legislation to ensure that future E-waste disposal is based on the user-pays principal through appropriate mechanisms such as extended producer responsibility and advanced recycling fees or taxes on imported goods;
- Prioritised construction of secure, national E-waste storage infrastructure; and
- Completion of national E-waste stockpile collections.

**Recommendation**

11. The meeting is invited to:

- **Adopt** the Regional E-waste Strategy and Action Plan (*Pacific E-waste: A Regional Strategy and Action Plan, 2012*);
  - **Call** on partners and donor agencies to provide assistance where possible to ensure completion of the Action Plan;
  - **Note** the involvement of multiple partners (including SPC and the National Environment Service, Cook Islands) in development of the Strategy and Action Plan; and
  - **Direct** the Secretariat to provide assistance to Members in the future implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan where possible.
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