

Twenty Fourth SPREP Meeting of Officials

17th -19th September 2013
Apia, Samoa

AGENDA ITEM 9.2.7: Updates on New Climate Change Initiatives

Purpose of Paper

1. **This paper outlines two new climate change initiatives at SPREP:** (a)– Report of the Reduced Vulnerability of the Pacific Island Country Villagers' Livelihoods to the Effects of Climate Change (FINPAC) Project and (b)The Regional Pilot Programme on Climate Resilience. These are outlined below:

A. **REPORT OF THE REDUCED VULNERABILITY OF THE PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRY VILLAGERS' LIVELIHOODS TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE (FINPAC) PROJECT**

Background

2. Details of this project were submitted to SPREP Members meetings in 2011 and 2012. The Reduced Vulnerability of the Pacific Island Country Villagers' Livelihoods to the Effects of Climate Change project, more commonly referred to as the FINPAC project, is a regionally coordinated project focussed on adapting to the effects of Climate Change. The project is scheduled for 4 years commencing in January 2013¹ with a budget of EUR4M. The priorities of FINPAC are closely linked to the Pacific Islands Meteorology Strategy (PIMS) Pacific Key Outcomes 3, 6, 7 and 10.

3. The adaptation approach developed in the Project is based on the development of capacity of the National Meteorological Services (NMSs) to respond to the growing demand for more and better weather and climate services in the community. The FINPAC Project will partner National Meteorological Services (NMSs) with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to work with communities and villages from participating Pacific Island Countries (PICs) to develop early warning systems and will aim to improve dialogue between disaster managers and NMSs and the users of weather and climate information. A particular focus will be on those living in rural communities and villages in Pacific countries.

¹ The project was signed in 20 December 2012, thus a starting date of January 2013

4. On 6 July 2013 the first meeting of the FINPAC project steering committee (SC) was convened in Nadi, Fiji, immediately following the 2nd Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council. The steering committee has the responsibility of managing the overall direction of the project and has the authority to establish work plans and guide project implementation, including where circumstances demand a revision to projects activities.

5. The Steering Committee was advised that a Project Manager had been selected through an international recruitment process and that the successful applicant would be expected to commence by the end of September, 2013. The appointment of the Project Manager is an important component of developing the SPREP work program for this Project over the next 12 months.

6. A work programme for activities implemented by the Finnish Meteorological Institute in the next 12 months was presented to the meeting and endorsed subject to it being integrated in to the SPREP work plan when it is formulated. The implementation of FINPAC project work under SPREP aegis has been delayed. The delay has arisen as a key partner in the Baseline Study earmarked to precede SPREP managed activities requires fundamental changes owing to the unavailability of a key partner for this process. It is expected that the revisions to the Baseline Study strategy will be completed well before the SPREP meeting and work will have commenced on community focused activities by the end of the 3rd quarter of 2013.

7. In other respects the project is continuing as scheduled with a number of technical activities specifically aimed at improving the technical capacity of meteorological services already underway.

B. REGIONAL PILOT PROGRAMME ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Background

8. The Pacific was invited as one of two vulnerable regions (the Caribbean being the other) to participate in the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR) under the Strategic Climate Fund of the Climate Investment Fund managed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank (WB).

9. PPCR aims to help countries transform to a climate resilient development path, consistent with national poverty reduction and sustainable development goals. PPCR aims to increase the resilience of the Pacific Developing Member Countries (PDMCs) to climate variability and climate change. The outcome will be the improved capacity of PDMCs to respond to climate change impacts and related natural disasters.

10. The Pacific PPCR has two tracks: (i) a national track (for Samoa, Tonga and Papua New Guinea), and (ii) the regional track to be implemented through regional organisations (SPREP, PIFs, SPC). The regional track is primarily aimed at countries not involved in the national track, however there are likely synergies in implementation that could open opportunities.

11. The regional track has three components: Component 1 - mainstreaming climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR); Component 2 - implementing practical CCA and DRR knowledge and experiences; and Component 3 - building and supporting countries capacity to respond to climate change risks through a Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM).

12. The budget for components 1 and 3 combined is USD\$3.6m whilst component 2 is US \$6.2m for three years. In practical terms this means that SPREP will not be able to cover all PICs with the initial work under component 1.

Components Objectives

13. Component 1 will develop tools and build participation in key development sectors for mainstreaming climate change and disaster risk management at national, provincial and outer islands/community levels linked to policy, planning and budgetary processes. Component 2 will address integrated terrestrial and marine food systems, better utilization of water and coastal resources management and development in the context of climate change and disaster risk management. Component 3 will establish a mechanism (RTSM) for a rapid response fund and a network of experts (e.g. on gender, climate change financing, knowledge management, cost benefit analysis, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E)) to facilitate rapid access by Pacific countries to technical and advisory services. This will contribute to the strengthening of national capacity through regional capacity augmentation in order to respond more effectively to climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Regional Implementation Structure

14. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFs) will have a monitoring and evaluation role and ensure that there are linkages between the regional components and the national track countries. SPREP is leading on components 1 and 3 with ADB; while SPC is leading on component 2 with the WB.

15. With the support of both WB and ADB the M&E for the national track is being developed and Samoa is in an advanced stage of development. The regional track M&E development will be coordinated by PIFs, once PPCR teams for both SPREP and SPC are in place.

Progress

16. The ADB Board approved the implementation of the regional PPCR on 25 April 2013 with SPREP to manage components 1 and 2 through ADB direct selection.

17. SPREP submitted a Request for Proposal (RFP) on the 26 June 2013 inclusive of a Technical proposal which outlines the general approaches, methodology, work plan and schedule, a budget and a list of consultants to be engaged during implementation.

18. The PPCR documentations from the Pacific regional and national tracks are available from the CIF, WB and ADB sites.

Recommendations

19. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the commencement of the two new climate change projects at SPREP; and
 - **provide** any guidance or comment regarding the implementation of these projects
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24 July 2013