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Twenty Fifth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Majuro, Marshall Islands

30 September – 2 October 20014

Agenda Item 10.2.2: Progress on PIGGAREP and PIGGAREP Plus

Purpose of Paper:

1. To update Members on the work of the Secretariat on greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation through the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) and PIGGAREP + including other relevant Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) activities.

Background

2. The objectives of both PIGGAREP and PIGGAREP+ are to reduce the growth rate of GHG emissions from fossil fuel use in the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) through the widespread and cost effective use of RE. They involve various activities whose outputs will contribute to the removal of the major barriers to the widespread utilization of RE technologies, as well as contributing to the increased development of RE in the Pacific.

3. PIGGAREP commenced in July 2007 and is currently in its final year. PIGGAREP+ with additional funds of USD3million from Denmark through SIDS DOCK is also anticipated to be completed by end of 2014. However, significant delays were experienced early on which led to delays in the preparatory work of most of the PIGGAREP+ countries and implementation has just commenced. It is anticipated that by third quarter of this year, equipment for this project will be procured, with installation to be carried out and completed by December. It is anticipated the terminal evaluation of the project will be carried out in the last quarter of 2014. SPREP also received additional support from the Government of Japan and from Taiwan (ROCT) for various renewable energy initiatives in Pacific countries.

Summary of the highlights of PIGGAREP outcomes

4. To date the PIGGAREP and PIGGAREP+ projects have and will be impacting more than 50,000 beneficiaries (men, women, boys and girls) from 44 national projects in 10 PICs (excluding PNG). In addition, there were 15 regional workshop and training programmes conducted for 11 PIGGAREP member countries (including PNG). These training programmes were focused on: sharing knowledge about RE best practices and lessons learnt in the countries; wind data analysis; and project proposal drafting and actual hands-on experience in installation of solar PV grid connect systems. PIGGAREP's interventions had led to the introduction of solar PV systems in the Cook Islands with the Pacific Environment Facility (PEC) Fund providing the actual hardware funding; and the installation of a total of 546 kW solar PV grid connected system in Samoa.

5. On the GHG emission reduction side, up until the end of June 2014, more than 17,000 tons of CO₂ has been avoided in emissions and more than 600,000 tons of CO₂ is anticipated to be avoided when most of the project initiatives come into operation by the second half of 2014 and 2015.

Project Closure - December 2014

6. The project completed its 7th and last Multipartite Review (MPR) meeting alongside its Project Board meeting - that endorsed decisions of the MPR and to move the project to closure by December 2014. Following closure, the project is to share with all stakeholders its lessons and practices for replication, upscaling and learning beyond 2014.

SPREP RE Strategy

7. The SPREP Strategic Plan includes climate change mitigation as a key goal. Renewable energy (RE) and forest conservation are considered as the Pacific's contribution to reducing GHG emissions, while at the same time also contributing to the achievement of key development goals in PICTs. Renewable and alternative sources of energy contribute to energy security goals and forest conservation not only act as sinks for carbon dioxide but also provide environmental, social and cultural benefits to communities in the Pacific.

8. RE as a component of low carbon development for the Pacific will continue to be a key priority for SPREP as called for in national energy programmes and roadmaps and is also one of the key goals of the draft strategy for climate resilient development (SRDP).

9. PIGGAREP has contributed significantly to the development of mitigation actions at the national and community level in 11 Pacific Countries¹ and has also received additional funding from the SIDS DOCK which will support implementation of renewable energy "hardware" projects in 6 Pacific countries, noting that PIGGAREP has laid the groundwork by supporting renewable energy "soft options" such as feasibility studies, resource assessments, awareness and training programmes, surveys and installations and design of hardware options.

10. As noted in WP 6.7, in 2011 the SIDS DOCK Steering Committee designated Belize as the Host Country for the SIDS DOCK Secretariat and decided that a Pacific SIDS Dock office would be established in Samoa at SPREP. To date SIDS Dock has provided financing for PIGGAREP+ projects in Cook Islands, FSM, Kiribati, Palau, RMI, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu (total US\$ 2,680,390.00). Further projects are in the SIDS Dock pipeline and are awaiting release of funds from the World Bank. Similarly the funding for the Pacific SIDS Dock Office is also awaiting final decisions on the second tranche of funds from Japan through the World Bank.

11. The SIDS Dock Pacific office will increase access of Pacific countries to GHG mitigation programmes through affordable and reliable energy services. It will also thereby contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions thus minimising pollution and contributing to the global benefit of reversing the trend of climate change. In its essence this Office is a climate change mitigation response centre, and climate change is its *raison d'être*. It will achieve this objective through energy efficiency and renewable energy to ensure energy security, clean energy and technology, and to provide economic benefits to Pacific countries through reduced use of expensive imported diesel. It therefore has synergies and complimentary to the Pacific regional response to climate change in the context of the sustainable development goals of Pacific countries.

¹ PIGGAREP countries are: Cook islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. FSM, RMI and Palau are participating in PIGGAREP+.

12. The secretariat is the lead coordinating CROP agency on climate change in the region and should therefore play a role in all climate change related activities, including mitigation. SPREP is responsible in its coordination role to provide relevant support to countries on adaptation and mitigation issues in response to climate change and greenhouse gas effects and has been carrying out this mandate since the Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP) commenced in the 1990's. It can be argued that all subsequent climate change activities in the region have a firm anchor in PICCAP.

13. Significantly, the SIDS Dock office would form an integral element of the Pacific Climate Change Centre which will be developed at SPREP. This will be the key Centre for the region to coordinate climate change efforts, including climate change adaptation, mitigation, and policy development. The Government of Japan has confirmed they will establish/build the PCCC at SPREP with the initial stage already underway (recruitment of a JICA expert to be based in SPREP for PCCC planning).

14. The secretariat will therefore continue to assist Members in developing mitigation proposals and programmes, in cooperation with key partners.

Recommendation

15. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the progress to date of the PIGGAREP and PIGGAREP+ activities and closing date;
- **note the** secretariat role and strategy for GHG mitigation and provide inputs on how to further refine and develop activities in this regard; and
- **encourage** the participating countries and members to share the success stories, apply lessons learned to future mitigation projects and continue to mainstream and sustain these activities beyond the life of these projects.

22 July 2014