



PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
 E: sprep@sprep.org
 T: +685 21929
 F: +685 20231
 W: www.sprep.org



The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Twenty Fifth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Majuro, Marshall Islands
 30 September – 2 October 20014

AGENDA ITEM 10.4.2: Improving Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development Through Strengthening Planning, Monitoring and Reporting

Purpose of Paper

1. To provide an update on Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development support provided to Members and seek approval for activities and modalities for continued support.

Background

2. The Environmental Monitoring and Governance (EMG) Division in 2012 was mandated to facilitate activities under the EMG strategic priority of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2011-2015. The activities have been in the four focal areas of enabling frameworks; mainstreaming; building capacity and monitoring and reporting.

3. The EMG Division has doubled from a staff of 6 in 2012 to 12 in 2014. Funding for 8 of these positions is from the Australian and New Zealand multi-year funding and funding for other staff is from projects. EMG activities are funded primarily from the EU funded ACP MEA (Multilateral Environment Agreement) Capacity Building Project, and from other projects.

Activities in the four EMG focal areas

4. **Enabling Frameworks** – While Members have environmental policy and legal frameworks in place they continue to require technical support and advice to strengthen these frameworks. This support includes the review of existing frameworks and the drafting of new policy and legislation. Building capacity to strengthen effectiveness of participation at international negotiations and meetings is also a key area of work for EMG. Support was provided to all Members through national and regional training workshops and through the publication of two handbooks. Environment Impact Assessment has been strengthened through the revision of regional EIA Guidelines and the provision of specific guidance on key issues within Member countries and territories and also on areas such as deep sea minerals and coastal tourism development. GEF support to countries to enable them to address key GEF related issues and MEA obligations has been significant and is outlined in WP 10.4.1.

5. **Mainstreaming** – We are assisting Members with the formulation of their National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS) which address key environmental issues and consolidate thematic MEA plans. This is undertaken through a national consultative process that also builds national capacity for environmental planning and management. The NEMS are designed to integrate into National Sustainable Development Plans as the environment pillar. SPREP was one of the leaders in the formation of the NSDS Support Partnership, a regional partnership to support members in the formulation and strengthening of planning for sustainable development.

6. **Building Capacity** – Capacity building is carried out at national and regional levels, based on a consultative “learn through doing” approach. Capacity building also supports the formulation of relevant national documents and strategies, where applicable. Funding for most capacity building activities is through the ACP MEAs Capacity Building Project. The first phase of this project was successfully completed in 2013 with a second 4-year phase commencing in 2014. We kindly seek the continued support of Members with the implementation of the second phase of the ACP MEAs Project.

7. As instructed by the 23rd SPREP Meeting in 2012 the Secretariat has sought continued financing for capacity building to improve planning, monitoring and reporting and a GEF Regional Project Document “Building national and regional capacity to implement MEAs by strengthening planning, and state of environment assessment and reporting in the Pacific Islands” is being finalised. Funding for this regional project is from GEF global set aside capacity building funds and does not draw from members GEF STAR national allocations. We seek continued Member support and endorsement for this project.

8. **Monitoring and Reporting** – At the 23rd SPREP Meeting in 2012 a regional framework for State of Environment (SOE) monitoring and reporting was adopted by Members. Accordingly, SPREP has designed and are using a regional template to assist national SOE reporting. We have strengthened links to global and MEA reporting frameworks to assist Members with their national reporting obligations. In the longer term we are in the process of identifying regional environmental indicators and designing environmental databases, together with their associated monitoring and data sharing guidelines and protocols. We aim to implement these with Members, through the proposed GEF Capacity Building Project.

Recommendations

9. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note and support** the approach to strengthen environmental governance and sustainable development;
- **support** the implementation of Phase 2 of the ACP MEAs Project; and
- **reiterate its endorsement and support** for the GEF Regional Project - “Building national and regional capacity to implement MEAs by strengthening planning, and state of environment assessment and reporting in the Pacific Islands.”