



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 2014

Agenda Item 6.2: Accessing Multilateral Financing – Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Adaptation Fund (AF) Accreditation

Purpose of Paper

1. To provide a progress report on the Project Agency status of SPREP with the GEF and developments to date in relation to the AF accreditation as a Regional Implementing Entity (RIE).
2. To ensure Members awareness and to invite them to use SPREP as a RIE for adaptation projects to be submitted to the AF.

Background

3. Previous SPREP Meetings have directed SPREP to proceed with applications to become a Regional Implementing Entity (RIE) under the Adaptation Fund and a Project Agency under GEF. The Secretariat has proceeded with both applications and has fully briefed SPREP Members on progress at previous SPREP meetings.
4. Acknowledging SPREP's application and its work in the region, including supporting PICs, the GEF Secretariat invited SPREP in 2013 to prepare a Medium Size Project (MSP) proposal for USD 1 million dollars to assist with the building of its internal capacity to meet GEF Project Agency accreditation standards. The Project Identification Form (PIF/Proposal) was approved on the 11th April 2013 allowing SPREP to move ahead with the development of the comprehensive project document.
5. The AF Board accredited SPREP as an RIE by its decision of 1 November 2013. SPREP had been working on achieving this accreditation since March 2010 at the direction of Members and decisions of the 2009 and subsequent SPREP Meeting and the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable. This is a major achievement and SPREP is now one of only three RIE's in the world, the others are in Africa. With this accreditation SPREP can assist countries in developing and submitting climate change adaptation proposals for funding considerations from the AF. This is particularly important for countries in the region with limited national capacity in the areas of project development including project management and implementation. At the same time, SPREP will continue to support efforts in the region to those PICs who wish to attain NIE status, allowing direct access. Currently, there are no NIEs in the Pacific, and some countries have so far successfully developed projects with MIEs such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). However, further submissions through MIEs will be subject to a cap imposed by AF Board that only 50% of total projects should come through MIEs.

Progress to Date

GEF

6. The MSP project document has undergone UNDP's local project appraisal check and submitted to UNDP. GEF informed UNDP and SPREP in July that this project will now not be part of GEF 5 but will part of the GEF 6 Cycle. We are waiting on further advice from GEF on the GEF 6 project submission process. SPREP will continue to work with UNDP to finalise documents for submission to GEF for the CEO endorsement as soon as possible. SPREP will receive USD 900,000 to implement capacity building activities while UNDP receives approximately USD 100,000 as its GEF Project Agency fee. The total budget is USD 1million.

7. At the end of the MSP, SPREP's capacity would have been strengthened to meet GEF Project Agency accreditation standards. At that time, SPREP will prepare Stage I and II applications again and will resubmit once the GEF Council takes a decision for a second round of accreditation when the current first round ends in December 2014. Pacific Island delegates are encouraged to seek the support of their GEF Council Representative, Ambassador Winston Thompson of Fiji and Alternate Representative, Ms. Myra Patai of the Cook Islands to request the GEF council to take a decision on a second round of application to occur after the 2014 deadline expires.

AF

8. On 1 November 2013, SPREP secured its status as a RIE under the AF. SPREP has been working on achieving this accreditation since March 2010 at the direction of Members. SPREP is now the third RIE under the AF; the other two are the West Africa Development Bank (accredited two years ago) and the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (accredited in early 2013), making this a landmark achievement for SPREP and for the Pacific region.

9. The accreditation process required that SPREP meet the legal and fiduciary standards approved by the AF Board, as laid out in the Operational Policies and Guidelines. Those requirements led SPREP to the establishment of an independent internal audit function, strengthening the procurement and financial management procedures, and developing a SPREP code of ethics and organisational values and behaviours. These key actions have improved the functioning of SPREP in support of our Member countries and territories and have raised the standards for regional organisations and their accountability to their Members.

10. It is expected that the Green Climate Fund (GCF) criteria for implementing entities will be similar to the AF. This will place SPREP in an excellent position to assist the region further with climate change financing under the GCF.

11. SPREP has also developed a guide based on our experience with the AF application to assist PICs which are applying to become an NIE. The lessons learned from this SPREP experience are valuable in informing Members of the level of commitment and dedication that will be required, as well as on specific AF requirements, and SPREP stands ready to support Members in that process. This guidance is available through the SPREP website and the Pacific Climate Change Portal.

12. Adaptation and resilience building aspects are relevant to all elements of the SPREP Strategic Plan, and there are thus many opportunities for Pacific island countries to propose integrated adaptation projects to the AF through SPREP. SPREP is currently assisting the Federated States of Micronesia with its first project proposal to the AF. A draft was submitted in February 2014, but was returned with a number of areas where the AF was seeking clarifications. A revised draft addressing these areas, and building in further details and refinements was submitted in August 2014. Significant effort is required to develop AF proposals, and countries may wish to consider the RTSM of the regional PPCR as an option for assisting them with their applications.

13. SPREP in cooperation with the AF Secretariat will convene a project concept writing workshop in Apia 16 to 18 September 2014 to further assist Pacific Island Countries to develop proposals for the AF. The workshop is funded and supported by APAN, PIFS and the EU/SPC GCCA:PSIS project. An oral report will be provided to the SPREP meeting.

Recommendation

14. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the Secretariat's efforts to seek GEF Project Agency Accreditation;
- **suggest** that Pacific Island Countries support a second round of accreditation of project agencies for the GEF, when this is discussed at the GEF Council Meeting in October/November 2014, and request the Secretariat to convey this through to the Pacific GEF Council Representatives (Amb. Winston Thompson of Fiji) and Alternate Representative (Ms. Myra Patai of the Cook Islands);
- **note** the accreditation and RIE status of SPREP with the Adaptation Fund;
- **note** the availability of a guide for AF accreditation developed by the Secretariat and invite Members to use the guide and to work with SPREP on accessing resources from the AF; and
- **invite** Members to utilize SPREP as a RIE for adaptation projects under the Adaptation Fund, bearing in mind the financial requirements for project development.