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

Twenty Sixth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Apia, Samoa
22nd – 24th September 2015

Agenda Item 10.4.2: Global Environment Facility

Purpose

1. To provide update on the Pilot Accreditation for GEF Project Agencies and implementation of Medium Sized Project to facilitate SPREP GEF Implementing Agency accreditation.
2. To outline the status of SPREP GEF projects, proposals, concepts and member support services.

Background

3. Since 1992, the GEF has funded 11 regional projects totaling USD 63.1 million through SPREP. Since its pilot phase in 1991, SPREP has delivered flagship programmes starting with the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Project, the Pacific Island Climate Change Assistance Project and International Waters Project between GEF 1-3 to delivering 3 important regional projects under the GEF 4 Pacific Alliance for Sustainability focusing on conservation management of island biodiversity, management control of Invasive Alien Species and improved management of POPs in solid and hazardous wastes. The PACC and PIGGAREP regional projects are the 2 largest flagship programmes undertaken thus far.
4. For GEF 5, SPREP has supported countries' request for joint missions with UNDP and FAO to develop proposals under the Ridge to Reef Umbrella Programme. SPREP will also provide technical support during project implementation. GEF 6 opened on the 1st July 2014 and provides fresh funds for Pacific Island Countries. The total national allocation for all 14 Pacific Island Countries in GEF-6 is USD 93.4 million.
5. The Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF completed its Country Portfolio Evaluation Report for Vanuatu and SPREP 1992-2012. The report identifies SPREP as a key partner of the GEF and Pacific Island Countries. It acknowledges the long standing partnership between the GEF and SPREP in delivering vital regional environmental projects to support member countries' achieving their national sustainable development goals both domestically and internationally (MEAs). The Report also highlighted SPREP's key role to promote cooperation and collaboration among development partners towards environmental protection and conservation in the Pacific region.

Pilot Accreditation of GEF Agencies

6. The Pilot Accreditation for GEF Project Agencies expired on the 31st December 2014. The GEF now has a total of 14 Partner Agencies. The 47th GEF Governing Council Meeting in October 2014, requested the GEF Independent Evaluation Office to review the accreditation process to identify lessons and its overall impact on the GEF business model. The 48th GEF Governing Council Meeting in June 2015 considered this review and acknowledged lessons from the pilot accreditation and requested the GEF Secretariat to take these into account when preparing proposals regarding possible directions on accreditation in the context of the evolving GEF business model and submit it for discussion at the 49th GEF Governing Council Meeting in October 2015.

SPREP GEF Implementing Agency Accreditation

7. At the 22nd SPREP Annual Meeting in Apia (2011), the secretariat received instructions to obtain GEF accreditation when the pilot phase for accrediting new project agency opened. This decision was to facilitate access to GEF financing for Members and also provide an additional revenue stream for SPREP. By becoming accredited, SPREP would be able to create project proposals and manage projects to be delivered by an executing agency while receiving a 10% administration fee to perform oversight functions.

8. A Medium Size Project (USD 1 Million) to enable SPREP to meet GEF Implementing Agency accreditation requirements was approved by the GEF CEO on the 2nd December 2014. Through this project, SPREP will strengthen its fiduciary capacity (Audit, Financial Management, Control Frameworks, Project/Activity Process Oversight, and Investigations) put in place environmental and social safeguards and also continue to strengthen IT platforms to complement new improvements. SPREP is currently implementing the MSP with UNDP through the SPREP GEF Support Adviser.

Status of Current Projects

- i. Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project (PACC): completed on the 30 June 2015.
- ii. Pacific Island Greenhouse Abatement for Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP): Final wrap up to be completed on the 30 June 2015.
- iii. GEFPAS Implementing the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work by Integrating the Conservation Management of Island Biodiversity: Currently being implemented to be completed on the 30 June 2016.
- iv. GEFPAS Prevention, Control and Management of Invasive Alien Species in the Pacific Islands: Currently being implemented to be completed on the 30 September 2016.
- v. GEFPAS Pacific POPs Release Reduction Through Improved Management of Solid and Hazardous Waste: Currently being implemented to be completed on the 18 June 2018.

Pipeline Project Proposals and Concepts

GEF5

9. The Project Document for the Building National and Regional Capacity to Implement Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA) by Strengthening Planning and State of Environment Assessment and Reporting in the Pacific has been submitted to UNEP for their internal review before onward submission to the GEF provisionally at its October council meeting in Washington D.C.

10. The Project Document for Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing has been submitted to UNEP as the GEF Implementing Agency.

GEF6

11. New project concepts (Project Identification Form/PIF) are being developed for the following areas;

- i. Regional Sustainable Land Management targeting common issues for land degradation in the pacific region (by SPC).
- ii. Deep Sea Mining and Marine Spatial Planning of Marine Resources in the Pacific Region (by SPC).
- iii. Capacity Building to strengthen the use of EIA Planning Tool for Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Development (by SPREP).

Services to Members

12. GEF support services to Members continue to be supported through the SPREP GEF Advisory Group. The GEF Support Adviser provides technical backstopping to this Group and to SPREP Members in the following areas:

- i. Support of the Pacific GEF Council Representative at the GEF Governing Council Meetings. Prepare the Pacific regional position papers for the Pacific representative to discuss agenda items and understand implications for the region.
- ii. In-country missions to support GEF awareness and national prioritisation.
- iii. In-country missions to support project identification form (PIF) and project document formulation.
- iv. Support Pacific Island Countries attending the GEF Constituency Meeting, GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop and GEF Council.
- v. Support GEF project management, implementation and reporting.

13. SPREP will continue to offer these services which Members have identified as being of great value.

Recommendation

14. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** that the Pilot Accreditation of GEF Agencies is completed and the Medium Size Project to facilitate SPREP's GEF Implementing Agency accreditation is currently being implemented;
- **note** the status of projects executed by the SPREP;
- **acknowledging** the significant contributions made by the recently completed PACC and PIGGAREP projects in climate change adaptation and renewable energy for Pacific Island Countries;
- **note** that GEF 5 proposals for two regional projects on MEA and ABS have been submitted for consideration; and
- **endorse** SPREP to continue to offer the GEF support services to Members.

30 June 2015