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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 6.12biz - Strategy for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

Purpose

1. To inform Members on the progress with development of the draft strategy and the implication of the strategy for SPREP's ongoing climate change and disaster risk management roles.

Background

2. The Draft Strategy for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (SRDP) is intended to succeed the previous regional frameworks on climate change and disaster risk management (respectively, the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006-2015 and the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005-2015).

3. The overall aim of the SRDP is to strengthen the resilience of Pacific Island communities to the impacts of climate change and disasters by developing more effective and integrated ways to address climate and disaster risks, within the context of sustainable development. To achieve this goal, the SRDP provides targeted high-level strategic guidance to key stakeholder groups that are recognized as having a critical role to play in addressing challenges posed by climate change and disasters in the Pacific. These stakeholder groups include Governments and Administrations, the Private Sector, Civil Society Organisations and Communities, Regional Organisations and other development partners.

4. The SRDP identifies three inter-related strategic goals that need to be actively pursued by all stakeholders, working in partnership, in order to enhance climate and disaster resilience. These three goals all relate to both climate change and natural disasters and are:

i) Strengthened integrated risk management

Pursuing this goal entails successfully managing risks caused by climate change and disasters in an integrated manner, within social and economic development planning processes and practices, in order to reduce the accumulation of such risks, and prevent the creation of new risks. This goal should contribute to strengthening resilient development and achieving efficiencies in resources management.

ii) Low carbon development

Pursuing this goal revolves mainly around reducing the carbon intensity of development processes, increasing the efficiency of end-use energy consumption, increasing the conservation of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, and enhancing the resilience of energy infrastructure. This goal should contribute to having more resilient energy infrastructure in place, but also to increasing energy security, while also decreasing the net emissions of greenhouse gases.

iii) Strengthened Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery

Pursuing this goal includes improving the capacity of PICTs to prepare for emergencies and disasters, thereby ensuring timely and effective response and recovery in relation to both rapid and slow onset disasters. Disaster preparedness, response and recovery initiatives should prevent undue human losses and suffering, and minimize adverse consequences for national, provincial, local and community economic, social and environmental systems.

5. The achievement of these goals will also critically depend on the existence of a sound enabling environment, including the availability of resources, the establishment of sound governance arrangements, effective dialogue, communication and partnerships.

Implementation Arrangements

6. Section 3 of the SRDP outlines an implementation framework which gives direction on the institutional arrangements required to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the SRDP. The implementation of the SRDP will be supported by a dedicated SRDP support unit whose work will be guided by the SRDP Working Group in collaboration with other stakeholders in climate and disaster resilient development.

The SRDP Support Unit (SRDP SU)

7. The purpose of the SRDP Support Unit is to provide operational support for the effective and efficient implementation of the SRDP. Its responsibilities will include:

i). Secretariat to the SRDP Working Group

This task encompasses providing secretariat support to WG meetings which includes but is not limited to: proposing the Agenda for these meetings, preparing meeting papers, organising the logistics, drafting WG minutes and reports, and ensuring the timely and effective implementation of WG decisions.

ii). Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning

The Support Unit will be in charge of monitoring progress, coordinating reporting and collecting lessons learned on the implementation of the SRDP, under the guidance of the WG, using an agreed results-based management framework.

iii). Communication and Advocacy

The Support Unit will assist the WG in preparing and implementing a Communication and Information Plan for the SRDP. It will also support the WG and other stakeholders to raise the profile of the SRDP with Pacific Island Leaders, through relevant mechanisms, and to advocate for the SRDP and its resourcing.

iv). Partnerships coordination and cooperation

The Support Unit will work with the WG to bring together stakeholders from the climate change and the DRM communities, as well as other key stakeholders, to partake in discussions on climate and disaster resilient development at regional level. It will coordinate information and knowledge sharing amongst the existing regional mechanisms and promote coordination and cooperation in support of the implementation of the SRDP.

vi). SRDP implications for SPREP work on Climate Change

The SRDP falls within the context of the current SPREP Strategic Plan especially, on strategic goal CC2: *improving capacity, knowledge and understanding of climate change and risk reduction*. SPREP currently executes many projects on climate change and disaster risk management and in particular supports meteorological, hydrological and climate services. The development of the new strategic plan in 2016 provides the opportunity for SPREP to ensure its role in climate change and meteorology is strengthened and aligns with the SRDP. In particular, existing SPREP mechanisms such as the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR) will continue as a stand-alone forum and will be linked with mechanisms under the SRDP.

Recommendation

8. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the verbal report on progress with the SRDP, including the outcomes of the 2015 Pacific Islands Forum;
- **note** the extension for 12 months of the PIFACC;
- **task** the Secretariat to work with the SRDP Steering Committee and Technical Working Group to address concerns raised by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in consultation with SPREP Members;
- **endorse** SPREP to be the support unit for the SRDP;
- **circulate** the agreed process for SRDP finalisation, when available to all Members; and
- **submit** a final draft of the SRDP to the 2016 SPREP Meeting.

Attachment: Draft SRDP

18 September 2015