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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 6.9: European Development Funds (EDF) 11 Prospects

Purpose of the Paper

1. The purpose of the paper is to update Members on the European Development Funds (EDF) 11 Prospects for SPREP.

Background

2. Since 1999 the Regional Authorising Officer (RAO) for the Pacific ACP region is the Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum as per the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement (until 2020). The RAO administers the regional envelope under the Pacific Regional Indicative Programme. This role includes project implementation undertaken on behalf of the Pacific ACP States by technical agencies in the region. For the Pacific this includes 14 SPREP members which are signatories to the Cotonou Agreement: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

3. Under the European Development funding for EDF 10 SPREP manages the PacWaste (Pacific Hazardous Waste) which is a €7.85 million, four year project funded by the European Union and implemented by SPREP to improve regional hazardous waste management across the Pacific in the priority areas of:

- healthcare waste;
- asbestos waste;
- E-waste; and
- integrated atoll waste management.

4. For the current round of European Development funding under EDF 11 the Pacific Regional Indicative Programme of cooperation between the European Union (EU) and the Pacific ACP States was signed on 16 June 2015, by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretary-General, RAO and the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development. The PRIP priority areas, objectives and budget allocations for the new period 2014-2020 are as follows:

Priority Area 1: Regional Economic Integration (€50 million)

- Specific Objective 1.1: Strengthening the regional trade and business enabling environment (€30 million)

- Specific Objective 1.2: increased participation by the private sector in economic integration (€20 million)

Priority Area 2: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment and the Management of Waste (€52 million)

- Specific Objective 2.1: Improved economic, social and environmental benefits from sustainable management of oceanic and coastal natural resources with due regard for the conservation of native biodiversity and climate change adaptation requirements (€35 million)
- Specific Objective 2.2: Improved economic, social and environmental benefits from sustainable management of waste with due regard for the conservation of native biodiversity and climate change adaptation requirements (€17 million)

Priority Area 3: Inclusive and Accountable Governance and the respect of Human Rights (€15 million)

- Specific Objective 3.1: Transparent and effective Policies and Public Finance Management, Data and Statistics (€6 million)

Update

5. SPREP is working collaboratively with other CROP agencies and partners for the development of funding proposals primarily in Priority Area 2: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment and the Management of Waste in Specific Objectives 2.1 and 2.2. It will also be part of a joint proposal for Priority Area 1: Regional Economic Integration for Specific Objective 1.2.

6. To help finalise the EDF 11 proposals and the key objective of collaboration under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism SPREP will be part of three working groups for Priority 2 for Specific Objectives 2.1 and 2.2 and Priority 1 for Specific Objective 1.2.

Waste Proposal

7. This proposal will build on and expand upon the EDF 10 PacWaste Project and will be led by SPREP and submitted under Priority Area 2 in Specific Objective 2.2. The Waste Management and Pollution Control Division have completed discussions with all countries through the draft Pacific Regional Integrated Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy (2016 to 2025) process which will form the basis of the EDF 11 proposal. In principle countries support the Waste rationale and concept put forward and have identified national waste management priorities through the process.

8. The waste concept covers: regional data collection and status identification; policy and strategy assistance; Private Public Partnerships (PPP) development; best practice implementation based on data collection results; training and capacity development; and information exchange across all areas of work. SPREP will potentially partner with SPC, USP, and Pacific based NGO's, with technical assistance from WHO, FAO, Griffith University, NIWA, BOM and CSIRO.

9. The project duration will be for 5 years plus a startup period of 6 months. The timeline provided by the Pacific Islands Forum and the EU is for the identification of the Action Document to be completed by the third quarter and formulation completed in the fourth quarter of 2016. The adoption by the European Commission is anticipated to be in the second quarter of 2017.

Fisheries Proposal

10. The COMPFISH is a joint proposal led by FFA submitted under Priority Area 2 in Specific Objective 2.1. The inputs of SPREP will focus on ecosystem and biodiversity linkages, both aquatic and terrestrial, that supports healthy coastal ecosystems. SPREP's core strengths are within the context of coastal zone management, marine biodiversity and fisheries. The key component for SPREP will be turtle by-catch mitigation, Marine Protected Areas and coastal fisheries issues. The agencies involved in the proposal also include SPC, USP, and Locally Managed Marine Areas Network.

11. Like the Waste Proposal the project duration will be for 5 years plus a startup period of 6 months. The timeline provided by the Pacific Islands Forum and the EU is for the identification of the Action Document to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2015 and formulation completed in the first quarter of 2016. The adoption by the European Commission is anticipated to be in the second quarter of 2016.

Ecotourism Proposal

12. SPREP will cooperate on a proposal on ecotourism to be submitted by SPTO under Priority Area 1, Specific Objective 1.2 increased participation by the private sector in economic integration. If SPTO are successful they have indicated that a small portion of funding will go towards the development and promotion of ecotourism related to iconic marine species.

13. The SPTO EDF 11 proposal is one result of the Blue Days conference hosted by the Government of French Polynesia in Papeete in June, 2015, which brought together sixty participants from around the Pacific islands to form the programme framework that focuses on ecotourism and "charismatic" marine wildlife such as whales, dolphins, turtles and sharks. The framework also acknowledges the importance of involving local communities and their cultural relationships with wildlife and how this can be strengthened and respected in marine-based ecotourism.

14. As a follow-up to Blue Days SPREP has sourced funding for a consultant to help SPTO develop an EDF 11 proposal to ensure the Blue Days work programme on ecotourism is delivered to the region. SPREP is also in the process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding with SPTO which will be signed before or at the SPREP Meeting.

15. The timeline provided by the Pacific Islands Forum and the EU is for the identification of the Action Document to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2015 and formulation completed in the first quarter of 2016. The adoption by the European Commission is anticipated to be in the second quarter of 2016.

Recommendation

16. The meeting is invited to:

- **note** the update on the SPREP EDF 11 Proposals
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8 August 2015