

Fourteenth meeting of the Noumea Convention

Fourteenth ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the convention for the protection of the natural resources and environment of the South Pacific Region and related protocols (Noumea Convention)

Apia, Samoa
14 September 2017

Agenda Item 7.3: EDF-11 Progress Report

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to update Parties on progress with Round 11 of the European Union Development Fund (EDF-11).

Background

2. The European Development Fund support programme for Pacific island countries is delivered through the Pacific Regional Indicative Programme (PRIP), which is renewed every five to seven years. Preparations are now well advanced for its eleventh iteration – EDF-11.
3. SPREP's main interest is in Objective 2 : Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment and the Management of Waste, valued in total at EUR 52 million. The focus is on increasing economic and social returns from sustainably managed oceanic and coastal resources; improving sustainable management of waste and reducing pollution; and building capacity of P-ACP countries to responsibly and accountably manage their oceanic and coastal resources and waste.
4. SPREP activities in Objective 2.1 are part of the Pacific-European Union Marine Project (PEUMP), and fall into two main areas: Mitigation of By-Catch, and Biodiversity and Integrated Coastal Management. An indicative allocation of 5.9 million Euros has been earmarked for this work, approximately 900,000 Euros of which will be allocated to IUCN to undertake a marine spatial planning exercise in several Member countries in collaboration with SPREP.
5. SPREP activities in Objective 2.2 fall under the Pacific –European Union Waste Management Programme (PacWaste Plus) focusing on improved management of priority waste streams in four key result areas: (i) Improved data collection, information sharing, and education and awareness; (ii) Policies and regulatory frameworks developed and implemented; (iii) Best practices, including enhanced private sector engagement and infrastructure development, implemented; and (iv) Human capacity enhanced. An indicative allocation of 17 million Euros has been earmarked for which will be implemented in partnership with SPC and USP and aligns with regional priorities identified under Cleaner Pacific 2025.

6. For Objective 2.1, finalisation of the funding agreement for EDF-11 has been held up because of specific requirements by the EU for CROP agencies to use their own procedures when administering EU projects. However, now that FFA and SPC are about to pass the EU Pillars Assessment (SPREP has passed it officially), it has been agreed that SPC will have overall administrative control of the programme, while financial and management control remains with SPREP for its portion of the total budget (as is the case for the other pillar assessed agencies).
7. With the finalisation of the contracts under way, funding may realistically only become available early 2018. However, the SPREP Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Division is proceeding to plan the implementation of its tasks within PEUMP, and is preparing job descriptions so that work can begin promptly once the funding agreement is finally signed.
8. For Objective 2.2 QSG1 was passed in December 2016, the initial QSG2 was held in June 2017 and final approval in QSG2bis is expected in August 2017. SPREP will have overall administration control of PacWaste Plus with plans underway for the Funding Agreement and development of the detailed project design with a planned project starting date in the first part of 2018.
9. EDF-11 will also have an OCT (EU overseas countries and territories; in the Pacific: New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Wallis & Futuna and Pitcairn) component, valued at 36 million Euros and SPREP and SPC have been identified as key partners to support territories in programme implementation. Key priorities that have been identified are: water resource management; eco-agriculture; and biodiversity, including invasive species. The Secretariat has been providing advice and support to the development of the project, in particular the objectives with an environmental outcome. The formulation process, however, is still ongoing and the final version of the project has yet to be determined at the time of writing.

Recommendations

10. The Parties are invited to:

- **note** that SPREP is a significant beneficiary of the EDF-11 funding round which will be implemented in Member countries, although implementation will only take off in early 2018.
- **note** that for Objective 2.1 of EDF-11, SPREP's main engagement will be to develop ways to mitigate the by-catch of threatened species and to improve the state of the biodiversity and the management of coastal ecosystems;
- **note** that for Objective 2.2 of EDF-11, SPREP engagement will be to implement priority components of the Cleaner Pacific 2015 programme, with partners, to improve management of waste and pollution in the Pacific.
- **note** that while there will be an OCT component to EDF-11 details of the programme are still in development, although the Secretariat has been providing advice and support to the OCTs on development of the programme, in particular the objectives with an environmental focus; and
- **agree** to collaborate with SPREP in the implementation of projects to be initiated under EDF-11.

