

Twenty Eighth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Apia, Samoa
19 – 21st September 2017

Agenda Item 12.2.1: Regional Technical Backstopping Mechanism (RTSM)

Purpose

1. To report on the work achieved under the *Strategic Program on Climate Resilience: Pacific Regional Track* (SPCR-PR)¹.
2. To invite members to provide strategic guidance to ensure the sustainability of the mainstreaming work delivered under the program and the continuation of the Regional Technical Backstopping Mechanism (RTSM).

Background

3. The USD\$3,590,000 Climate Investment Funds SPCR- PR program, administered by the ADB and implemented by SPREP, commenced in November 2013 and ended 31 July 2017. However, the Program Manager was retained for a further two months to wrap up project matters and coordination with other regional matters.
4. The technical assistance (TA) had two main outputs: (i) Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) mainstreamed in national and local development policies and plans, and (ii) Pacific Developing Member Countries' (DMCs in ADB terminology) capacity to respond to climate change built and supported through the RTSM.
5. Under Output 1, three mainstreaming tools incorporating CCA and DRR elements were developed and tailored for the two pilot countries (Federated States of Micronesia State (FSM) Kosrae State and Tuvalu). The mainstreaming tools were: (i) cost-benefit analysis (CBA); (ii) monitoring and evaluation (M&E); and (iii) central agency appraisal checklist (CAAC). These tools were continuously tested, revised and improved through training workshops and case studies, and adapted to address the specific needs of the two pilot countries. A total of 16 training and capacity building workshops in the use and application of the tools had been conducted to help concerned government officials understand, develop and apply the mainstreaming tools to the development, implementation, and review of their own national, sectoral policies, plans, projects and budgets for sustainability. The tools were used in 18 case study applications (11 in FSM and 7 in Tuvalu in the food security, road, water and other infrastructure related sectors). Using the mainstreaming

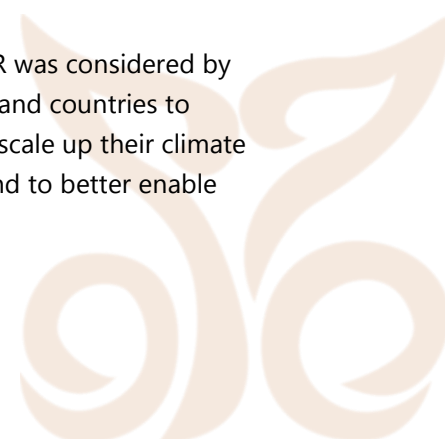
¹ Components 1 and 3.

tools, six policies (3 per country) have been developed or strengthened. A participatory evaluation survey conducted in February 2017 on the utility of the processes and tools developed, as well as the Final Workshop held 16-17 May 2017, indicated that the beneficiaries rated the mainstreaming work as very satisfactory.

6. Under Output 2, the RTSM, aimed to help DMCs better respond to climate change impacts, was established 29th July 2014 with a launch of the RTSM website at the Pacific Island Forum Leaders meeting held in Palau. The website allowed countries to request RTSM assistance online and also provided for an online RTSM Roster of Experts. The RTSM Operations Manual (RTSM OM) was approved in March 2015 and the first technical assistance (TA) deployment was made to FSM in June 2015. The project funded and implemented 15 technical assistance requests from 7 Pacific DMCs: Federated States of Micronesia (3), Fiji (3), Nauru (2), Samoa (2), Tonga (2), Tuvalu (1) and Vanuatu (2). Subcontracts were issued to experts from the RTSM Roster of Experts in the Pacific Climate Change Portal <https://www.pacificclimatechange.net> that numbered 330 at TA completion date. Three of the mainstreaming activities and three RTSM TAs helped FSM secure a US\$9 million grant from the Adaptation Fund (AF) for its Enhancing the Climate Change Resilience of Vulnerable Island Communities in Federated States of Micronesia Project. The RTSM facility also played a critical role to enable experts to produce the essential technical studies and documentation required to access funds from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for: Nauru US\$300,000 (climate readiness funds), Vanuatu (Climate Information Services for Resilient Development project US\$23 million). Tonga's Tonga Coastal Resilience Project Proposal proposal for US\$50 million is under GCF consideration as of July 2017. The RTSM had also assisted Fiji, Samoa and Tuvalu address immediate priority needs contained in their national strategic and sector plans that would build resilience to CCA and DRR. In informal and formal evaluations, the beneficiaries have rated the RTSM and CCA/DRR knowledge management tools generated from it, as very satisfactory.
7. The full details of the work achieved under the program is documented in the Final Report of July 2017 available online at Pacific Climate Change Portal. The Terminal Workshop for the PPCR-PR was convened in May 2017 to report to countries involved in the PPCR on the progress made against the project Design Monitoring Framework and lessons learned. The Report of this workshop is also available on the Pacific Climate Change Portal.
8. The workshop produced an *Outcomes Statement* (attached to this paper as **Appendix 1**).

Recommendations

9. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **note** the *Outcome Statement* attached;
 - **note also** that the technical assistance provided under the SPCR-PR was considered by participating members to be targeted support needed by Pacific island countries to build their resilience to climate change and disaster related risk, to scale up their climate change investments in support of their development aspirations, and to better enable access to climate change finance;



- **request** that development partners support countries in incorporating climate change and disaster related risks into their development planning processes, policies and plans by adopting the methodological approach and the generic tools trialled under this program;
- **recommend** that the Secretariat prioritize the sustainability of the mainstreaming work and the RTSM; and
- **Invite** development partners to lend technical and financial support to ensure that the mainstreaming tools and RTSM assistance are continued, as requested by those Member countries which have benefited from the programme to date.

15 August, 2017

