

Twenty Eighth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Apia, Samoa
19 – 21st September 2017

Agenda Item 12.4.2 : Programme to support strengthening environmental monitoring and collection of environment data in the Pacific for national reporting processes and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

Purpose

1. To note achievements under the ACPMEA2 Programme and seek endorsement of the ACPMEA Phase III priorities and scope

Background

2. The Capacity Building Programme related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACPMEA) has been ongoing since 2009. It is funded by the European Commission, through the ACP Secretariat, implemented by UN Environment, executed in the Pacific by SPREP. As a result of the implementation in the Pacific, significant results have been successfully achieved to raise the environmental agenda and effective implementation of MEAs in SPREP member countries.
3. Under Phase I and II of the ACPMEAs programme a number of substantive outcomes have been achieved which have contributed in enhancing capacity of Pacific ACP countries to comply with MEAs and related commitments and improving environmental management and governance. Some of the key achievements include but not limited to:
 - Alignment and integration of programme objectives into SPREP's Strategic Plan 2017-2026. This ensures sustainability of the programme within SPREP.
 - Effective engagement at MEA COP and related meetings which builds on the successful interventions through Phase I.
 - Leveraged funding from the GEF to address a major gap in terms of environmental data management and monitoring and reporting
4. A recent midterm evaluation of the ACPMEA programme initiated by the European Commission has recommended the continuation of the Programme. Discussions are underway on the scope and scale of the next phase of the programme.



Proposed Phase III Programme priorities and scope

5. Based on the outcomes of phase I and II of the ACPMEA programme, SPREP supports the continuation of the programme in the biodiversity and waste MEA clusters building on what has been achieved under Phase I and II with a specific focus in addressing critical gaps and needs covering both policy level support as well as on the ground hands on practical activities. The complete list of proposed priorities for Phase III for the biodiversity and waste MEAs clusters are in the Attachments.
 - Strengthening synergies across the Biodiversity MEAs and integration with the SDGs, S.A.M.O.A pathway and other related international processes
 - Strengthening the mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into policy and legislative frameworks of key development sectors such as the tourism sector and the agricultural sector building on work already undertaken on mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services
 - Improve and strengthen data collection and management to support monitoring of the state of environment to support policy, planning and decision making
 - Ocean governance
 - Strengthen legal capacity through legislative road maps for countries, MEAs negotiations and support to COPs and related meetings
 - Strengthen activities that promote cross sector coordination and integration – use of synergistic approaches that are already in place through the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

6. The ACPMEA programme has been the main vehicle delivering on the work of SPREP on MEAs in country and the region as a whole. The Secretariat looks forward to the continuation of the Programme to deliver on the MEA priorities expressed through the new Strategic Plan 2017-2026.

Recommendations

7. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **note** achievements under the ACPMEA2 Programme and endorse the ACPMEA III broad priorities and scope.

15 August, 2017

