

Actions of the Secretariat following up Member decisions and recommendations from the Twenty Seventh (2016) SPREP Meeting of Officials

Topic	Meeting decisions / Member requests	Key Actions Taken
6.1 Strengthening Regional Linkages Update	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ directed the Secretariat to provide an in-house report on the roles, achievements, and costs of the Desk Officers and report back to the SPREP Meeting in 2017, and to provide advice on the need for, cost and proposed timing of undertaking a cost-benefit analysis of the Desk Officers arrangement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An in-house assessment of the core-funded Desk Officers was prepared and summarised in the paper supporting agenda item 6.1 to this meeting. • Additional detail was gained from assessment of the project-based (PEBACC) modality of in-country project officers. This is being factored into the structural review of the Secretariat and development of a SPREP strategy for country presence and out-posted staff.
6.2 Access to Climate Finance – Adaptation Fund and Green Climate Fund	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ considered and advised the Secretariat on country and/or regional priorities that it would like to see addressed through the AF or GCF; ➤ tasked the Secretariat to strengthen its own capacity to support Members' ability to access climate finance including through readiness support from the GCF; and ➤ tasked the Secretariat to compile information about existing initiatives to build SPREP Members' capacity to access climate finance. 	<p>SPREP has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developed and had approved 3 projects for PIC Members (including 1 Readiness Grant) with a combined value of over USD 30m through the GCF and AF • partnered with IUCN (and others) to develop a Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Resilience Programme concept for the GCF • developed through the iCLIM project a Climate Finance Navigator to present up-to-date information and guidance on accessing climate finance • invited expressions of interest from countries to access GCF Readiness, and is currently working with several countries to achieve this • is supporting 8 PICs (FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, SI, Samoa, Palau, SI, Tuvalu) strengthen the national institutional capacity to effectively plan for and coordinate access to, and management of climate finance via the USAID Institutional Strengthening for Adaptation to Climate Change. • provided technical support to PIC Members' access to GCF resources, such as with the development of the Tuvalu Coastal Protection Project, the GCF Tonga Coastal protection project and RMI Water security projects for the GCF being led by UNDP • increased capacity through establishment of the Project Coordination Unit, supplemented by technical capacity from the US Peace Corp Response Volunteer Programme and NZ MFAT, to enhance support to PIC Members' access to climate finance • been unable to access GCF Readiness to further build Secretariat capacity due to unclear policy advice from the GCF, and countries' competing interests. SPREP intends to do so at the first opportunity.
6.3 GEF MSP Accreditation Update	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ considered the programmatic approach pathway for GEF-7 programming by Pacific island Countries; ➤ invited Member countries to identify and request 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPREP is providing support to the Pacific Constituency in developing its first GEF Engagement Strategy (for GEF-7). This strategy if adopted, will serve to guide Pacific Island Countries to work effectively with the GEF

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	<p>support needed to expedite full programming of their GEF-6 STAR; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ agreed that the Secretariat must maintain improved capacity and continue to strengthen its function as an Executing Agency and Implementing Agency. 	<p>partnership to ensure proper up-front planning takes place to prioritize and programme GEF-7 funding when the new programmatic cycle open.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy promotes pathways open to countries to expedite their access for GEF funding from identifying national and regional priorities, to matching up with the most appropriate delivery modality: (medium size, full size, or programmatic approach). • Pacific Island Countries are working with their GEF Implementing Agency to complete their GEF-6 programming and completing project document submissions to the GEF secretariat.
6.4 Pacific Climate Change Centre Update	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ noted with appreciation the Governments of Japan and Samoa for their generous support of the Pacific Climate Change Centre, and requested for the Chair of the SPREP Meeting to convey to Japan and Samoa a note of appreciation; and ➤ endorsed the proposal that SPREP convene a small Steering Committee of Members and CROP agencies to drive the regional consultation on the regional vision, operating model, and governance arrangements for the PCCC, and to engage with the Leaders mandated working group process to elaborate on the Pacific Resilience Partnership to implement the FRDP. 	<p>Refer to Agenda Item 6.3 Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) for the status of actions taken.</p>
6.8 SPREP Strategic Plan	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ directed the Secretariat to work closely with the FoC to complete the Performance Implementation Plan (PIP) and the Results Framework and to report back to the 2017 SPREP Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft PIP has been developed with the FoC and is presented to this meeting as agenda item 7.1
6.9 Audit Committee Report	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ endorsed the report from the Audit Committee for the period July 2015 – June 2016, and requested an update to Members on the Secretariat's response to the recommendations of the Audit Committee by March 2017. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AC noted the foreign currency policy completed by the Secretariat in Dec 2016 under MSP assistance. • The review of the reserve policy has not been completed. It is planned to be undertaken by December 2017. • A mechanism to monitor and review non-compliance by the Secretariat on the level of the reserve to be maintained will be included the revised reserve policy. • The AC reviewed the 2016 Financial Accounts as presented by the FAA and noted the surplus in the financial performance and the substantial reduction in the foreign Exchange losses. AC is still concerned with the negative reserve in the financial position statement as at 31st Dec 2016. • A risk Specialist has been recruited under the Peace Corps volunteer to complete the Risk management risk register and updating new risks for the Secretariat. • Additional staff for the IA unit have been requested in the 2018 Annual Work Plan and Budget but remain dependent on availability

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		<p>of financial resources in the core budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Internal Audit will continue to monitor the implementation of the new Risk management policy by the Risk Committee and report to the Audit Committee. • Awareness of the fraud prevention & whistle blower policy is conducted during induction sessions of new staff by the internal Auditor.
<p>6.11 Update on the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ tasked the Secretariat to continue working in close collaboration with Members, CROP agencies and relevant partners in the implementation of the FRDP to ensure integrated good governance of the FRDP, and the best use of the region's technical and political resources to build Pacific resilience to climate change and disaster risk reduction; and ➤ tasked the Secretariat to report back on progress to the SPREP Meeting in 2017. 	<p>The Secretariat participated in the PRP Working Group as reported to this meeting in agenda item 6.3</p>
<p>6.12 Governance arrangements for Biennial SPREP Meetings</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ agreed to the establishment of an Executive Board (EB) to be the SPREP decision-making body in the alternate years of Biennial SPREP Meetings; ➤ agreed that the Executive Board would be comprised of the Troika plus 4 additional Members representing Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia and Metropolitan Members; ➤ agreed that the Secretariat, in conjunction with the FoC develop TOR for the EB based on the following principles: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A body to take key governance decisions in years alternate to the SPREP Meeting 2. Membership based on Member representation and equity, including bilingualism 3. A mechanism that is cost effective and sustainable 4. A mechanism that is flexible to include other membership as necessary 5. A mechanism that ensures that the Secretariat remains accountable to Members 6. Other existing governance mechanisms (Troika and Audit Committee) remain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ noted that the TOR should include rules of procedure including for: ▪ representation by sub-regions and metropolitan Members ▪ EB reporting to Members ▪ Initial review of the arrangement at 2019 SM ➤ requested that the FOC report the proposed structure and TOR for the EB to the 2017 SPREP Meeting and include a comparative assessment of costs relative to Apia-based SM and non Apia-based SPREP Meeting. ➤ agreed the initial meeting of the EB will be immediately following the 2017 SPREP Meeting, thereafter meeting annually face to face taking opportunities of other regional meetings to save costs with back-to-back meetings as well as by electronic means. 	<p>Refer to Agenda Item 8.1 Governance Arrangements for Biennial SPREP Meetings for the status of actions taken.</p>

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7.2 Sustainable Financing	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ noted the progress made on measures to ensure a sustainable budget and directed the Secretariat, working with the Friends of the Chair, to further report to Members on options and actions that address the Secretariat's core budget pressures, by the end of March 2017. The options developed will be considered and used by the Secretariat to inform preparation of the 2018 – 2019 budget where considered appropriate; ➤ noted that the Secretariat will provide a brief quarterly update to the Troika and Members on performance against budget for core, programme, reserve and project funding; and ➤ directed the Secretariat to complete the policies on foreign exchange, reserves, and cost recovery by December 2016 and to report back to Members on any exemptions to these policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core budget pressures are mainly due to insufficient income to support core operations from Member contributions, programme management charges, and other income from donors. The 2018-2019 PIP includes an outcome target for development of a donor engagement framework strategy to guide identification and targeting of additional sources of income including from non-traditional donors. The new cost recovery policy should improve charging of some of the core costs back to the projects (direct costs) and thus ease the commitments to be carried by programme management fees. Regular follow ups with members have proven successful in improving collection of Membership contributions to date. • Timely quarterly updates have been provided to Troika and Members via the FOC committees etc. • New policies on foreign exchange, reserves and cost recovery were completed by Dec 2016 and adopted in January 2017.
8.3 Appointment of External Auditors	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ considered the paper and endorsed the appointment of BDO Samoa for one (1) year only, to audit SPREP's 2016 financial accounts, reiterating that BDO not be selected the following year and a competitive tender be issued for 2017. 	<p>Tender for the 2018 and 2019 Audit of SPREP accounts currently advertised with the tender due on 16th June 2017. BDO no longer eligible for consideration. Subject of Working Paper 10.4 in this Meeting agenda.</p>
9.2.1 Outcomes of the Finland-Pacific Project on Reducing Vulnerability in Pacific Island Countries	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ encouraged SPREP to explore opportunities through a new project proposal to the GCF or other donors to replicate the lessons learned and address the gaps from the FINPAC Project. 	<p>SPREP has successfully supported Vanuatu to access a 20million + grant to support delivery of Climate Information Services, including based on approaches and lessons learned through the FINPAC. SPREP is currently exploring a possible GCF project partnership with International; Federation of the Red Cross.</p>
9.2.4 Progress and Future of the SPCR Pacific Regional Track: Mainstreaming and the Regional Technical Support Mechanism	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ directed the Secretariat to ensure that the mainstreaming tools and approach developed under the SPCR-PR are built into the suite of SPREP technical services to assist its members address CCA and associated DRR; ➤ invited direction from the Meeting on the future of the RTSM when the SPCR-PR program ends on 1 June, 2017; and ➤ requested the Secretariat to provide the report on the usefulness of the mainstreaming tools and the RTSM by the end of October 2016. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuity of mainstreaming tools and approach incorporated into SPREP's matrix of strategic and organisational goals in the 2018-2019 PIP • The Secretariat provided a report with feedback from the countries noting appreciation of the mainstreaming tool work and RTSM in supporting country processes to integrate CCA/DRR into their overall development agendas. The future status of the RTSM is the subject of agenda item 12.2.2 at this Meeting
