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The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Twenty Eighth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa
19 – 21 September 2017

Agenda Item 6.3: Update on the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC)

Purpose

1. To inform the meeting of the progress in the establishment of the PCCC.

Background

2. The 2012 SPREP Meeting endorsed the preparation of an application to JICA seeking Grant Aid assistance for the PCCC. A detailed proposal was submitted to JICA in 2013 through the Government of Samoa, as the host country of SPREP. Subsequent SPREP Meetings have been briefed on the progress of the PCCC and have endorsed actions undertaken by the Secretariat.
3. In the presence of Pacific Leaders at PALM 7 in Japan in 2015, H.E. Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe, stated in the PALM 7 Declaration "Japan's intention to provide comprehensive assistance, in collaboration with SPREP, including the development of the Pacific Climate Change Centre and capacity-building which supports the efforts for tackling climate change by the Pacific region as a whole". The commitment of Japan to the region has enabled the development of the PCCC, and relevant capacity building programmes are in the pipeline to be delivered through the PCCC for the benefit of the region.
4. The 2016 SPREP Meeting was provided an update on the PCCC. The Meeting endorsed the role of the PCCC as a shared regional hub and a platform for collaboration and partnerships to address the challenges of climate change resilience for the Pacific region.
5. The Meeting 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.

The work of the Steering Committee

6. The initial Steering Committee met on 22 February 2017. Membership included representation from Australia, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Japan, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Samoa, Tokelau, United Kingdom and the Secretariat. The Steering Committee:
 - agreed a set of principles (listed below)

- requested that the Secretariat invite representatives from CROP agencies to the next meeting, develop a TOR for the Steering Committee, and revise the working paper to include relationships of the PCCC to the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) of the Framework for Resilient Development of the Pacific (FRDP)

7. Principles to guide the development of the PCCC:

- The PCCC is a shared regional asset belonging to the people of the Pacific with the support of development partners committed to the resilient development of Pacific island countries and territories;
- Climate change is a cross-cutting issue, affecting every community and sector. The PCCC will support coordinating and strengthening partnerships, building regional capacities to respond to climate change, and building resilience;
- The PCCC is to enhance and strengthen climate actions in alignment with the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, Framework for Resilient Development of the Pacific, the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy, the Paris Agreement, and other relevant regional and global frameworks and agreements;
- The PCCC is to be a hub of innovation for delivery of climate change and integrated disaster risk management knowledge and services to Pacific Island members where partners and CROP can work together to develop joint projects, conduct applied research, and deliver coordinated support to PICTs;
- The PCCC will be a platform for fostering and enhancing genuine partnership and collaboration, as envisaged by the Governments of Japan and Samoa when they generously gave their support to the establishment of the PCCC; and
- The PCCC is not a new institution or additional CROP agency but will serve as a conduit for climate change resilience work in the region to directly benefit Pacific Island countries and territories, and as a leading example of the collaboration envisaged by the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and the SAMOA Pathway.

8. The second meeting of the Steering Committee was on 26 May 2017. Participation comprised representatives from Australia, Cook Islands, Japan, Niue, the United States, PIFS, SPC, USP and the Secretariat. The Steering Committee agreed that it should be temporary committee serving until decisions are made by the region on the governance of the PCCC. It also noted the importance of clarity on relative roles and responsibilities of relevant regional partners including the PRP and CROP agencies, and asked the Secretariat articulate both proposed PCCC functions, and the linkages to other regional organisations and processes for the next Steering Committee meeting.

9. The third meeting of the Steering Committee was held in the margins of the CRGA Meeting on 24 July 2017. The Steering Committee comprised representatives of Australia, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Tokelau, United Kingdom, United States, SPC, PIFS, USP and the Secretariat.

10. The Steering Committee debated the functions and in particular the links to other regional organisations and processes, noting that especially in respect of the PRP/FRDP, processes were developing in parallel so that while there continue to be several independently moving parts, linkages will become progressively clearer. However, development of ideas on the functions of the PCCC should continue.
11. The Steering Committee sought clarification on a number of matters of detail, but noting the need for the development of an update paper on the PCCC to the SPREP Meeting, suggested that the Secretariat draw on the discussion to further develop thinking on the functions of the PCCC in the SM paper, and to seek to further clarify the wider linkages for the PCCC.

Functions

12. The Secretariat has further developed the functions already outlined in the agreed principles:
 - To enhance and strengthen climate actions in alignment with the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, Framework for Resilient Development of the Pacific, the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy, the Paris Agreement, and other relevant regional and global frameworks and agreements:
 - *The Pacific Meteorological Council and Ministers seek to have the PCCC act as a Meteorological hub to build on and extend the Met services support functions currently performed by SPREP and WMO. The PCCC design and fit-out plans agreed with the Government of Japan are able to accommodate this function*
 - *The PCCC can be a venue for supporting climate resilience work sought by the PRP via a Working Group*
 - *The PCCC can host regional and/or sub-regional meetings to address regional and global priorities and initiatives*
 - The PCCC will support coordinating and strengthening partnerships, building regional capacities to respond to climate change, and building resilience:
 - *The PCCC has been designed to be a learning and training centre, and the Government of Japan is planning capacity-building support projects for the PCCC.*
 - *The learning and research partnerships envisaged at the PCCC, as well as the knowledge gathering and sharing activities currently provided by SPREP, and the practical experience of visiting partners will provide a valuable resource to support capacity-building of PICTs*
 - The PCCC is to be a hub of innovation for delivery of climate change and integrated disaster risk management knowledge and services to Pacific Island members where partners and CROP can work together to develop joint projects, conduct applied research, and deliver coordinated support to PICTs:
 - *The PCCC will be able to bring together partners to collaborate on project design, supported by SPREP climate change and project design expertise, technical knowledge, access to climate finance, and wider SPREP partnerships.*

- *The PCCC will have space to host researchers and other visiting specialists including CROP agencies to collaborate in joint knowledge and service delivery to PICTs*
- *Partnerships are already being established with regional universities (beginning with USP and University of Newcastle) to establish an Innovation Hub at the PCCC linking research with PICT priorities and private sector investment.*
- The PCCC will support coordinating and strengthening partnerships, building regional capacities to respond to climate change, and building resilience:
 - *The PCCC will provide a purpose-built venue for discussions/dialogue needed to establish and develop genuine and productive partnerships.*
 - *The range of activities envisaged to be undertaken at the PCCC will provide opportunities for the development of new, and expansion of existing, partnerships*
 - *The PCCC will offer a unique opportunity and venue for attracting partnership development.*

Linkages to other relevant processes

13. The PCCC can be a valuable support mechanism for the FRDP as a venue for implementing resilience priorities identified by the PRP including those tasked to a Working Group. As the PCCC becomes established, the range of expertise available to be drawn on through SPREP and PCCC partnerships will expand.
14. The PCCC will provide a sought-after venue for implementation of activities under the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) 2017-2026 and the Roadmap for Strengthened Climate Services (PRSCS) 2017-2026 via the Pacific Meteorological Council and its technical panels.
15. As host, SPREP will provide technical support in accessing climate finance, project design, adaptation and mitigation expertise (actual staff and visiting via SPREP partnerships), and integrated technical support in related areas of sustainable development from integrated ecosystem management, waste management and pollution control, environmental monitoring and governance.
16. SPREP will also bring strong and growing collaboration experience with key technical CROP agencies including in PICT service delivery with SPC, with knowledge management, information services, and capacity building with SPC's Regional Oceans Institute USP and other regional universities and education providers.
17. In addition to its role in supporting the FRDP, the PCCC will also support and complement the work of other climate-related regional institutions and processes including the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, the SPC Oceans Institute and relevant regional and national projects/initiatives.

Construction update

18. Construction of the PCCC has been delayed by negotiations between the Governments of Samoa and Japan, however, now that the inter-governmental issues have been resolved, progress is now being made to a new timeframe. The JICA design team is currently preparing the detailed design drawings necessary for final building consents and the issuing of tenders for construction. Tenders are now planned to be let in mid-February 2018 with construction commencing in March. The Centre is scheduled for completion in April 2019.
19. A number of details remain to be resolved, including meeting the design criterion of 100% solar power self-sufficiency. As a result of JICA budget cuts, with a SPREP contribution, only 50% self-sufficiency is currently possible. The Secretariat hopes that PICT support at the upcoming Palm Meeting might find ways to enable the PCCC to better showcase Japanese sustainable building technologies by achieving the full design brief and be a demonstration to the region of ways to mitigate climate change in building design. .

Recommendation

20. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **note** the progress in the work of establishing the PCCC;
 - **direct** the Secretariat to continue working with the Steering Committee, and in close consultation with Members and Partners to:
 - work to define the roles of the PCCC, ensuring that the function and roles of the PCCC complement those of other relevant regional mechanisms and organisations, and
 - develop a governance structure and business plan which address budget considerations for the operation of the PCCC.
 - **agree** to work together to encourage the Government of Japan in preparation for the upcoming PALM 8 meeting in 2018 to provide a fitting showcase of climate-friendly leading environmental building, and 100% solar design for the PCCC; and
 - **request** development partners and the international community to support the establishment of programmes and partnerships at the PCCC.