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**AGENDA ITEM 12.4.1:**

**Environmental Monitoring and Governance Programme Overview 2020 - 2021**

**Purpose of Paper**

1. To seek endorsement of the priorities for the SPREP Environmental Monitoring and Governance (EMG) Programme for the biennial period 2020 to 2021

**Key Areas of Work**

2. To respond to the broad strategic priorities articulated in the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026 specifically under Regional Goal 4, and building on outcomes achieved in the biennial period from 2018-2019, EMG will focus its efforts on the following key strategic priority actions:

*Outcome 4.1 Strengthened national sustainable development planning and implementation systems through the increased utilisation of the results of environmental development assessments such as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Spatial Planning*

- Conduct awareness and capacity building on the regional EIA guidelines for coastal tourism in 4 PICTs
- Undertake a review of national EIA guidelines in 2 PICs
- Conduct SEA awareness and capacity building in at least 1 PIC
- Initiate a process for developing EIA guidelines for the mining sector with a specific focus on Solomon Islands
- Raise awareness and capacity building on geospatial planning to support EIA/SEA and National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS) in at least 2 PICTs

*Outcome 4.2 Ensured national capacity for good environmental governance through improved awareness and implementation of policy legislation for international and regional commitments*

- Provide technical assistance to initiate new and/or undertake review of NEMS in at least 3 PICs
- Review and update the NEMS guidelines to integrate MEA commitments
- Update the Taking the Floor Booklet and promote its use to support negotiation capacity building in PICs
- Promote the use of the data portal as well as completed existing national State of the Environment (SoE) reports to provide input on country and regional positions at MEA CoP meetings
- Undertake a review of EIA policies and regulations in 3 PICTs

*Outcome 4.3 Increased access to and use of environmental data and information to support planning, monitoring, reporting and decision making*

- Provide technical assistance and support for the review and or development of SoEs in at least 5 PICs
- Promote, monitor and document the use of SoE reports in informing planning and decision making
- Promote, monitor and document the use of the portal to support planning and decision making in at least 6 PICs
- Continue to provide technical assistance and capacity building on data management and the use of the portal in 14 PICs
- Provide data and information to support planning, reporting and decision making at national, regional and international forums
- Develop, test and apply the reporting tool in at least 2 PICs
- Provide technical assistance to at least 2 PICs on the use of the tool to meet MEA reporting requirements

In addition to the specific priorities outlined above, EMG will continue to work closely with the other technical programmes and relevant departments to ensure a more coordinated, integrated and synergistic approach to our work.

### **Challenges, Opportunities and Coordination**

3. Limited capacity within EMG to meet increasing demands from PICTs for policy and technical assistance. Three core positions are still vacant due to lack of funding: Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Adviser, Environment Legal Adviser and the Spatial Planning Officer.
4. Scaling up and replicating the Inform project once it comes to an end. Refer Agenda Item No.12.4.3
5. The effective implementation and application of key policy documents such as SoEs, NEMS, EIA guidelines, tools and data portals produced and developed to support planning, reporting and decision making. For example, SoE Reports are useful tools to use as the basis for Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) reporting including reporting to relevant national processes including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
6. EMG will continue to support the Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Coordination Group, an internal coordination mechanism established in 2018 to facilitate and coordinate SPREP's various initiatives in a more coordinated and integrated manner.
7. SPREP recently signed the Principles of Collaboration on the Pacific Learning Partnership for Environmental and Social Sustainability, a partnership consisting of SPREP, USP, ADB and the World Bank. It is an agreed collaboration mechanism between the partners that will respond to the needs of Pacific island Members to support capacity building, training, knowledge exchange, technical expertise and capacity building related to environmental and social safeguards and standards of infrastructural development in the Pacific region. It will provide logistical support to carry out training, facilitate exchange of experiences and knowledge, mentor trainees, develop curricula, provide venues, supply trainers and assistance related to the common objectives.

8. A new European Union Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific (EU ACP) MEA Phase 3 Project implemented through UN Environment and executed directly by SPREP will start implementation before end of this year. Phase 3 will build on outcomes and results achieved in Phase 2 with a specific focus on the biodiversity and waste MEA clusters. A new focus on oceans governance/regional seas programme has been added as new component of the EU ACP MEA Phase 3 which will support the Noumea Convention and its implementation.
9. SPREP and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) are collaborating on a partnership to strengthen data management in the Pacific. This will ensure synergies and complementarity between the work of the two organisations to ensure a coordinated approach towards data management is established to support the region. Refer Agenda Item No. 12.4.3 for more details.
10. EMG will continue to engage and contribute to regional coordination processes through PIFS particularly on the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions negotiation process as well as the SDGs and S.A.M.O.A pathway discussions coordinated through the CROP Sustainable Development Working Group.

### **Recommendation**

11. The Meeting is invited to:
  1. **endorse** the proposed work programme priorities for EMG for the biennial period 2020 to 2021.

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26 July, 2019