
AGENDA ITEM 5.3:

Progress towards achieving the 2018-2019 PIP Outcomes

Purpose of Paper

1. To report to Members on implementation of the 2018-2019 Work Programme and Budget.
2. To report to Members on progress to date towards achieving the strategic outcomes of the first PIP (2018-2019).

Background

3. The SPREP Meeting (SM) Rules of Procedure require that the Secretariat include in the SM agenda "a review by the Secretariat of progress with the implementation of the SPREP work programme..." This paper and its Attachment fulfills this requirement.
4. 29SM also provides the first opportunity for the Secretariat to report to Members on implementation of SPREP's first PIP
5. The paper provides a high-level report of progress and key achievements by SPREP towards achievement of the strategic Goals of the 2017-26 SPREP Strategic Plan against the 2018-2019 work programme and budget including up to 30 June 2019. The Attachment provides narrative reporting on progress at the Strategic Plan Objective level, as well as for all PIP 2018-2019 Outcome targets.
6. This report has been developed at the midway point of SPREP's first PIP. While it is too soon to attempt to evaluate the effectiveness of the new PIP planning and reporting mechanism, the paper collates and summarises a number of key lessons emerging from the development and early implementation of the 2018-2019 PIP from feedback provided by Secretariat staff. Evaluation of the PIP as a strategic planning and reporting mechanism will be undertaken following implementation of SPREP's second (2020-2021) PIP.

Report

7. This Report on progress towards the SPREP 2-year PIP strategic outcomes is the first to report against both the strategic goals of the 2017-2026 Strategic Plan, and 2-year PIP strategic outcomes. As such it differs slightly from the PMER format provided in previous SMs:
 - The paper provides a high-level summary report on progress and key achievements at the Strategic Goal level. It also records the initial feedback from staff on lessons learned in developing and reporting on the first SPREP PIP.
 - Attachment 1 reports on progress at the Strategic Objective level in the familiar PMER format, with the addition of a new column that reports on progress by PIP Strategic Outcome.
 - Budget performance for 2018 is recorded and accounted for in usual PMER format in Attachment 1.

Over-all Summary of Progress 2018

Regional Goal 1: *Pacific people benefit from strengthened resilience to climate change*

8. Progress to achieving the goal: .
- Successful management of the One-CROP Plus support to the UNFCCC COP24.
 - The Pacific Ecosystem based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) project provided technical support to countries to mainstream ecosystem-based approaches into relevant national and sub-national planning strategies.
 - Goal 1 budget was underspent due to the delayed commencement of several expected activities and EU projects. These will be implemented in 2019.

Key achievements:

- Success of the SPREP-led Pacific Voyage to COP24 in Katowice
- Successful management by SPREP of the Pacific Pavilion at COP 24.
- Technical input to strengthen ecosystem-based adaptation approaches in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), sustainable development plans and nation ocean policy in Fiji, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.

Regional Goal 2: *Pacific people benefit from healthy and resilient island and ocean ecosystems*

9. Progress to achieving the goal:
- Almost \$20 million funding secured in 2018-19 for island and ocean ecosystem programmes and projects to address coastal and marine, and invasive species priorities.
 - Substantial progress has been made in implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in the region.
 - New Caledonia will host the 10th Pacific Islands Nature Conservation and Protected Areas Conference in 2020, which will review the current status of conservation in Oceania and provide regional input to implementation of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.

Key achievements:

- Tuvalu and Palau have ratified the CBD Nagoya Protocol on ABS taking the total number to seven Pacific island countries that have become Party to the Protocol. There are 4 new ABS policies: Cook Is, Fiji, Samoa, RMI; and Palau has approved and enforced ABS national legislation.
- Protected areas data in the region has been strengthened through implementation of the SPREP component of the EU-ACP BIOPAMA project and New Caledonia has agreed to host the 10th Nature Conservation and Protected Areas Conference in 2020.
- Almost US\$12 million has been secured to implement invasive species action in eight PICTs and to provide regional support.
- Ballast water strategies developed for PNG, Fiji, Cook Islands, Tuvalu, RMI, Tonga, Samoa and implementation commenced.
- Underwater education trails were established in protected marine areas in French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna.
- Financial agreement signed with the EU to enable commencement of the EDF-11 Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership programme (PEUMP), with SPREP receiving €6.2 million to implement KRA-5: Bycatch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM).
- National marine spatial planning has commenced in the Solomon Islands and Fiji through the EDF-11 PEUMP programme BIEM key result area.

Regional Goal 3: *Pacific people benefit from improved waste management and pollution control.*

10. Progress to achieving the goal:

- strengthened national capacity for good practice in waste management through continued technical assistance and institutional support to countries in addressing pollution, and improving the management of solid waste, disaster waste and hazardous chemicals and waste.
- initiated major new programmes of support to PICTs including PacWaste Plus, the Australian Pacific Ocean Litter Project, the GEF Islands Programme, and AFD Waste Management project.
- improved the sustainability of sports events by implementing the Greening the Pacific Games.
- Expended 40% of budget due to EU delays in signing off on PacWaste Plus providing savings of US\$0.193M from personnel costs and US\$1.376M from operational budget.

Key achievements:

- Multiple donor support was obtained for projects through POLP, SWAP, PacWaste Plus, GEF ISLANDS and J-PRISM II to assist in the implementation of Cleaner Pacific 2025 and the Marine Litter Action Plan;
- Pacific countries continued to accelerate policies to ban either the importation or use of plastics with two thirds of the countries either having banned or have committed to policies banning single-use plastics, polystyrene and plastic packaging;
- Greening of the Games achieved its green goals and significantly reduced the use of single-use plastics, setting a precedent for future games.

Regional Goal 4: *Pacific people benefit and their environment benefits from commitment to and best practice of environmental governance.*

11. Progress to achieving the goal:

- Met 100% of targets for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS) training;
- Strengthened national capacity for good environmental governance through improved awareness and implementation of policy legislation or international and regional commitments;
- Made significant progress in country-level access to and use of environmental data via the GEF Regional Inform project.
- 93% of funds allocated to Regional Goal 4 were utilized in 2018.

Key achievements:

(i) Strengthened EIA capacity

- Regional EIA Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development endorsed by the SPREP Executive Board in 2018. Guidelines launched by SPREP SPTO
- Established a Network of 14 PICs on national environment data portals linked to regional repository;
- Developed a Core set of Environmental indicators. Endorsed by the Senior Management Team (SMT) in January 2019;
- Completed Niue State of the Environment (SoE) and NEMS for national government approval and use, and initiated SoE and NEMS formulation processes for Tonga. Solomon Islands and FSM SOEs and NEMS are being widely used to inform policy, planning and reporting by Members.

- (ii) Improved environment data management to support planning, reporting and decision making
 - Established a Network of 14 PICs on national environment data portals linked to regional repository
 - Developed a Core set of Environmental indicators. Endorsed by the Senior Management Team (SMT) in January 2019

Organisational Goal 1: *SPREP has information, and communication systems that get the right information to the right people at the right time and influence positive organisational, behavioural and environmental change.*

12. Progress to achieving the Goal has:

- Improved access to both library resources and specific fields of information via regional data portals;
- Built further national capacity to access and use environmental information and data.

Key achievements:

- Increased awareness of the virtual library resources and improvement in knowledge management services catering for environmental research and information needs of the Pacific community;
- Enhanced awareness and understanding of Pacific environment issues, actions and solutions amongst both the Pacific and global community through the wide range of communication tools and platforms provided;
- Increased visibility of SPREP work in the region and increased avenues for sharing information with stakeholders with the launch of the new SPREP website integrating social media;
- Increased technical support provided to PIC's National Meteorological Services (NMS) by SPREP IT team on Climate and Weather IT tools and NMS websites.

Organisational Goal 2: *SPREP has multi-disciplinary processes in programme delivery regional policies and strategies.*

13. Progress to achieving the Goal:

- The biennial work programme and budget is now structured around integrated SP Objectives and PIP strategic outcomes.
- 2018 has seen the establishment of the cross-Programme/Department 'linking' groups as specified in the revised structure to enhance cross-agency integration;
- The Project Coordination Unit (PCU) fully established to bring oversight and guidance to all SPREP project cycle work, especially SPREP's Regional Accredited Entity function.
- Monitoring and Evaluation and Risk management functions established.

Key achievements:

- A fully operational PCU which has:
- Managed Adaptation Fund re-accreditation;
 - Managed SPREP's Green Climate Fund upgrade to risk category B;
 - Providing leadership in pipeline project development, with a solely climate funding pipeline of 18 projects with a potential value of nearly US\$200m.
- The SPREP 10-year Results Framework drafted for SM consideration;
- A customized SPREP-DFAT Results Framework adopted

Organisational Goal 3: *SPREP has a reliable and sustainable funding base to achieve environmental outcomes for the benefit of the Pacific islands region and manages its programmes and operations to stay within its agreed budget.*

14. Progress has been achieved by:

- Maintaining a balanced budget;
- Addressing the going concern issue noted from past years via positive reserves noted and continued to increase since 2017;
- Implementing a robust set of internal control measures;
- Initiating negotiations with several potential new donors to secure long-term sustainability of core funding.

Key achievements:

- Achieving a balanced biennial budget for 2018/2019;
- Financial results recorded an operating surplus of USD\$154,273 in 2018 with a positive increase in total reserves (from US\$ 5,123 in 2017 to US\$139,740 in 2018);
- Effectively managing funds through robust control measures including effective financial, risk management, audit systems integrated with programme management, monitoring, and reporting systems;
- Clean audits (unqualified audit opinions) for overall SPREP financial statements as well as for all project audits;
- Budget sustainability advanced with negotiations underway with potential new core donors.

Organisational Goal 4: *SPREP is leading and engaged in productive partnerships and collaborations*

15. Progress has been achieved by:

- Establishment of the Partnership Reference Group, including its oversight role for the Partnership Engagement and Resource Mobilisation Strategy (PERMS).
- Development of the PERMS initiated.

Organisational Goal 5: *SPREP has access to a pool of people with the attitudes, knowledge, and skills to enable it to deliver on its shared regional vision.*

16. Progress has been achieved by:

- Maintaining high levels of staff engagement and performance;
- Maintaining merit-based recruitment processes;
- On-going support of the Code of Conduct;
- Initiation of the development of the 'People Strategy'

Key achievements:

- Achieved 90% of the staff rated Fully Effective and above for the staff performance in 2018 in both Key Results Areas and Behaviours. The target was 80%.
- Continued to recruit qualified staff using a merit-based system
- People Strategy initiated

Lessons learned in implementing SPREP's first PIP

- Strategic outcomes should be broader to accommodate related work arising (eg from Regional priorities under FPR and PRP).
- Care needs to be taken to get indicators practical and truly SMART
- Process focused activities such as policy development take time to realise as there are many in-country factors and considerations to take into account.
- Coordination between and among technical programmes within SPREP as well as externally with Members and partners is crucial.
- High transaction costs for delivering programmes in the Pacific continue to be a challenge and require adequate allocation of resources to ensure services to respond and address the needs and priorities of Members.
- Resourcing regionally driven priorities initiated in addition to Member-endorsed and budgeted activities in the work plan and budget continue to be a significant challenge, as are ad hoc unplanned activities and requests generated internally or from Members.
- The value of regional stakeholder meetings is underscored by the success of the 2018 Clean Pacific Roundtable which developed stronger linkages with climate change and ecosystem protection by the regional waste sector. The strong presence of the private sector led to ongoing active public-private partnerships as evident in the proliferation of national recycling associations and in the commitment of the PRIF to pursue a Pacific Regional Recycling Network.
- Emerging global issues, such as the rapid growth of international interest in marine debris particularly plastic waste underscores the importance of maintaining flexibility within and between PIPs. The challenge remains in delivering awareness raising activities that needs to be embedded within a well-designed behaviour change programme to encourage shifts in behaviours necessary to achieve strategic 10-year goals.
- Continually strengthen monitoring, evaluation and reporting capabilities

Recommendation

17. The Meeting is invited to:

1. **note** the progress made towards achievement of the 2018-2019 programme of work and budget, and 2018-2019 PIP strategic Outcomes.
2. **consider** the lessons learned in the first year of operation of the PIP planning and reporting mechanism; and
3. **note** that the PIP strategic planning mechanism will be evaluated after completion of the second (2020-2021) PIP.

15 August, 2019