
AGENDA ITEM 8.3:

Update on Ocean-related Strategic Engagements

Purpose of Paper

1. Update the SPREP Meeting on progress towards implementing the 2017-2026 Strategic Plan cross-cutting focus on oceans.

Background

2. SPREP Members endorsed an over-arching oceans focus in adopting the 2017-2026 Strategic Plan in 2016. Regionally and nationally there has been growing momentum to better conserve and manage the ocean and its resources, including establishment of marine protected areas and species-specific sanctuaries, engagement in the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) negotiation process and participation in the UN Oceans Conference in New York in 2017.
3. Increased interest in ocean-related issues is reflected in donor support. Annex 1 summarises current, pipeline and proposed SPREP projects and programmes that have an ocean focus, and how these relate to Strategic Plan objectives and 2018-2019 PIP targets. These projects and programmes address the full range of SPREP strategic priorities, including integrated approaches to climate change, biodiversity and waste management and pollution. They also engage a range of existing and developing donors and partnerships, including: Germany, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, EU, France, Monaco, GEF, GCF, UN Environment, UK Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), Australian CSIRO, IUCN, Swire Shipping, and CROP organisations. The Secretariat has also submitted requests for funding that include focus on ocean issues to the governments of Norway and Ireland given their increased interest in supporting the Pacific islands region.
4. The total combined value of existing and pipeline ocean focused projects and programmes (see Annex) is approximately US\$100 million (noting that this amount includes funding for partner activities). This includes the recent AU\$8 million Australian Government funded Pacific Ocean Litter project, the €3 million French AFD funded Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific project, and the GEF-7 SIDS Islands integrated chemical and waste management framework US\$20 million. The Government of Sweden, through UNEP, has also agreed to donate US\$100,000 to support the Noumea Convention review.

Recommendation

5. The Meeting is invited to:
 1. **note** the increasing level of donor and partner support for SPREP ocean-related projects and programmes that will deliver 2017-2026 Strategic Plan outcomes for Members.

25 July, 2019