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**AGENDA ITEM 8.5:**

**Pacific Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Initiative**

**Purpose of Paper**

1. To **note** progress in developing the Pacific Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Initiative.

**Background**

2. At the One Planet Summit in 2017 President of France Emmanuel Macron committed to launching a new multi-stakeholder international initiative designed to increase the capacities of 19 Pacific states and territories to adapt to the impact of climate change impacts; and to protect, restore, and enhance biodiversity in order to strengthen the resilience of their socio-ecological systems. At the second One Planet Summit in 2018, held in the margins of the 73<sup>rd</sup> United Nations General Assembly in New York, France, the European Union, New Zealand and Australia announced the launch of the Joint Pacific Initiative, with a collective endowment of over EUR 21 million. In November 2018, Canada joined the Initiative, adding a further EUR 6.6 million.
3. The programme is in line with the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific as well as the PIF Leaders' Blue Pacific identity. It aims to contribute to enhancing resilience to climate change and disasters in ways that are embedded in sustainable development. It is also in line with the Declaration of the 8<sup>th</sup> Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government held in June 2016, as well as the EU Agenda for change, and the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020.
4. The Joint Pacific Initiative on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Resilience contributes directly to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 13, 14 and 15, as well as the three Rio Conventions: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). It will also promote gender equality and good governance.
5. The overall objective of this initiative is to make Pacific island ecosystems and communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change through nature-based solutions. To achieve this goal, this initiative plans to build an international coalition designed to catalyse and streamline funding provided by a range of donors to be able to take prompt and efficient action with a focus on the challenges of adaptation to climate change and biodiversity. Acting as a means to improve donor coordination in alignment with regional priorities while facilitating access to funds for project developers and strengthening capacity for project development, the Pacific Initiative will finance a panel of innovative projects at the local, national and regional level.

6. The main goal of the Initiative is to foster regional cooperation by reinforcing the relationship with implementing partners as well as with the territories, countries, and regional stakeholders located in the region. In this regard, SPC and SPREP have been identified as the most relevant CROP agencies. The Secretariat of the Initiative is provided by the French Development Agency (AFD).
7. SPREP, SPC and AFD are currently working together to progress implementation of the Pacific Initiative by determining appropriate governance arrangements and roles, identify suitable projects and allocate the budget.
8. Two or three large regional projects should be initiated in 2019. In a second round, another two or three projects should be launched in 2020. SPREP will work closely with the PICTs concerning the Initiative, and with the AFD secretariat and SPC to develop projects proposals for the Pacific Initiative.

### **Recommendation**

9. The Meeting is invited to:
  1. **note** progress in developing the Pacific Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Initiative.

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7 August, 2019