

“Accelerating actions for a resilient Blue Pacific”

7th, 8th, 9th September 2021, Virtual Platforms
12:00pm – 5:00pm Samoa Standard Time

Agenda Item 7.3: New European Union Funding Support Framework for the Pacific 2021-2027

Purpose of paper

1. Update Members on the programming of EU support for the Pacific for 2021-2027.
2. Seek Members' feedback on priority areas (current and new) for cooperation in terms of new programmes requiring EU support.

Background

3. The European Union (EU) is preparing a new programming framework for the Pacific to cover the next 7 years, from 2021 to 2027. The **EU priorities** will be defined in the Pacific Multi-Country Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (“Pacific MIP”) 2021-2027, which will cover national and multi-country programmes in 13 Pacific Island countries. In addition, there will be a separate Regional Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Asia and the Pacific 2021-2027, which will provide the framework for regional programmes benefiting 15 countries, including Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.
4. Funding will be provided through a new financing instrument. The European Development Fund (EDF) is discontinued and replaced by the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). This new instrument merges most of the existing EU external financing instruments and therefore presents a simplification compared to the previous structure. It is a policy driven instrument, based on partnerships of mutual interest between the EU and the partner countries. The current EDF programmes under implementation will continue until the end of their implementation periods.
5. An important principle included in the new programming is the principle of “geographisation”, which will shift the focus of EU cooperation towards the national level, unless it is clearly more efficient to cover a certain programme on a multi-country or a regional level.
6. While the two Multi-Annual Indicative Programmes mentioned above will serve as a basis for EU funding in the Pacific, the concrete actions and programmes (national, multi-country or regional) will be defined in Annual Action Plans (AAP). The earliest AAP that may contain new actions to be implemented by SPREP can be prepared in 2022.

7. The priorities for EU funding in the Pacific for the next 7 years will focus on (1) climate change and environmental sustainability, (2) inclusive and sustainable economic development and (3) fundamental values, human development, peace and security. The first two priorities will represent around 85% of the funding.
8. Under the new Pacific MIP, the EU is proposing a Green-Blue Alliance between the Pacific and the EU, based on the shared vision of the European Green Deal, the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, and the new post-Cotonou Pacific Regional Protocol. The focus will be on climate action, sustainable blue economy, and the promotion of integrated approaches to ecosystem management that bring together the land and ocean, ensuring the restoration of biodiversity and expanding nature-based solutions. It is expected that this alliance will provide environmental and resilience benefits, as well as income opportunities through the diversification and greening of important sectors.
9. SPREP is and will remain one of the EU's most important strategic partners in the Pacific. SPREP currently implements EU funded projects with a budget of more than EUR 45 million, with a new EUR 12 million programme in preparation. The main EU funded programmes and projects currently under implementation or preparation by SPREP are included in [WP7.3/Att.1](#). The programmes include cooperation in the areas of climate change adaptation, sustainable waste management, biodiversity, nature-based solutions and oceans.

Recommendation

10. The Meeting is invited to:
 - 1) **note** the EU priorities and recent developments in the context of the programming of EU support for the Pacific for 2021-2027; and
 - 2) **inform** the EU which priority areas (current and new) for cooperation they would wish to continue in the form of future programmes. The Members may also propose new areas of cooperation, within the priorities for EU funding in the Pacific for the next 7 years. Replies are to be sent by 30 September 2021 to the following email address: andreja.vidal@eeas.europa.eu

18 June 2021