

## PIP3 (2022-2023) High Level Summary Report: Crosscutting Issues and Lessons Learnt

### Introduction

This segment of the PIP 3 (2022-2023) High Level Summary Report highlights key crosscutting issues which includes innovation, strategic linkages, gender mainstreaming, risk management, and lessons learnt.

#### I. Innovation:

Innovation and flexibility in delivering services to Members continued even after borders were opened with key highlights as follow:

- i. Interactive hybrid learning using virtual platforms delivery continued to a wider audience across the region reaffirming SPREP's commitment in responding to critical environment issues even after borders were opened.
- ii. Webinars and virtual events were successfully organised and delivered by SPREP Programmes and Departments in 2022
  - The Pacific Climate Change Centre at SPREP hosted the first Pacific Virtual Climate Innovative Exhibition hosted from 4 – 6 October 2022. Over 2,000 people engaged, consisting of both daily webinar sessions and virtual exhibitions. The Pacific Virtual Climate Innovative Exhibition connected people to learn of potential innovative solutions to climate change challenges faced in the Pacific region.
  - The Pacific region is experiencing the most severe impacts of climate change which will fundamentally impact ways of life within the region. The speed and severity of these impacts are such that the business-as-usual responses are insufficient. Innovative approaches and the implementation of adaptation actions are essential. Similarly, the transition to low carbon economies requires innovative approaches that bring together the latest science and technology with locally determined needs and contexts:
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    - The Pacific Climate Change Centre Virtual Innovation Exhibition brought together those with climate solutions and those with climate challenges. The PCCC collaborating with partners in the regional and globally to support innovative solutions that are creative and new, turning ideas into solutions including the application of ideas that are novel, useful for our Pacific region and relevant to the needs of our people. The virtual climate innovation exhibition showcased successful innovations and solutions on a regional and global level as well as articulating a framework for partnership between the PCCC and stakeholders to support initiatives related to climate change innovation whilst bringing awareness.

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- The key outcome of the Pacific Climate Change Centre Virtual exhibition was the development of a Framework for Climate Change Innovation which was showcased at a side event at the Moana Blue Pavilion on the margins of COP 27 meetings in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt. The PCCC is working towards the launching and the implementation of the framework in the Pacific region. <https://www.sprep.org/news/pacific-climate-change-centre-committed-to-supporting-the-pacific-to-access-climate-innovative-solutions-cop-27-sharm-el-sheikh>
- The PNEA online a portal of EIA resources has grown to a mailing list over 300 members from government and donor agencies linked to EIA implementation and approvals with now close to 190 registered portal members who can access exclusive regional relevant EIA content and guidance.

### iii. **Strengthened implementation modality with the engagement of sub-regional partners**

- The EU funded Pacific BioScapes Programme being implemented in 11 countries has engaged SPREP regional partners as an implementation modality to provide the best support to addressing the needs of Pacific Island Members.
- Through the work of GEF ISLANDS and UNEP, work has progressed on the Moana Taka Partnership (MTP) Plus, a partnership between SPREP and Swire Shipping, for the disposal of non-commercial waste from the PICTs to Swire destination within the Asia Pacific. The MTP-Plus refers to the expanding of the existing MTP to other shipping agents in the Pacific and to other SIDS.
- Strengthening safe circular economy in the conservation, protection and use of natural resources to build resilience through implementation of the zero-waste hierarchy which adds Refuse, Rethink, and Redesign to the top of the pyramid followed by Reduce, Reuse, Recycle plus Return.
- Strengthening community resilience to impacts of climate change through the management of disaster waste by way of improving access to landfills in Tonga and Vanuatu, as well as the abatement of asbestos containing materials that become hazardous to disaster responders and volunteers.
- Maintaining the MoU with the New Zealand Association of Impact Assessment (NZAIA) continued to foster the relationship of NZAIA members with SPREP, contributing their expertise to undertake training in areas identified by SPREP. There is not cost on NZAIA expert engagement in delivering training for member countries.
- The SPREP GIS Team secured funding from the Ensuring Resilient Ecosystems and Representative Protected Areas (EREPA) project in the Solomon Islands from IUCN GCF funding. The GIS team provided support on the development of protected areas geospatial information for the 5 provinces in the Solomon Islands.

- The integration of the Secretariat of the Noumea Convention functions as part of the ACPMEAIII Programme has further raised the visibility of the Noumea Convention as well as the ACP MEA III in the Pacific region through publications, trainings and Noumea Convention COP preparations and negotiations.
- The successful implementation of the Pacific Learning Partnership for Environment and Social Safeguards (PLP/ESS) has resulted in initial discussion between World Bank and SPREP on a longer term relationship to strengthen EIA/ESS in the Pacific region.
- SPREP's People Strategy is an organisation strategy for all staff. The implementation approach sees the Director General leading on the strategy with the Senior Leadership Team taking lead on implementation of the specific outcomes. The Staff Advisory Committee takes an active role with all staff involved in different working groups for its implementation.
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- Supporting the PacMet Desk through joint development with partners NIWA and BOM in migrating Early warning tool from SCOPIC to CliDesc.

## II. Strategic linkages

SPREP continued to operate and deliver its work and services in a more integrated and cohesive manner through key internal coordinating mechanisms which were established since 2018. Examples of key results achieved include:

- CCR have worked closely with IOE, WMP and EMG on a number of initiatives to ensure a joint approach to delivering on SPREP's key regional goals, particularly through the cross-cutting themes of climate change and oceans. Examples include: the combined work to establish an MOU with CSIRO to ensure the delivery of cutting-edge science and research to inform our respective programmes and deliver enhanced outcomes for both managing our oceans and responding to climate change; and combined work to deliver outcomes and key activities under the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy, as part of the Multi-Sector Expert Group on Climate Change, Oceans and the Environment.
- The ACP/MEA 3 involved the engagement of the IOE, Waste Management Programme and EMG Programme on the delivery of its activities under the Noumea and SPREP component of the programme.

At the regional and global levels, SPREP continued to be engaged and actively participate in key processes working closely with key partners. Key highlights of results achieved are outlined below:

- SPREP continued to actively engage in the development of the 2050 Strategy led by PIFS providing technical advice and input particularly on strategic areas relating to SPREP's core areas of work. The 2050 Strategy was endorsed by the SPREP Executive Board in 2022 and its subsequent implementation.

- SPREP continued to engage in the BBNJ negotiation process supporting Pacific SIDS and working closely with the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC). SPREP's engagement is important as the lead regional organization on the environment and its key role as the Secretariat of the Noumea Convention.
- To ensure the voices of the Pacific are amplified in global negotiation processes and related forums, SPREP and Members were engaged in the following global events:
  - Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly held virtually and in Nairobi, Kenya from 28 February to 2 March 2022;
  - Meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in Geneva, Switzerland from 6 to 17 June 2022;
  - Second UN Ocean Conference with the theme 'Scaling Up Ocean Action Based on Science and Innovation for the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Stocktaking, Partnerships and Solutions' held in Lisbon, Portugal from 27 June to 1 July 2022;
  - Fourth and Fifth Sessions of the Intergovernmental Conference negotiations for a Treaty on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in New York, United States of America;
  - 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27) to the United Nations Framework for the Convention on Climate Change to be held in Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt from 6 to 18 November 2022;
  - First Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC1) to negotiate a global legally binding agreement to address the whole life cycle of plastic pollution, which is to be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay from 28 November to 2 December 2022; and
  - Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity for the development and agreement of the post-2020 Targets in Montreal, Canada from 5 to 17 December 2022

### III. Gender mainstreaming

Gender equality is critical to the achievement of SPREP's Strategic Objectives and is core to the delivery of SPREP's Strategic Plan (2017-2026) and vital to SPREP's overall response and mandate to support Member country's environmental priorities and sustainable development goals:

- Gender equality inclusion and mainstreaming remained a SPREP priority across Programmes and Departments: GEIM Team led the review of the SPREP Gender Policy 2016 with input from staff, partners, among others. The Gender Policy 2016 review aimed to support SPREPs contributions to gender equality at both a project level as well as an organisational level and contributes to SPREP's vision for 'a resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures'. The expected outcome of the review led to updating guiding principles on gender equity, social inclusion, and mainstreaming; relevant gender-related indicators for reporting; gender justice in climate change, among others. Two Gender Champions were nominated across the organisation namely, for SLT - DDG for Governance and Operations; and Pacific Climate Change Center (PCCC) Manager for staff. There have been significant efforts achieved to promote gender equality and empower women, empower disability, and social inclusion and empower marinated communities through programmes and projects that are implemented. Gender mainstreaming have been implemented and efforts to strenge its response and commitment to gender equality as evident through the following mechanism the GEIM, Gender champion at COP and within SPREP, revised Gender policy and gender requirements implemented for each project and programme.

- Recognizing that climate change will nevertheless continue, albeit hopefully at a reduced rate, the Pacific Climate Change Centre through its function on Capacity Building hosted a series of workshop on Climate Change Gender and Social Inclusion for the Samoa Faafafine Association, the Brown Girl Woke and the Samoa Office of the Ombudsman. SPREP through the PCCC is also a member of the Women of the Wave (WOW) Network a network which aims to support and inspire women in the international governmental organizations of the Pacific to further their career and leadership aspirations, and to expand the connections and opportunities in a sector where numbers of women in senior positions are lagging.
- The PCCC through its Project for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience for the Pacific trained more than 600 participants (between 2019-2022) from Governments, Civil Society, NGOs, and private sector of which 54.25% of the total participants were women.
- Gender is addressed in IOE implemented projects through specific activities including the direct engagement of gender specialists to ensure compliance in activity implementation. The KIWA project which aims at strengthening stronger regional cooperation on Nature-Based Solution for climate change adaptation in the Pacific undertook gender segmentation in its reporting. It also ensures women groups in the Pacific can effectively access NbS funds through capacity-building activities.
- The PWP, SWAP, POLP projects implemented by WMPC are implementing their gender plans ensuring the inclusion of women in its in-country activities. PWP assessed GEDSI implications for the implementation of sustainable financing systems to fund and improved waste management. Further, PWP also developed a toolkit for GEDSI considerations. Taking into consideration gender equality and social inclusion is a priority for the SWAP Project. As such, the SWAP has developed a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan which are implemented throughout the project's activities.
- EMG Programme embedded gender inclusion and mainstreaming in their activities. The Empowerment of women in data for decision making and developing a gender balanced stakeholder group including the steering committee, national coordinating mechanisms, and meeting participants is a focus of the Inform Project. The Project Steering Committee Composition of Project has 2 females and 1 male; the Countries project focal points have 9 females and 5 males; the Inform Project itself had 6 females and 4 males. The trainings on data portal, indicator reporting tool, and mobile data collection has a coverage of 60% females and 40% males. The e-learning platform registration had 53% females and 47% males.
- EMG Programme has made significant efforts to promote gender equality and ensure equal participation of men and women across all our activities. Throughout the year, the unit incorporated gender perspectives in its work and actively sought to engage women in all areas, supported by the collection and analysis of gender disaggregated data to identify areas where we can improve our engagement with women. The data showed that the estimated average percentage of women participation involved in the planning of activities (SEA Webinar, EIA Training- Cook Islands and Tokelau, PLP-ESS Trainings, Samoa Sustainable Tourism Training, PUMA EIA training, etc) is approximately 45%.
- PIP 3(2022-2023) reporting provided gender disaggregation of data whenever feasible for in-country implemented activities by Programmes which recorded and average between 45-65% women engagement.

- At the organization wide level, gender has been mainstreamed into the SPREP Senior Leadership Meetings where it is a standing agenda item for SLT monthly meetings. This has enabled and facilitated greater awareness and recognition of the importance of gender at the organisational level.
- The People Strategy encouraged inclusivity and the involvement of GEIM in the implementation of key activities under the People Strategy. Gender equity and mainstreaming had been considered in all recruitment and procurement activities completed for 2022 as part of staff commitment to engage with SPREP signed in its contract of employment
- Mainstreaming of gender equality in SPREP is visible in the communications products and services shown in guides, checklists, and reporting form” being aligned to 2016 Gender Policy (currently reviewed). Mainstreaming of gender equality is also evidenced in panels for side events, webinars, launch events or any other event which facilitates a panel of presenters or speakers for example, assisted women leaders in the Pacific during COP 27-, Minister of Environment Niue, Special envoy to Marshall Island, Director General Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation, Ministry climate Change and Adaptation, Vanuatu.

#### IV. Risk Management

Risk management is an integral component of on-going corporate governance and decision-making to improve resilience, accountability, and the achievement of strategic objectives. Risk Management is a priority of SPREP across Projects, Programmes, and Organisational levels of work.

- At the organisational level, Priority Enterprise Risks (PERs) have been constantly monitored and managed at SLT level by updating the senior management on the identification, mitigation, and reporting identified PERs through the Risk Committee. Risk management is integrated into the SLT monthly meetings as one of the standing agenda items. At enterprise level, risk categories were identified, assessed, and reported as:
  - PER 1 (Disasters - man-made and natural including global pandemics)
  - PER 2 (Inadequate funds for operations both core and non-core budget)
  - PER 3 (Delayed project implementation)
  - PER 4 (Human resource capacity)
- At the Programme and project level, risk reviews are carried out for on-going projects as outlined below:
  - For IOE, risk management is built into project implementation,
  - For WMPC, risk management started with the conduct of annual reviews in all its projects where regular updates are deliberated such as overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic through the contracting of national project officers. PWP, SWAP, POLP, and ISLANDS projects carried out annual review of their risk management plans and provide regular updates to their project steering committees and governance groups.
  - For EMG, risks associated with the implementation of the ACP/MEA 3 project, are reviewed jointly with the IOE and WMPC Programmes. Delays in the implementation of activities are due to a number of factors including the availability of key personnel and capacity constraints.
- Financial risks are consistently and continually monitored and managed as attested to positive audit reports for all audits completed in 2022 which provides assurance to not only the efficient and transparent management of funds by SPREP but also the sound internal control systems and governance structures that SPREP has in place.

## V. Lessons Learnt

In the implementation of the 1<sup>st</sup> year of PIP3 across the organisation, critical lessons learnt as follows:

### Partnership engagement and regional coordination

- Coordination with other regional organisations is essential to addressing major environmental issues at a regional scale, such as regional fisheries bodies, SPC FAME and national fisheries agencies about bycatch of threatened and endangered species.
- The OneCROP approach to support Pacific island delegates at CBD COP15 increased the level of technical support provided which greatly assisted the engagement of Pacific island Members in the CBD COP15 negotiations.
- Increased effort in working with partners adds value to SPREP's programme delivery.
- Establishing positive and lasting relationships (for example with NZAIA, SPTO, IAIA, UNEP, ADB, World Bank and USP) have contributed to increased programme and project implementation including the delivery of capacity building and training on EIA and ESS.

### Continuous learning

- Need for continuous capacity building sessions or learning development platforms for SPREP staff to undertake professional development such as: IT training and awareness sessions to enable them to be enhance their skills and knowledge on digital technologies and programmes to minimise security risks and ensuring that any risks to the organisation are prevented and/or mitigated.

### Governance and operations

- The nature of SPREP's work requires its operations and personnel to be highly adaptive and agile to changing business environment. This includes strengthening capacity to ensure compliance and consistent application of approved governance policy frameworks for example, the financial management procedures, procurement manual, staff regulations and related HR policies, risk management policy, IT Policies, KM Strategy, and ESS.
- Whilst sustainable funding for SPREP is reliant on collective efforts by many players including not just the SPREP team, increasing the cost of doing business in the current environment is partially addressed by managing the Programme Support Fees which requires a more strategic and pragmatic approach to ensure financial sustainability. This also highlights the need to address inadequate core funding support through membership contributions, which have remained generally unchanged over the years.
- A dedicated budget for the People Strategy activities is now incorporated as a key component of the personnel budget. This strengthens the commitment of the Senior Leadership Team and the Secretariat to its people and the implementation of the People Strategy.