

31st SPREP MEETING OF OFFICIALS

5, 6, and 7 September 2023, Apia, Samoa

Agenda item 9.1: Regional Goal 1: Pacific people benefit from strengthened resilience to climate change

Purpose of paper:

1. To provide the Meeting with an overview of key priorities to support the implementation and achievement of Regional Goal 1 for the biennial period 2024-2025.

Background:

2. For the biennial period 2024-2025, SPREP will continue to support Members to achieve their goals for and towards building a Pacific that is resilient to climate change. This working paper provides an overview of the key activities and initiatives to be implemented by SPREP for the next biennium.

Key Areas of Work for 2024-2025:

RO1.1: Strengthen the capacity of Pacific Island members to lead, prioritise, and manage national climate change adaptation (CCA), mitigation (NDCs) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) in fulfilment of their national environment and development goals and their voluntary and legal obligations under regional and international agreements.

3. SPREP will continue to support members in implementing key activities of national climate change policies and strategies, strengthening of institutional arrangements to enhance coordination of climate change across government departments, sectors, CSOs, private sector and communities and mainstreaming of climate change.
4. SPREP NDC Hub will continue to assist with the implementation of NDC country requests from the governments of Nauru, Samoa and Tuvalu. Through more funding opportunities, SPREP can provide assistance to more member countries focusing on small to medium scale mitigation activities and trialling innovative renewable energy technologies for future up-scaling.
5. Tomai Pacifique shall continue as the platform which gives Member countries an opportunity to access 'Rapid Response' should they require technical assistance in climate change related matters of which a growing roster of experts stands ready to render the necessary technical support.
6. SPREP will continue to support PSIDS in their international climate change engagement in particular in the UNFCCC process including its subsidiary bodies and mandated events as well as other global and regional processes including the regional 2050 Strategy and the FRDP.

7. SPREP through the PCCC will continue to provide training opportunities on innovative climate change technologies, products, and services through the Pacific Climate Change Centre Capacity Building Project - Innovative Solutions for Pacific Climate Change Resilience, 2023-2025.
8. SPREP through the PCCC will continue to engage and support capacity-building activities on CC for the private sector in PICTs in partnership with other regional agencies such as PIFS, PIPSO, SPTO, SPC, the multilateral development banks, financial institutions, and development agencies.
9. PCCC will continue to deliver and utilize the innovative PCCC e-learning platforms for capacity building, training opportunities, and Pacific Climate Change Portal for climate change information.
10. PCCC will continue to improve public awareness of climate change issues, amongst practitioners, youth and students, and the private sector.
11. PCCC continues to support climate change and sports campaigns targeting young people and other members of the community (e.g. South Pacific Games Solomon Islands 2023, Futsal for Melanesian Sub-region Islands, Rugby Union in Samoa, Women's Football in PNG and Netball in Tonga).
12. PCCC will continue to deliver targeted training on Human Rights, Gender Equity Social Inclusion, and Climate Finance for PICTs and continue to support Women and Social Entrepreneurship in Building Climate Resilience in at least 3 PICTs.

RO1.2: Minimise multiple pressures on vulnerable Pacific Island ecosystems by implementing ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation including responses to ocean acidification and sea level rise, to sustain biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services that support livelihoods and sustainable development.

13. SPREP will continue to support implementation of ecosystem and nature-based solutions as part of a suite of adaptation solutions to address adaptation needs that are informed by climate change vulnerability and risk assessments and national adaptation planning processes.
14. SPREP through its Technical Assistance to the Kiwa Initiative (B1), will provide capacity building opportunities to develop and implement Nature-based Solutions for climate change adaptation, biodiversity and livelihoods, and support the mainstreaming of these solutions into policies.
15. The €5.8 million Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Phase 2 (PEBACC+) project, funded by the Kiwa Initiative and French GEF is being implemented from 2023 to 2026 in Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna. PEBACC+ supports the development and mainstreaming of Ecosystem-based Adaptation approaches in partner countries and implement nature-based solutions to bring concrete resilience benefits to people and nature.

RO1.3: Enhance National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) capacity in weather forecasting, early warning systems, long-term projections, and improved climate services to support members' decision-making and coordination through the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC)

16. SPREP through the Pacific Meteorological Desk will support the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) to coordinate the implementation of PMC outcomes including convening of regular meetings of PMC panels and alignment of projects and partners to implement outcomes of the PMC. As recommended by the 6th Meeting of the PMC, SPREP will review the PMC governance and operations to better align to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Reform and the WMO Regional Association Five (RA-V) restructure.
17. SPREP will continue to collaborate with members, donors and Partners to develop a robust governance framework to secure additional donors for the Weather Ready Pacific endorsed by the Pacific Island Forum Leaders, secure a project team, develop an implementation plan and start activities using the initial investment provided by Australia and New Zealand.
18. SPREP will continue to develop traditional knowledge (TK) programme and upscale support to Pacific Island **countries** including the development of training on collection, storage, monitoring of weather and climate TK indicators, and development of TK communication products for communities through the COSPPac 3.0, CREWS 2.0 and the Enhancing Climate Information and Knowledge Services for resilience in 5 island countries of the Pacific Ocean Project funded by the UNEP (UNEP/GCF). SPREP will also continue to support ocean acidification activities.
19. SPREP will continue to provide monthly seasonal climate information and capacity building to NMHSs and virtual courses on climate services and IT via the PCCC online training platform through the COSPPac 2.0/3.0 and continue to support the operations of the upper air systems in Tuvalu and Kiribati.
20. SPREP, through the ClimSA Project, will implement the Pacific Meteorological Council's (PMC) decision to transition the Pacific Islands Regional Climate Centre (PI-RCC) Network from its demonstration phase to a fully operational phase by 2024.
21. SPREP through the ClimSA project will strengthen regional and national user interface platforms to deliver tailored solutions that promote and develop climate services across the Pacific. Key priority sectors will be supported through the ongoing Pacific Island Climate Outlook Forums (PICOFs), which are held twice a year. SPREP will also provide support and facilitation to national **meteorological** and hydrological services (NMHSs) for National Climate Outlook Forums (NCOFs) and sector-focused climate sessions. Additionally, sector-focused tailored products and case studies will be developed that demonstrate the use and value of climate science for decision-making.

RO1.4: Support Pacific Island Members to access and manage climate change finances and their national accreditation processes.

22. SPREP will continue to support members to enhance capacity through the delivery of climate finance executive courses through the PCCC online learning platform and face-to-face trainings.

23. SPREP will continue to support countries in strengthening access to climate finance and technical delivery of NDA readiness and accreditation projects.

24. SPREP will continue to support countries in developing climate change proposals to access climate finance for implementation of national response to the impacts of climate change.

RO1.5: Support Pacific Island Members to develop policy responses to issues of loss and damage, and climate change and disaster induced population mobility.

25. SPREP will continue to support PSIDS in strengthening their capacity to address loss and damage, identification of loss and damage needs and access to climate finance for implementation, establishment of evidence base for loss and damage through the development of case studies and research, regional dialogues with PSIDS, CSOs, private sector and youth, communication and knowledge brokerage and provision of technical advice to facilitate national responses to address loss and damage. This will also support PSIDS in their international climate change engagement on loss and damage in particular the work of the Transitional Committee for operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund and arrangements for responding to loss and damage.

Challenges and Opportunities:

26. Access to climate finance remains a challenge for the Pacific. SPREP will continue to strengthen its internal capacity and find resources to support the Pacific Island Countries and Territories in developing proposals to access finance for implementation of national climate change priorities.

27. Multiple donors and development partners are implementing project-based initiatives in the region which is affecting the capacity of national governments and communities to manage and lead implementation of projects. SPREP will explore the use of programmatic approach to alleviate project management limitations, strengthen regional and national absorptive capacity and facilitate growing of local market pool of experts.

Recommendation:

28. The Meeting is invited to:

- 1) **Note** the update on activities to be implemented under Regional Goal 1 for the next biennial 2024-2025

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