



2nd Executive Board Meeting

2 – 4 September 2020

Agenda Item 6.2: Implementation of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders and SIS Leaders decisions

Purpose

1. To provide an overview of the coordinated efforts of SPREP to implement the Forum Leaders' and SIS Leaders' decisions from the 50th Pacific Islands Forum in 2019 in relevant areas of the SPREP mandate.

Background

2. Implementation of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders and SIS Leaders decisions is guided by the CROP Strategic Work Agenda 2019-2020, which for SPREP prioritises for 2019 – 2020:

A. 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and strengthening the regional architecture:

Objective: CROP technical input and advice to support the development of a quality 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and a review of the regional architecture, to ensure a relevant, efficient and effective future regional system.

3. SPREP supports the development of the 2050 Strategy through the inputs of technical experts Mr Espen Ronneberg, Climate Change Adviser and Dr Peter Davies, Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Adviser to all meetings. The current focus is the development of future scenarios to identify key themes for the Strategy. At the request of Members, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is reviewing the methodology and evidence base used in scenario development. CROP support has been requested.

B. Climate change and disaster resilience

Objective: International climate change advocacy to drive support for the priorities of the Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now and strengthened implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development (FRDP) in the Pacific, particularly through the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP).

COP 25

4. SPREP led the One CROP+ team in the preparations for COP25 with support from Climate Analytics. A COP 25 preparatory meeting was held at the PCCC in October 2019 providing valuable resources to Pacific delegations, as well as training for new delegates, and support for the ministers who participated.

5. At COP25 the One CROP+ team supported different workstreams, provided technical briefings as well as ad hoc support as requested. In addition, SPREP managed the highly successful Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion at COP25 through funding from the governments of New Zealand and Fiji. Over 11 days the pavilion hosted approximately 10,000 visitors, over 60 side events and over 35 Pacific island meetings in the meeting room. SPREP continues to lead the One CROP+ through the Pacific Voyage plan. A virtual post-COP25 workshop was conducted in June to reflect on the outcomes and plan ahead.

FRDP

6. SPREP has Represented CROP on the PRP Task Force and the PRP Support Unit over the last year, providing technical input into drafting of the PRP Charter, FRDP Resilience Standards, and the FRDP Compendium of Case Studies. SPREP is also the lead of the PRP Communications and Engagement Sub-Committee (CESC) which has developed the PRP Communications Strategy, Action Plan, Pacific Resilience Fast Beat Series, Communications Guidelines, and the Pacific Resilience Collective concept. SPREP has secured funding to support the Communications and Engagement Strategy Action Plan and has begun development of associated products and initiatives via virtual meetings across differing time zones and variabilities in connectivity.
7. SPREP's role as representative of the CROP agencies and Development partners on the PRP Task Force will rotate to another CROP agency in 2020.

C. Nuclear testing Legacy Issues and support to Republic of Marshall Islands and Kiribati

Objective: CROP technical support to address the ongoing impacts of nuclear testing, particularly in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and Kiribati, and to support a comprehensive scientific assessment of the contamination issue in the Pacific.

8. Clark Peteru, SPREP Legal Counsel, Mr. Anthony Talouli, Acting Director Waste Management and Pollution Control, and Mr. Joshua Sam, Hazardous Waste Management Adviser provide SPREP technical expertise to the CROP-supported Taskforce on Nuclear Issues chaired rotationally by the Governments of Marshall Islands and Kiribati.

D. Regional mechanism to address oil spills

Objective: Development of a regional mechanism and action plan to address the significant environmental risk posed by oil leaks and spills.

9. The Pacific Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan 2019 (PACPLAN 2019) has been endorsed by the Noumea Convention COP15, 29th SPREP Meeting and the 4th Ministers of Transport and Energy Meeting. This is the regional mechanism to address oil spills. A key element of the mechanism is OSRL, an oil spill response industry provider based in Singapore. SPREP is working on having all 21 Pacific island countries and territories of the PACPLAN become members of OSRL with funding for the initial 3 years from New Zealand, however, COVID-19 travel restrictions have caused delays with the OSRL Membership virtual workshop and the signing of the agreement, originally scheduled for 30 June.

E. Regional fisheries

Objective: strengthening regional fisheries including through the Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting and implementation of the Regional Longline Strategy.

10. Through the EDF 11 funded By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) Initiative SPREP and WWF Pacific will implement a regional education extension programme for the tuna long line fleet, supporting the expansion of the current BirdLife International Extension project in Fiji to BIEM focal countries of Tonga, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Papua New Guinea. The extension programme will provide education, awareness and capacity building for vessel skippers and crew for mitigating by-catch of species of conservation interest.
11. The extension programme will be complemented by funding the training of 30 new entrants and 30 existing longline crew as well as 15 observers in the by-catch training module offered by the Fiji National University's Maritime Academy.
12. SPREP is collaborating closely with FFA and SPC to ensure that the BIEM work complements the Regional Longline Strategy.

F. Biological Diversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) negotiations

Objectives: CROP effective support to members to advance the region's position in the negotiations for a new Implementing Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction. CROP to provide unified/coordinated support and technical advice to Members in a timely manner

13. A series of SPREP staff have provided support to the ongoing BBNJ negotiations through the Office of Pacific Ocean Commissioner since the Preparatory Committee was established in 2015. Numerous staff from SPREP have provided technical advice throughout the process. Negotiations are now nearing the final phase with the final session of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC4) currently postponed due to COVID 19.
14. SPREP continues to provide international legal advice to the OPOC process including a well-received analysis of country positions on Articles for the Agreement, mapping countries aligned to PSIDS, those opposed and those parties that may have negotiable positions.
15. SPREP leads technical advice on two parts of the Agreement, Part III – Area Based Management Tools, Including Marine Protected Areas, and Part IV Environmental Impact Assessments including drafting a new clause on Strategic Environmental Assessment in collaboration with Australia, to more clearly define the role of SEA as a planning tool in BBNJ. SPREP has also contributed expertise on Access Benefit Sharing issues to the process.
16. Work on BBNJ is continuing remotely with regular meetings with the OPOC BBNJ team. It is not known when IGC4 will be convened.
17. The impacts of COVID-19 and Tropical Cyclone Harold have greatly impacted the implementation of the CROP work agenda including postponement of the 51st Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting by the Government of Vanuatu. At the time of writing this paper, it was not yet clear whether a Leaders virtual meeting will be held in 2020.

Implementation of the SIS Leaders decisions in relevant areas of the SPREP mandate

Progress Update Against the SIS Regional Strategy 2016 – 2020 for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020: SIS country-specific activities provided by SPREP in the relevant mandate areas

SIS Member	Climate Change	Marine
Cook Islands	Workshops & training In-country assistance Meeting participation	Workshops & training
Total financial value for Cook Islands (US\$)	48,473.61	5,420.02
Federated States of Micronesia	Workshops & training Consultancies In-country assistance Meeting participation	Workshops & training Consultancy
Total financial value for Federated States of Micronesia (US\$)	469,771.65	10,036.34
Kiribati	Workshops & training Consultancy Direct funding Technical assistance Meeting participation	Workshops & training
Total financial value for Kiribati (US\$)	213,999.61	4,738.03
Nauru	Workshops & training Consultancy Publication In-country assistance Meeting participation	
Total financial value for Nauru (US\$)	105,553.79	
Niue	Workshops & training In-country assistance Consultancy Direct funding Meeting participation	
Total financial value for Niue (US\$)	141,123.53	
Palau	Workshops & training In-country assistance Consultancy Direct Funding Meeting participation	Workshops & training
Total financial value for Palau (US\$)	150,072.42	5,698.70
Republic of the Marshall Islands	Workshops & training Technical assistance Consultancy Direct funding Meeting participation	Workshops & training Professional Services
Total financial value for Republic of Marshall Islands (US\$)	389,116.13	119,146.23
Tuvalu	Workshops & training Technical assistance Consultancy Direct funding Meeting participation	Workshops & training
Total financial value for Tuvalu (US\$)	280,160.73	6,442.34
	Climate Change	Marine
Total financial value for SIS (US\$)	1,798,271.47	151,481.66

G. Joint SIS proposal to the GCF

18. Recognising that most of the Pacific region projects prepared for the Green Climate Fund financing are small, GCF has requested the two regionally accredited agencies SPREP and SPC to work with other CROP and international agencies to formulate a Pacific Region Flagship Programme, that would address the GCF's overarching mandate of a "paradigm shift" in regional climate action.
19. Building on the FRDP as its foundation, the flagship programme is being designed to coordinate regional and international action on mitigation and adaptation to address the Blue Pacific vision of Leaders.
20. SPREP has developed and shared with SPC, a discussion paper "The Blue Pacific: Realising Regional Ambitions for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation" in May 2020. The discussion paper is aimed at bringing the CROP agencies, Accredited Entities in the region and countries together, to reach a common ground on what the Flagship Programme should contain.
21. SPREP is continuing to collaborate with SPC to reach agreement on the approach and framework of the Flagship. The intention is to submit a draft concept note to the GCF by end 2020 for initial inputs from the GCF which will guide further development of the proposal.

Other inputs for the SIS Regional Strategy 2016-2020 which SPREP has assisted with for SIS Members¹

H. Pacific Island Climate Change Insurance Facility (PICCIF)

22. An expert meeting was convened at SPREP from 31 October to 1 November 2019, to address implementation issues contained in the GIZ project, and to suggest a clear work plan moving forward. The meeting also included discussion on UNEP's support for the establishment of a Pacific Island Climate Change Insurance Facility (PICCIF) and alignment of these activities with the SPREP/GIZ project. The discussion also considered a report developed by the team of insurance experts that have been assisting the development of PICCIF and Tuvalu under UNEP support. That report built on inputs from the first expert workshop in Samoa, the consultation at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and meetings up to and at the Pacific Islands Forum.
23. The key findings:
 - a) There are a number of initiatives in the Pacific potentially complimentary to the PICCIF. An integrated approach is needed including for seeking funding from the same potential donor pool.
 - b) PICCIF can act as a 'funding magnet', coordinating funding requests to various international bodies. This will depend on PICCIF demonstrating clear collaboration to meet the short, medium and longer-term needs of the Pacific Smaller Island States and identifying the particular value-add of PICCIF to include assisting countries to create

¹Cook Islands, FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, RMI, Tuvalu

regional insurance products that enable the SIS to mutualise their risks, reduce reinsurance requirements and minimise uncertainty.

- c) PICCIF will need to be supported by a local regional centre of technical expertise on insurance risk financing and broader risk management to source external financial support to protect populations, environments and economies from the impacts of climate change and develop indigenous, in-region technical capacity.
- d) The Meeting identified key challenges and risks to be addressed in a 5-step development of the PICCIF:
- Phase 1 – feasibility study
 - Phase 2 – data collection & analysis
 - Phase 3 – structure development and capacity building
 - Phase 4 – small-scale pilot supported by capital
 - Phase 5 – facility establishment and upscaling

- e) The meeting also received information around the funding proposal that SPREP secured from GIZ, and the scope for synergies between this and the UNEP project. The GIZ project includes the following work packages:

- Identification of risks to be insured against (defining the coverage) in terms of specific events and the level of coverage for individuals, communities, nations and/or the region to develop appropriate insurance responses. A technical exchange with the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI) on the results of previous risk assessments and the possible integration of appropriate response measures is planned.
- Build on existing databases of risk management and finance mechanisms to establish a single integrated source of regional information, experience, and expertise.

24. Meanwhile SPREP has secured funding from GIZ for further development of the PICCIF incorporating synergies with the UNEP project. The GIZ project includes the following work packages:

- Identification of risks to be insured against (specific events and the level of coverage for individuals, communities, nations and/or the region) and develop appropriate insurance responses. A technical exchange with the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI) on the results of previous risk assessments and the possible integration of appropriate response measures is planned.
- Build on existing risk management databases and finance mechanisms to establish a single integrated source of regional information, experience, and expertise.
- Develop dataset, scenarios and modelling, including by reviewing the existing PacRICs dataset and working with the Pacific Metrological Council panels.

I. Waste Management and Pollution Control

25. The region's ballast water management strategy (2006) includes a focus on hull bio-fouling. Many PICs have become Parties to the Ballast Water Management Convention and 7 PICs now have National Ballast water management strategies. SPREP is working to provide assistance to the remaining PICs, including in implementing the IMO-GEF6 GloFouling Project Guidelines with Fiji and Tonga as pilot countries. In 2019 the 4th Transport Ministers Meeting the ministers endorsed the development of a Clean and Green Ports 2030-2050 Pathway. SPREP and SPC seek to implement regional clean hull guidelines to safeguard our Ocean through the Pathway which will also address sustainable transport through low carbon shipping, building on the work of the Pacific Maritime Technology Coordinating Centre.
26. In 2019 the 4th Transport Ministers Meeting the ministers endorsed the development of a Clean and Green Ports 2030-2050 Pathway. SPREP and SPC seek to implement regional clean hull guidelines to safeguard our Ocean through this pathway. The Clean and Green Ports 2030-2050 Pathway will also address sustainable transport through low carbon shipping, building on the work of the Pacific Maritime Technology Coordinating Centre.
27. International and regional workshops and meetings under the Cape Town Agreement plus discussions at the IMO for MARPOL and the IMO Marine Litter Action Plan have helped SIS to address marine litter and plastic pollution. Assistance was also made available to SIS through the Pacific Regional Marine Litter Action Plan 2018-2025 to develop policies and legislation banning single use plastics. SIS action through their membership of FFA established the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Conservation Management Measures 2017-04 to address marine pollution.
28. SPREP, in partnership with J-PRISM II Project, is developing a Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline promoting coordinated responses to disaster events including stronger linkages between NDMOs and Waste Management Offices in:
- clearing debris during the emergency response phase;
 - creating access to badly hit areas; and
 - recovering items from disaster waste which can still be useful for recovery initiatives.
29. A training programme to implement the Guideline has been piloted in Vanuatu and will be extended to other countries including the SIS. This proved critical in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Harold post disaster recovery efforts

Recommendations

30. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
- 1 **Note** the coordinated efforts of SPREP to implement the CROP Strategic Work Agenda for 2019 -2020 of the Forum Leaders' and SIS Leaders' decisions from the 50th Pacific Islands Forum.

