



2nd Executive Board Meeting

2 – 4 September 2020

Agenda Item 9.4: SPREP Independent Corporate Review and Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026

Purpose of paper

1. To decide on a process for undertaking a Third Independent Corporate Review of SPREP (ICR) and the Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026.

Background

2. The Second Independent Corporate Review of SPREP in conjunction with the Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2011-2015 occurred in 2014.
3. The 2014 SPREP Reviews broadly assessed the Secretariat's performance against stated objectives in the last SPREP Strategic Plan 2011-2015, and reviewed progress in its implementation including relevance of its priorities and targets. The outcomes helped improve the effectiveness and efficiencies of SPREP, guided implementation of the plan and helped inform the development of the new Strategic Plan 2017-2026.
4. The reviews were undertaken by an independent expert team of Professor John E. Hay (Team Leader), Ms. Teresa Manarangi-Trott (Polynesia), Ms. Sivia Qoro (Melanesia) and Mr. William Kostka (Micronesia) and reported to the 25th SPREP Meeting in 2014. The full reports with annexes may be accessed from the SPREP website¹.
5. The reviews were guided by a Reference Group of Members and undertaken through an open and transparent process of consultation with SPREP Members, programme partners, development partners and staff. The Reference Group consisted of Members with diplomatic missions based in Samoa: Australia, New Zealand, Tokelau, United States, and Samoa as the host country of the Secretariat. The SPREP Troika was also included in the Reference Group with Members comprising Nauru, Republic of the Marshall Islands and New Caledonia.
6. It is now 6 years since the last ICR was adopted by the SPREP Meeting, and it is timely and appropriate that another review of SPREP, focussed on developments since the 2014 Reviews, should be undertaken in 2021.

¹ <https://www.sprep.org/sprep-meeting/the-independent-corporate-review-of-sprep-and-the-mid-term-review-of-the-sprep-strategic-plan-2011-2015>

7. The SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026 was endorsed by the 2016 SPREP Meeting and 2021 will mark the half-way point of the 10-year plan which directs that there should be a mid-term review after 5 years (2021).
8. The Secretariat proposes that these two reviews be combined, as they were for the 2014 reviews, and implemented in 2021. Should this be agreed, preparatory work will need to be undertaken in 2020. Combining these reviews will integrate two clearly linked processes and reduce costs.
9. A draft Terms of Reference for consideration by the Executive Board is appended as Annex A to this paper. The TOR specifies: (a) engagement of independent consultants, including SPREP Member representatives; (b) extensive consultation with SPREP Members, partners, donors and staff; and (c) preparation of a report to the 2021 SPREP meeting. A timeline proposed for consultations is appended as Annex B to this paper.
10. The budget for the combined review is conservatively estimated at US\$200,000- \$250,000 based on the costs for the consultation and preparation of the 2008 Independent Corporate Review of SPREP (US\$213,820); the 2010 Strategic Plan (US\$220,000); and the consultancy fees for the 2014 independent review (US\$ 210,036). The Secretariat does not have sufficient available funding to contract this review and therefore has not included any provisions for this activity in the 2021 budget. However, this is an important institutional governance mechanism and the Secretariat seeks the support of the Executive Board, and particularly Metropolitan Members, to realise the realistic 2021 cost of US\$250,000 to finance this review.

Recommendations

11. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
 1. **Approve** the proposal to combine the Independent Corporate Review of SPREP with the Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026, to be undertaken in 2021 at lesser cost than that of two separate reviews;
 2. **Approve** the attached Terms of reference and timeline for this Review;
 3. **Direct** the Secretariat to ensure the outcomes of the combined Review are considered by the 2021 SPREP Meeting; and
 4. **Consider** and **Advise** on additional options for funding the balance of the budget for the review.

31 July, 2020