

PIP2 (2020-2021) High Level Summary Report: Crosscutting Issues and Lessons Learnt

Introduction

This part of the PIP 2 (2020-2021) 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 amidst COVID19 continued with key highlights as follow:

- i. Interactive hybrid learning using virtual platforms delivered to a wider audience across the region reaffirming SPREP's commitment in responding to critical environment issues amidst the challenges of COVID19.
- ii. Webinars and virtual events were successfully organised and delivered by SPREP Programmes and Departments in 2020-2021
 - The Pacific Climate Change Centre e-learning platform increased the reach of the climate change trainings and learning programmes across the region. The e-learning platform is an initiative designed to enable the continuation of trainings, learning, and information sharing delivered during COVID-19 pandemic. The dynamic and interactive two-way communication through self-paced learning and offline group work has improved the learning experience of participants. A total of 381 participants from 15 PICTs registered for seven courses delivered during 2020-2021 period.
 - The 10th Pacific Islands Nature Conference was convened virtually utilising a virtual platform which facilitated the active engagement and interaction of conference participants resulting in the success of the conference and the achievement of key conference outcomes.
 - The increased use of virtual platforms for workshop, trainings, and meetings resulted in significant cost savings, thus reducing carbon footprints.
 - Virtual meetings, workshops, and conferences for example capacity building workshops by the SPREP IOE programme had enabled a broader participation from Member countries which would not have been possible if these were held in person.
 - Cleaner Pacific Roundtable (CPRT) 2025 lead to the development of a regional Implementation Plan 2021-2025 after the completion of the Cleaner Pacific 2025 mid-term review. CPRT 2021 was successfully delivered virtually with 4 technical and 3 roundtable sessions resulting in an outcome statement. 45-55% women were engaged in CPRT from various sectors.
 - The Pacific Learning Partnership for Environmental and Social Safeguards (PLP-ESS) successfully carried out a series of virtual training throughout 2020-2021 pandemic period engaging the wider participation of engineers; EIA consultants, projects managers; and government officials and regulators. This also resulted in the increased number of subscribers to the SPREP Pacific Network for Environmental Assessment (PNEA).

- Participation in virtual regional and international EIA conferences and forums, increased and raised the profile of SPREP's work on EIA. The SPREP Regional SEA Guidelines was acknowledged in the BBNJ intersessional by New Zealand and Canada as an example of how SEA could be applied at the international level.
- iii. Technical competency in the approach, delivery, management of projects: investments and opportunities
- The Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment is a 10-year programme of investment US \$165 million to strengthen the region's ability to anticipate, plan for and respond to high impact and extreme weather, water, and ocean events. This comprehensive investment plan enabled potential partners and investors to identify specific areas for investment. The investment plan was informed by a comprehensive scoping exercise undertaken by SPREP in collaboration with its partners – WMO, Bureau of Meteorology and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services.
 - The Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) is a new innovative regional mechanism that facilitates the scaling up of invasive species management on the ground. It is a collaboration of leading organisations supporting invasive species management for biodiversity protection in the Pacific. This has focused opportunities for donors to contribute to rapidly developing initiatives and increased the support capability of the region to address national cross sectoral priorities.
 - Strengthened partnerships by supporting National Recycling Associations for example Samoa, which allowed recyclers to promote their business and speak in one voice with the related government agencies and international donors on their aspirations and concerns for the recycling business through JICA 3R+Return methodology.
 - PNEA online Talanoa and 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.
 - In sustainable financing, the technological enhancements because of changing working environment during COVID-19, utilised a safe and secure technological environment for finance and procurement to operate while considering privacy and security of personal data as SPREP move towards technological advancements.
 - The inaugural People Strategy in One Page endorsed and operationalised with milestones instituted and the first for SPREP since its establishment. The People Strategy is an organisation wide led approach with the active engagement of staff.
 - An amplified Pacific voice at UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland with a strong communications campaign capitalising on a sustained partnership approach
 - ✓ Flex for 1pt5 Campaign on TikTok targeting a virtual audience on social media
 - ✓ The Mana Moana Pacific Voices campaign appealing to the emotions of decision-makers, negotiators, and policymakers at COP26
 - ✓ Increased Pacific islands visibility at COP26

- Digital outreach encouraged positive environmental behaviour change across 2021 as the Secretariat embarked on a series of activities which built the capacity of our Pacific media stakeholders to develop environment related news driving awareness and ownership of good environmental behaviours.
- The SPREP Open Day commemorating 28 years since the signing of the SPREP Agreement saw a wider and active engagement of selected schools and universities from around the region connected virtually to activities at SPREP HQ using latest technology - a first for SPREP.
- SPREP joined the ANZPAC Plastics Pact Action Collective Group as a supporter. ANZPAC comprised of Governments and industries from the private sector. Working with the private sector is one area which needs to be further explored given the important role and contribution that the private sector plays in supporting and promoting good environmental practices and in building resilience of communities.

II. Strategic linkages

Programmatic linkages

The Secretariat at the organisation level, continued to support and promote programmatic and strategic linkages, cross programme/department integration, including synergies between and across projects as demonstrated through the following examples:

- i. CCR collaborated with EMG in building the capacity of national stakeholders on the Inform Portal, data and information management, and development of data and information sharing policy in RMI through its GCF Readiness and Support Programme. Additionally, this collaboration ensured that data and information portals are streamlined alleviating the burden on countries to operate and maintain multiple portals and databases.
- ii. CCR is collaborating with the Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme (WMPC) toward the potential establishment of a Disaster Waste Technical Working Group under the umbrella of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP). The rationale centres on advocating and enhancing coordination, collaboration and potential partnerships between regional and national disaster and waste practitioners, development partners, CSO's, Private Sector, and Academia in their efforts in dealing with post-disaster waste.
- iii. IOE secured NZMFAT funded project- Managing Invasive Species for Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific (MISCCAP) project acknowledges the clear links between invasive species management and climate change adaptation. This project supports these links through an invasive species mainstreaming strategy.
- iv. WMPC worked with EMG/INFORM to ensure all data generated through country waste audits inputted in the Pacific Environment Portal
- v. The Regional State of Environmental and Conservation Report which was endorsed in the 30th SPREP meeting was developed with cross program support between the IOE and EMG Programme and involve the participation of member countries and partners in the region. The Regional SOCE Report provide a SPREP wide status check on critical environmental indicators.

- vi. The successful delivery of the PLP-ESS virtual training programme led by SPREP with World Bank and ADB to delivery EIA capacity training to the region for sustainable developments.
- vii. 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.

Internal coordinating mechanisms on strategic issues

In ensuring SPREP continued to operate and delivers its work and services in a more integrated and cohesive manner through key internal coordinating mechanisms which were established since 2018. Key highlights of results achieved through these internal coordinating mechanisms are outlined below:

- i. The Blue Team/Ocean Coordinating Team continued to provide policy and technical advice on ocean and related issues including support to international fora and events such as the UN Ocean Conference, BBNJ negotiations, UNEA 5.2 to name a few.
- ii. The Climate Change Coordination Committee (4Cs) continued to ensure streamlined and coordinated approach to supporting PICTs in implementing their national climate change agenda. The 4Cs continue to facilitate and coordinate through an integrated approach on climate change resilience-related programmes, projects, and activities across the work of SPREP.
- iii. The Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Group (EMRCG) continued to ensure a coordinated approach to data management and reporting across SPREP. The SPREP Environmental Data Policy was developed under the guidance of EMRCG.
- iv. The Communication and Advocacy Group continued to ensure SPREP communication and advocacy are well coordinated and implemented across the organisation. Key events included support to key SPREP events such as the SPREP Open Day, the 2020 SPREP Annual Report, events at regional and international fora including national level events.
- v. The Partnership and Resourcing Reference Group continued to provide advice and guidance on SPREP partnerships including the review of new proposed partnerships in line with the approved Partnership Engagement and Resource Mobilisation Strategy. In 2021, a total of 23 new partnerships were signed with a wide range of partners.
- vi. The Gender Equality and Inclusion Mainstreaming Group (GEIM) was established to provide guidance and cohesiveness to gender equality and social inclusion internally and externally. Most of the work of GEIM is ongoing and is supported by its members under the leadership of the two Gender Champions – the Deputy Director General and the Manager of the PCCCC.

III. Gender mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming remained a priority focus of SPREP with several key initiatives undertaken and initiated by the organisation as part of its efforts to promote and integrate gender across its programme/project activities, including institutional systems, and processes. Examples of these are provided below:

- i. 52% of 381 total participants who registered for the climate change trainings and learning programmes offered through the PCCC were women from 15 PICTs.
- ii. Out of 200 participants who were trained on seasonal forecasting using sophisticated models like SCOPIC and ACCESS-S, 54.88% were women compared to 45.55% trained during 2018-2019 period.
- iii. Supported gender inclusion for Government of Australia and EU funded projects. Its capacity building initiatives established women profiles in MET, TK, EAR Watch, and others. A new focus on empowering coalition of young women in MET. More number of women MET directors (NI, FP, PL, NC) were engaged in consultation process. CCR activities considered gender grouping women, men, youth, people with disabilities in its in-country activity implementations and workplans. GESI courses developed and implemented to support gender mainstreaming policies and practices.
- iv. 10th Pacific Islands Nature Conference had more than 55% participation by women contributing to the substantive discussions and outcomes of the conference.
- v. Through the BIEM Initiative, gender and human rights-based approaches have been integrated in the design and implementation of activities where possible and appropriate. This has involved securing advice from experts in the development of Terms of Reference, specific contractual requirements to adopt appropriate approaches, as well as recording impacts of the approach.
- vi. Initiated a SPREP-University of Newcastle research programme on the human-invasive species relationship. This research will provide protocols to ensure gender equality and contextual social inclusion is integrated into current and future projects. This is being implemented under the NZMFAT MISCCAP project.
- vii. The GEF6 Regional Invasive Project has both a gender and youth strategy which is being implemented throughout the project. Invasive species is an inter-generational issue, the youth strategy aims to develop a cohort of youth Battlers and provides opportunities for them to develop leadership skills and a chance to establish networks across the region. The use of gender disaggregated data and the inclusion of women in key decision-making bodies ensures that project challenges that prevent gender equality are overcome.
- viii. WMPC developed and is implementing a Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion Guideline. All PacWastePlus (PWP) country projects have embedded GEDSI activities and requirements that will be monitored and reported with guidelines available from PWP website.

- ix. Gender and youth engagement in WPMC activities in 2021 for example PWP had 50% of engagements were with women (341 compared to 336 for men) in addition to 12 youth engaged during the reporting period.
- x. Data from the 2021 PLP webinars run by SPREP in partnership with World Bank collected gender demographic data with results showing a 45% to 55% female to male representation respectively across the series. With increased female participation during the GIS module to 55% while the Gender Based Violence training had the highest male participants at 62%.
- xi. The ACP MEA III side event to the 3rd Clean Pacific Roundtable showcased women's involvement and engagement in the management and reduction of waste in the East African region, Caribbean and in the Pacific. Programmes to reduce and manage waste in the Caribbean and in the East African region featured women groups in Barbados, Antigua, and Barbuda in the Caribbean and for the East African region, the women groups in Comoros.
- xii. Virtual platforms and proactive selection of highly skilled female presenters to showcase their experience and relevant training opportunities has led to a robust gender balance not only in trainings but also in the PNEA portal membership. The PNEA website now holds over 190 members with a 44% female representation and 6% undisclosed with the remaining 50% identifying as male.
- xiii. The Information Resource Centre and Archives (IRCA) presents equal opportunities to both men-women participation.
- xiv. SPREP PERMS has gender and social inclusion as one of its goals. In 2021, new proposed partnerships were assessed against the gender and social inclusion goal. This was to ensure gender and social inclusion were properly integrated and addressed in SPREP partnerships.
- xv. Gender is a cross cutting issues embedded in the People Strategy.

IV. Risk Management

Risk management is a key requirement of SPREP's effective, efficient, and responsive corporate governance. Below are examples of how SPREP is managing risks at the organisation, programme, and project levels:

- i. The internal Risk Committee continued to monitor enterprise risks in particular the top four priority risks which were approved by SLT in 2020.
- ii. In 2021 the SPREP Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Manual were endorsed by SLT and approved by the Director General for implementation.
- iii. The Risk Management Policy aims at establishing and maintaining an effective and structured approach to risk management ensuring that all risks which could affect the achievement of SPREP's strategic objectives are identified, mitigated, and managed. It was developed in line with the ISO31000:2018.
- iv. The Risk Management Manual was updated and aligned to the ISO31000:2018 and staff training on risk management is ongoing.
- v. Project risks continued to be monitored at the project level and are also discussed by the Project Monitoring and Review Group.

- vi. The Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) adopted the Thinksafe system for managing health and safety across the 5 PRISMSS regional programmes. This provides a platform and tools for identifying and managing hazards in the workplace, recording, securing and aggregating data for analysis, reporting and the identification of trends leading to continuous improvement.
- vii. Waste Management and Pollution Control project risks are recorded and managed through the Monday.com project management online tool.
- viii. Risks with respect to financial operations are already reflected in the Enterprise Risk Register for SPREP.
- ix. Risk management is an integral part of the SPREP PERMS and its implementation. It is carried out as part of the assessment of new proposed partnerships and when existing partnerships are renewed.
- x. Risk management plans are included as key elements on the partnership agreements. But on-going work is required to be carried out in 2022 to ensure the SPREP PERMS are aligned to the new SPREP Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Manual which was approved in October 2021.

V. Lessons Learnt

- i. COVID-19 pandemic impacted the ability of the programme to deliver in-country activities. This called for innovative and strategic approaches to the delivery
- ii. of programmatic services and implementation of projects such as the use of e-learning to deliver trainings, virtual platforms to convene meetings and stakeholder consultations, and engagement of more local experts to deliver activities on the ground in collaboration with Pacific island governments and partners.
- ii. Working with other CROP agencies on issues of ocean governance for environmental outcomes has highlighted the need for more cross sectoral collaboration to achieve environmental outcomes.
- iii. Regional/International acceptance of biodiversity/ecosystem restoration as a key nature-based solution for adapting to climate change is still not fully accepted or supported thus requiring more effort to ensure nature-based solutions are fully integrated and adopted in adaptation to climate change responses.
- iv. SPREP continued to maintain a good reputation in responding to Members as demonstrated through the work of the EMG Programme for example on SOE and NEMS development for Members and environmental legislative support, national and regional virtual (and previously face to face) workshops and EIA capacity building. EMG was also able to use its existing network with partner organisations such as UNEP, ADB, World Bank and USP to mobilise support to assist Members on EIA.
- v. The virtual platforms made it easier for many more participants to learn, exchange information and knowledge, best practices, among others. But at the same time, the virtual platforms underscored the importance of relationship building and face-to-face interactions.

- vi. The changing priorities of countries requires a more adaptive and flexible approach to be adopted to ensure plans and services to be provided are adjusted accordingly. In some cases, these changes affect contractual work timelines thus the need to ensure proper monitoring of contracts and continued communication with all parties involved.
- vii. Being receptive and adaptive to changing business environment and how these could be applied to current frameworks of financial and procurement policies.
- viii. The increase in the use of virtual platforms to deliver services would require SPREP to ensure effective and efficient capacity and resources are available to support on-line trainings, seminars, workshops, missions, conferences, meetings, etc. on:
- ix. Whilst SPREP continues to improve and increase its partnerships, it is important for SPREP to continue to assess and review SPREP's partnership portfolio and identify key strategic opportunities for expanding partnerships in line with the Partnership Engagement and Resource Mobilisation Strategy and the Strategic Plan 2017 - 2026. Partnership with the private sector is another potential area to be explored on its contribution to improving environmental sustainability and resilience in the Pacific island region.
- x. The results focused and outcome-oriented People Strategy need to be sustained and strengthened by ensuring dedicated and adequate resourcing is secured to implement key priorities of the People Strategy particularly on issues like remuneration and salary scale movements, health and safety, leadership talent and capacity building.

End