

First Executive Board Meeting

Apia, Samoa
10-11 September 2018

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AGENDA ITEM 10.2.1: Proposed Global Environment Facility (GEF) -7th Replenishment Cycle - Healthy Oceans Programme Framework Document (PFD)

Purpose:

1. Inform the Executive Board about the Pacific GEF Constituency Initiative to establish a large-scale oceans programme for funding through the International Waters focal area of the Global Environment Facility 7th replenishment and the status of the technical assistance provided by the Secretariat to support the GEF Pacific Constituency.
2. Seek the Executive Board's endorsement of our continued technical support to the Pacific GEF Constituency through the development of a PFD as a key element in progressing the Pacific's ocean agenda, especially with regard to the 2017 Pacific Forum Leaders' resolution for the 'Blue Pacific' and the Leaders' 2010 decision to adopt the Pacific Oceanscape Framework.
3. Seek the board's endorsement to develop an Action Plan that strategically defines the environment dimension to support the Pacific Oceanscape Framework and the Blue Pacific Resolution.

Background:

4. GEF replenishment meetings commenced in 2017 and a series of consultations were held between the GEF Secretariat and its wider partnership, inclusive of all constituencies across the globe. The GEF Constituency for the Pacific met on three occasions in 2017: an initial meeting in Palau in May; a constituency meeting and expanded constituency workshop in Tonga in July; and in Vanuatu in October. Discussions focused on the proposed GEF-7 programming and policy document – which proposed 16 Global Impact Programmes and among these was a 'Healthy Oceans for Sustainable Fisheries Impact' programme. Despite advocacy by the Pacific Constituency to retain the proposed Healthy Oceans Programme, including a letter from the Prime Minister of Fiji to the GEF CEO, it was not included.
5. Of the 16 proposed Global Impact Programmes, only three were endorsed: (1) Food Systems, Land-Use and Restoration Impact Programme, (2) Sustainable Cities Impact.

6. Noting this, the Constituency's¹ third meeting in Vanuatu recommended through their council member to request SPREP to take the lead in preparing a Healthy Ocean Concept Paper. This concept paper would be discussed at the Pacific Constituency Meeting held in the margins of the GEF Assembly in Da Nang, Vietnam in July 2018.
7. The Secretariat subsequently partnered with UN Environment to develop and distribute a concept paper for the Pacific Constituency as requested based on a programmatic, regional approach. The concept is structured as a mechanism to action the 2017 Pacific Leaders endorsement of *Blue Pacific* as the core driver of collective action for advancing the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. The Blue Pacific is a new narrative that builds on the Pacific Oceanscape Framework and calls for inspired leadership and long-term foreign policy commitment to act as one "Blue Continent and to reinforce our shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean and reaffirm the connections of Pacific peoples with their natural resources, environment, culture and livelihoods" (48th Pacific Island Forum Leaders' Communiqué).
8. Key elements of the approach are:
 - Programme title: *Integrated island and ocean management for sustainable blue economies and a healthy Pacific Ocean* (short form: 'Blue Pacific - Island to Island (i2i)
 - Funding: GEF-7 through International Waters focal area
 - Duration: 2020-2025
 - GEF funding: To be determined, but anticipated in the order of US\$20 million
 - Implementing Agency: UN Environment
 - Executing Agency: SPREP
9. The proposal promotes a programmatic approach which will:
 - support development of a PFD to frame a strategic regional approach for GEF oceans work
 - promote strategies and solutions at regional and sub-regional levels including governance, planning and management (e.g., transboundary management areas), knowledge management and data sharing
 - allow for development of replicator projects at national levels determined by national priorities, aligned with the overall objectives of the PFD.
10. For Pacific SIDS, the programmatic approach will help to:
 - Facilitate strategic interactions with the GEF and its partners increase funds directed towards Pacific priorities by leveraging funding available from the GEF-7 International Waters focal area and Food Systems Global Impact Programme
 - improve the predictability of GEF financing over the course of the GEF-7 replenishment period
 - secure co-financing sources, given the broad spectrum of outcomes that can be leveraged from both the Government and private sector.
11. Specific proposed programme components are:
 - Integrated island, coast and ocean management
 - Facilitating a transition to blue economies and strengthening blue economic opportunities at community, national and regional levels
 - Protection and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
 - Marine pollution
 - Climate change adaptation
 - Scientific and traditional knowledge, research capacity development, technology transfer and improving community education and public awareness

¹ Cook Islands, Fiji, Indonesia, Kiribati, Micronesia, Philippines, Marshall, Islands, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Samoa.

12. The proposed programme will build on the collaborative partnership that has been established through the GEF-5 Ridge-to-Reef (R2R) Programme and extend it to whole of EEZ scale and add new integrated approaches that will improve and maintain the good health of the Pacific Ocean. The growing number of ocean focused projects and programmes in the region will provide the necessary co-financing for this overarching programme.
13. SPREP presented the concept to the Pacific Constituency meeting held in the margins of the 54th GEF Council Meeting/6th General Assembly in Vietnam in June 2018. The Pacific GEF Constituency meeting endorsed the concept and requested SPREP to continue to work with UN Environment, the GEF Secretariat and partners to develop an Ocean's GEF 7 PFD with the aim of submitting a draft to the GEF Secretariat in September 2018.
14. UN Environment has engaged a consultant in its capacity as the Implementing Agency to facilitate the consultation process for and development of the PFD. The consultant will also develop an Action Plan to provide guidance on the environmental dimension of the Pacific Oceanscape Framework and Blue Pacific resolution for the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. The plan is intended to guide SPREP and UN Environment's support to countries and will set out practical strategies and options for resource mobilization, progressing integrated ocean management priorities and developing sustainable blue economic approaches for the Pacific. The plan will also strengthen UN Environment and SPREP roles for the Regional Seas Programme under the Noumea Convention. The intention is to develop the Action Plan in consultation with Members and partners and submit for endorsement by the 2019 SPREP Meeting.

Recommendations:

15. The Executive Board is invited to:
 - **note** the support provided to the GEF Pacific Constituency on development of an oceans framework;
 - **endorse** the development of the Oceans Framework Programme Framework Document (PFD) for GEF-7 funding; and
 - **endorse** the development of an Action Plan for the environmental dimension of the Pacific Oceanscape Framework and the Blue Pacific resolution for consideration by the 2019 SPREP Meeting.

16 August, 2018