

## First Executive Board Meeting

Apia, Samoa  
10-11 September 2018

SPREP/EB 01/WP.10.4.2  
Page 1

### **AGENDA ITEM 10.4.2: *Update on National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS) in the Pacific***

#### **Purpose:**

1. To inform the Executive Board Meeting of the review and development of National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS); and
2. To seek guidance on SPREP's current and future work in this area.

#### **Background:**

3. In the early 1990s, SPREP in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) implemented a project to develop NEMS for all Pacific island countries and territories. It was the first time that national integrated environment strategies were put in place. A total of 14 Environment Management Strategies were produced in 14 Pacific Island Countries.
4. The overall purpose of NEMS is to allow SPREP member countries to address environmental issues in a holistic, integrated and systematic way in achieving sustainable development.
5. In the intervening years, very few countries have reviewed and updated the NEMS but instead have directed attention on formulating and implementing thematic plans linked to Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) such as the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP), National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) and the National Action Plan (NAP) to Combat Land Degradation and Desertification. This has led to a more thematic/sector specific focused approach without an overarching national policy framework like NEMS that would link the thematic strategies and plans together.
6. Under the European Commission intra African Caribbean Pacific Multilateral Environment Agreement (ACP MEAs) project through UN Environment, SPREP is revisiting the NEMS process and is assisting Pacific island countries to review and update existing NEMS and develop new ones.

## **Rationale and key features of NEMS**

- NEMS is developed through an inclusive and participatory multisectoral process with the active engagement of key government agencies, NGOs, private sector and key partners and is coordinated by national environment agencies in each country with technical support from SPREP.
- NEMS is an effective planning tool to strengthen environmental governance and it provides strategic guidance for achieving sustainable development.
- NEMS is also a useful and effective tool for mainstreaming environmental priorities into sector and national level planning and budgeting processes particularly as a source of information for National Sustainable Development Plans including Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Sustainable Development Goals, S.A.M.O.A Pathway and other key international and regional policy instruments.
- NEMS document can be used as guiding document for project development based on priorities already identified in the NEMS.
- NEMS in its current iteration promotes and encourages the establishment of good robust monitoring and reporting systems which was lacking in the first set of NEMS produced in the early 1990s.

## **Review of National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS) to date**

7. At the 24<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting in 2013, the Meeting was updated on progress achieved in the Kiribati and Cook Islands which were the two countries where the NEMS was being piloted. In Kiribati the NEMS is referred to as the Kiribati Integrated Environment Policy (KIEP), a combined policy and strategic plan that further elaborates on the environment focal area of the Kiribati Development Plan (KDP). In the Cook Islands, NEMS is referred to as the National Environment Strategic Framework (NESF).
8. After 2013, more countries sought the assistance of SPREP to review and develop their NEMs and these were Tuvalu, Fiji, Vanuatu, Republic of the Marshal Islands, Niue, Nauru, Solomon Island, Tonga, Kiribati and FSM.
9. To date, the Tuvalu NEMS and the Vanuatu National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan (Vanuatu NEPIP), and the RMI NEMS have been completed and fully endorsed by their respective Governments. The Nauru Integrated Environment Policy (NIEP) is awaiting Government endorsement while NEMS development work is progressing for Niue, Solomon Islands, and Tonga with FSM inception and scoping started.
10. The key thematic areas addressed through the revised NEMS are climate change, biodiversity, waste and pollution, resource management and environmental governance. Some countries have decided to include additional themes on green economy, sustainable financing and built environment.
11. In all countries the NEMS were linked directly to National Development Plans and serve as a guide for to national work planning and budget processes. The NEMS are also linked to and complemented the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026 and is aligned to other regional framework such as the Framework of Pacific Regionalism, SAMOA Pathway and Multilateral Environment Agreements.

### **Future on-going support**

12. Support to the development and review of NEMS are core activities of the Environmental Monitoring and Governance (EMG) Program of SPREP aligned to the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017 – 2026
13. The UNEP-GEF funded regional Inform project including with possible continued contribution from the proposed third phase of the EU ACP MEAs project will allow the Secretariat to continue to assist countries through the revision of their NEMS over the next 4 years.

### **Recommendations:**

14. The Executive Board is invited to:
    - **note** progress with NEMS;
    - **support** the effective use of NEMS as mainstreaming policy tools to inform sector and national level planning processes including linkages to key international and regional policy instruments; and
    - **direct** the Secretariat to continue to support **future** on-going work on NEMS and related activities.
- 

16 August, 2018