

Proposed Global Environment Facility (GEF) – 7th Replenishment Cycle – Islands Programme Framework Document (PFD)

Purpose:

1. To inform the Executive Board of the Pacific GEF Constituency Initiative to develop a SIDS Islands programme for funding through the Chemical and Waste focal area of the Global Environment Facility 7th replenishment.
2. To seek the Executive Board's endorsement of the Secretariat's continued technical support to the Pacific GEF Constituency through the development of a Programme Framework Document (PFD) as a key element in progressing the Pacific's pathway to a pollution free Pacific as adopted through the framework of the Cleaner Pacific 2025.

Background:

3. The needs and challenges facing SIDS in the Chemicals and Waste focal area are unique. Geographical isolation and separation, reliance on imported goods and a lack of waste management infrastructure make for a complex picture requiring the development of a specific set of interventions and solutions tailored to the needs of the countries and region.
4. Despite waste management being a key environmental issue for the region, the Pacific region has only benefitted from one regional Full Sized Project (FSP) under the former POPs (now Chemicals and Waste) Focal Area. The project (GEF Pacific Alliance for Sustainability – GEF ID 4066) was approved in the GEF 4 cycle and is implemented by UN Environment and FAO, and executed by SPREP. It is nearing completion and many valuable lessons have been learnt and solid foundations developed through this project.
5. During the preliminary consultation with ten of the target Pacific Island countries in March 2018 participants agreed the need to develop a GEF7 programme and distribute a concept note for the Pacific Constituency meeting at Da Nang, Vietnam.
6. 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 new programme to be developed for submission for approval as early as possible in the GEF 7 cycle is to ensure that the SIDS secure the necessary funding to implement a set of high impact actions across the Pacific, Caribbean and AIMS regions. The Pacific Constituency at Vietnam approved the development of a Programme Framework Document.

7. During the preliminary consultation with ten of the target Pacific Island countries in March 2018, participants agreed on the need to strengthen national legislation and enforcement of plastics manufacture, use and disposal. Many participants considered that a region wide ban on single use plastic bags, plastics straws and PET bottles would be a good start on reducing releases to oceans by promoting alternatives and establishing micro-finance schemes to allow access to capital to invest in new ideas for the better management of plastics.
8. GEF 7 Policy recommendations and programming directions are annexed as Att.2.

Pacific GEF 7 Project : 'Pacific Child Project' Concept:

9. The Pacific Child Project concept is aligned to the Cleaner Pacific 2025. Cleaner Pacific 2025's four strategic goals:
 - Prevention of generation of wastes and pollution;
 - Recovery of resources from wastes and pollutants;
 - Improved management of residuals; and
 - Improved monitoring of the receiving environment.
10. The project design will combine with funding in excess of US\$35m from the European Development Fund (EDF) 11, JICA, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), and Australian and New Zealand government projects, adding a further US\$20 – 25m to enable a significant shift in how chemicals and waste are managed in the Region.

Proposed Components:

11. Four components are proposed under the project: three regional, and one national focusing on delivery of results in key priority areas at local level. The GEF intervention will be incremental in nature, complementing the outputs and activities of the other donor-funded initiatives. Opportunities include the potential for work on land fill regeneration, waste management infrastructure, and establishment of national recycling. The project will provide the necessary coordination and target long term, post-project sustainability. Project components are:
 1. **Knowledge management and awareness/communications**, (enhancing chemicals and waste data management and knowledge management).
 2. Strengthening **policy frameworks**, (establishing effective chemicals and waste regulations, and complimentary economic instruments).
 3. **Technology transfer and promotion of best practice**, (including concrete activities to address national priorities)

The following national priorities were defined during the March 2018 consultation: where was identified as a cross-cutting priority for all Pacific island countries. These include:

All PICs	Plastics and microplastics
Cook Islands	E-waste- scaling up to include other recyclables
FSM	Removal, treatment, taxes – used oil, e-waste
Fiji	Residual SW – landfilling
Kiribati	Used Oil, Plastics
Niue	Landfilling
PNG	POPs, Mercury
Tuvalu	Residual SW – landfilling
Tonga	Mercury
Samoa	Residual SW – landfilling
Solomon Islands	E-waste

* Priorities for Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, and Vanuatu, yet to be defined.

Component 4, on **Institutional capacity building** will work to strengthen Pacific island country education institutions at secondary, tertiary and vocational level.

Next Steps:

12. In order to have the design ready for submission to the second Work Programme of GEF 7 (May 2019). This requires:
 - August 20 – 22, 2018 - Consultation with Pacific GEF OFPs during the Cleaner Pacific round table in Suva, Fiji;
 - By September 2018 - Completion of the Project Framework Document including consulting with Caribbean and Indian Ocean SIDS;
 - By the end of December 2018 - Endorsement of the Framework Document (via prerequisite OFP Endorsement Letters);
 - PFD plus outline child projects for each region will then be submitted for review by the GEF SEC and GEF Council members;
 - By September 2020 – Project Preparation Phase (details of the specific Child Projects to be confirmed - it is anticipated that the Pacific Region child project would be fully developed and submitted for CEO Endorsement within the usual 12 – 18 month period common for most FSPs); and
 - May 2019 - Project Framework Document considered by GEF Council.

Recommendations:

13. The Executive Board is invited to:
 - **note** the development of the Islands Programme Framework Document (PFD) for GEF-7 funding under the Chemicals and Waste GEF focal area; and
 - **encourage** collaboration with all relevant partners, especially the PICs and UN Environment in the development of the full document for submission to the GEF council for funding consideration under the GEF-7 funding cycle.
