

First Executive Board Meeting

Apia, Samoa
10-11 September 2018

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AGENDA ITEM 7.4: SPREP's Accredited Entity Role

Purpose:

1. To update Members on the implementation of SPREP's Accredited Entity (AE) role with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund (AF).
2. To update Members on the GEF's Council Decision on Accreditation and SPREP's engagement and support in GEF-7.

Background:

3. At the request of Members, the Secretariat applied for, and was awarded, regional Accredited Entity (AE) status to the Adaptation Fund (AF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in 2013 and 2015 respectively.
4. SPREP's application to the GEF is contingent on future decisions by the GEF council to open-up the accreditation for new agencies.
A GEF Medium-sized Grant was awarded to SPREP in December 2014 to prepare for GEF accreditation status. SPREP has since developed and implemented a full range of policies, tools and procedures. This has resulted in a more robust institution, evidenced by passing the EU Pillar assessments and increased donor confidence in SPREP as an effective investment partner.
5. Thanks to the support from the Government of New Zealand, the Secretariat's capacity to manage its AE role has been strengthened.
SPREP's Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) now includes 2 project development specialists (one with an adaptation focus, the other on mitigation) and a Project Implementation Support Officer.

Green Climate Fund

6. Implementation of the Vanuatu Climate Services project is well underway with 3 locally based SPREP staff appointed and operating from a larger SPREP local office. The Project Inception Document is finalised, and contracting with development partners is near completion.

7. A major regional project- Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Resilience Programme (CMERP) is being developed with Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Niue, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and a range of delivery partners. At the recent Structured Dialogue with the Pacific held in Pohnpei,, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Nauru expressed interest to be included in the project.
8. Readiness support to Niue and RMI is well underway with recruitment of locally recruited project staff.
9. Two Simplified Approval Process (SAP) concept note proposals have been formally submitted to the GCF:
 - A regional *Strengthened Weather and Climate Services for Resilient Development for Pacific Islands* project with the Cook Islands; Federated States of Micronesia; Fiji; Kiribati; Nauru; Niue; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Republic of the Marshall Islands; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Tonga; Tuvalu; and Vanuatu, and
 - *Enhancing climate resilient planning and decision making in the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI)*.
10. SIS member countries have approached SPREP formally and informally for assistance with their GCF Readiness National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Support Program.
11. Other Members including Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu have also approached SPREP for GCF Readiness support.
12. Discussions are on-going with the GCF Secretariat concerning SPREP's application for an accreditation upgrade.
13. As Delivery Partner to the GCF, SPREP successfully delivered the GCF Pacific Structured Dialogue in Pohnpei in July.
14. Pacific leaders place great importance on the ability of the GCF to provide finance for priority Pacific climate change projects. The poor performance of the last GCF Board meeting, particularly its inability to approve funding for project proposals, combined with the imminent completion of Ambassador Feturi's term as a Board Member for the SIDs has created a feeling of anxiety and insecurity in PICs. As a consequence, the Minister of Finance from Samoa supported by other Pacific Ministers from the Pacific region has advocated strongly for a Pacific GCF office to be established in Samoa as soon as possible, to be hosted at SPREP. (refer WP.11.1).

Adaptation Fund

15. Implementation of the FSM Adaptation project has begun. Following the Inception Workshop, the recruitment of locally based SPREP staff is in progress.

16. A full-sized grant concept proposal on water security in Kiribati is being developed in conjunction with SPC and other delivery partners. The concept note for the project has been submitted to the Adaptation Board secretariat.
17. The re-accreditation process for AF is currently in progress.

GEF

18. **Accreditation:** the recently completed 54th GEF Governing Meeting in Da Nang, Vietnam supported the findings of the 7th Replenishment Meetings and the Overall Performance Study [OPS6] for GEF-6, that the current network of 18 Agencies offers robust coverage of regions, different types of countries and the GEF's different areas of work.
19. The analysis in OPS6 does not point to a need to accredited additional Agencies at this time and thus, SPREP's application will be on hold until a future decision by the GEF Governing Council to reopen. For now, the Council has tasked its secretariat to continue with its monitoring of the overall GEF partnership and report back on its findings at the 57th Governing Council Meeting in the autumn of 2019.
20. **SPREP Engagement and Support in GEF-7:** SPREP continues to provide critical support to members for effective engagement with the GEF instrument in areas such as policy advisory; strategic planning and coordination; project development and implementation; and partnership development.
21. SPREP's engagement is directed to assisting member's to pursue greater access to GEF-7 resources. It revolves around 3 regional proposals for larger programmatic approaches to promote healthy ocean, sound management of chemicals and wastes through the use of plastic and micro-plastic, and capacity building support to implement article 13 of the Paris Agreement.
22. The secretariat will support member countries in the coming months to develop all 3 proposals with the view of achieving early submission for approval at the 56th GEF Governing Council Meeting in June 2019.

PCU

23. The PCU has been established to strengthen SPREP's strategic engagement with member countries and the GCF and AF Secretariat by providing structured support, effective liaison, and active engagement to Members in collaboration with the Climate Change Resilience, and other SPREP Programme teams (att.1 lists the current PCU project pipeline).

Recommendations:

24. The Executive Board is invited to:
- **note** progress with implementing SPREP's Accredited Entity Role.