

Agenda Item 9.1: Regional Goal 1 Overview: Pacific people benefit from strengthened resilience to climate change

Purpose of paper

1. To provide the Meeting with an overview of key priorities to support the implementation and achievement of Regional Goal 1 for the biennial period 2022 - 2023

Introduction

2. For the biennial period 2022-2023, SPREP will continue to support Members to achieve their goals for and towards building a Pacific that is resilient to climate change. This working paper provides an overview of the key activities and initiatives to be implemented by SPREP for the next biennium.

Key Areas of Work for 2022-2023:

RO1.1: Strengthen the capacity of Pacific Island members to lead, prioritise, and manage national climate change adaptation (CCA), mitigation (NDCs) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) in fulfilment of their national environment and development goals and their voluntary and legal obligations under regional and international agreements.

3. SPREP will continue to support members in implementing key activities related to the review and development of climate change policies, mainstreaming of climate change at operational level and strengthening of knowledge management through the EDF11 Intra ACP PACRES project.
 - Countries that will be supported in mainstreaming of climate change resilience including the development of mainstreaming decision support tools includes Kiribati and Niue.
 - Countries that will be supported in strengthening knowledge management including climate change portals are FSM, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu.
 - The Pacific Climate Change Portal will be strengthened to improve information sharing and knowledge brokerage.
4. SPREP will support members in implementing their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through the NDC Hub and SPREP's pipeline. Additionally, SPREP will be offering additional technical assistance through the Tomai Pacifique (formerly known as the Regional Technical Support Mechanism).
5. SPREP will support the implementation of National Adaptation Planning (NAP) projects funded by the Green Climate Fund for Tuvalu, Nauru and Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The NAP Projects will support these countries in developing their medium to long-term adaptation actions to minimise the effects of climate change on their communities and sources of livelihoods.

RO1.2: Minimise multiple pressures on vulnerable Pacific Island ecosystems by implementing ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, including responses to ocean acidification and sea level rise, to sustain biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services that support livelihoods and sustainable development.

6. Through the respective NAP projects of Tuvalu, Nauru and FSM, ecosystem and nature-based solutions will be integrated and considered as part of a suite of adaptation solutions to address adaptation needs that are informed by climate change vulnerability and risk assessments.
7. SPREP will continue to support Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in implementing Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) pilots through the EDF11 Intra ACP PACRES project and MEBACC project funded by Monaco. Training on EbA approaches and planning tools have been developed and will be delivered through the PCCC online training platform.
8. The €5.8 million Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Phase 2 (PEBACC+) project, funded by the Kiwa Initiative and French GEF, agreement was signed with AFD and implementation has commenced. It is being implemented in Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna.

RO1.3: Enhance National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) capacity in weather forecasting, early warning systems, long-term projections, and improved climate services to support members' decision-making and coordination through the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC)

9. SPREP through the Pacific Meteorological Desk will support the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) to coordinate the implementation of PMC outcomes including convening of regular meetings of six PMC panels and alignment of projects and partners to implement outcomes of the PMC. As recommended by the 5th Meeting of the PMC, SPREP will review the PMC governance and operations to better align to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Reform and the WMO Regional Association Five (RA-V) restructure.
10. SPREP will continue to work with partners such as WMO to coordinate support for NMHSs to develop or review legislations, policies, and strategies and strengthen hydro-meteorological and early warning systems in the Pacific through the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS 2.0) project and the EU Intra ACP Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) project.
11. SPREP will continue to collaborate with members to promote and secure funding for the Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment endorsed by the Pacific Island Forum Leaders and recognised by the Pacific Foreign Ministers as a comprehensive approach which responds to the needs of the Pacific region.

12. SPREP will continue to develop traditional knowledge (TK) programme and upscale support to Tuvalu and Kiribati including the development of training on collection, storage, monitoring of weather and climate TK indicators, and development of TK communication products for communities through the COSPPac, CREWS 2.0, and the Enhancing Climate Information and Knowledge Services for resilience in 5 island countries of the Pacific Ocean Project funded by the UNEP (UNEP/GCF).
13. SPREP will continue to provide monthly seasonal climate information and capacity building to NMHSs and virtual courses on climate services and IT via the PCCC online training platform through the COSPPac and the Republic of Korea-Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Services (ROK-PI CliPS) project.
14. SPREP will continue to provide support for the implementation of the PMC's decision to support the Pacific Islands Regional Climate Centre (PI-RCC) Network Implementation Plan and moving it from a demonstration phase to a fully operational phase. Sectors will be supported through the Pacific Island Climate Outlook Forums (PICOFs) held twice a year, facilitation of National Climate Outlook Forums (NCOFs) and sector-focused climate sessions, and development of sector-focused case studies demonstrating the use and value of climate-science for decision making through the ClimSA project.

RO1.4: Support Pacific Island Members to access and manage climate change finances and their national accreditation processes.

15. SPREP will continue to support members to enhance capacity through the delivery of climate finance executive courses through the PCCC online learning platform.
16. SPREP will continue to support countries in strengthening access to climate finance and technical delivery of NDA readiness and accreditation projects
17. SPREP will continue to support countries in developing climate change projects and proposals
18. SPREP will continue to support and prepare countries to access climate financing through the provision of advice, training, and assistance in developing and delivering on Readiness projects
19. SPREP will continue to support countries through the provision of technical advice and assistance in developing pipeline projects as a means to ensure Climate Financing Funds Entity Work Programmes are aligned to country priorities

RO1.5: Support Pacific Island Members to develop policy responses to issues of loss and damage, and climate change and disaster induced population mobility.

20. The Pacific Small Island States (PSIDS) will be supported in strengthening their capacity in loss and damage, establishment of evidence base for loss and damage and through the provision of technical advice to facilitate national responses to address loss and damage. This will also assist PSIDS in their international climate change engagement in particular negotiations on the establishment of a loss and damage facility which the PSIDS raised at the UNFCCC 26th Conference of the Parties.

Challenges and Opportunities

21. With the reopening of borders in third quarter of 2022 across the Pacific, there will be competition amongst the technical programmes of SPREP, CROP agencies and other donor agencies to fast-track project delivery to meet project timelines. This will place increased pressure on the countries to accommodate requests for stakeholder engagement.
22. Internal coordination for joint activities across the technical programmes of SPREP is an opportunity to enhance engagement whilst alleviating the burden of multiple related engagement with members.
23. There is interest in bilateral arrangements for climate finance support in the Pacific to support mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage responses, which presents further opportunities for enhanced engagement with members.

Recommendation

24. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
 - 1) **Note** the update on implementation of Regional Goal 1 activities for the biennial period 2022 to 2023.
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30 June 2022