

Agenda Item: 9.4: Regional Goal 4 – Pacific People and their environment benefit from commitment to best practice of environmental governance

Purpose of Paper

1. To provide the Meeting with an update on implementation of Regional Goal 4 for the biennial period 2022-2023 including challenges and opportunities.

Background:

2. RO4.1: Strengthened national sustainable development planning and implementation systems through increased utilisation of the results of environmental assessment processes such as EIA, SEA, and Spatial Planning
 - Delivered an Environmental Assessment awareness training for Sustainable Tourism Development for Samoa in partnership with the South Pacific Tourism Organisation; Samoa Tourism Agency; Ministry of Environment; and the Ministry of Works.
 - To conduct SEA awareness and capacity building for member countries and training of trainers for member countries and partner agencies.
 - Supported Tokelau in the development of the Tokelau EIA Policy and EIA Implementation Guidelines.
 - Completed the Pacific Learning Partnership – Environmental Social Sustainability (ESS) 20 Modules virtual Training with World Bank, Asian Development Bank; University of the South Pacific; and SPREP. 50 to 70 people attended each training module. Topics covered are EIA/SEA processes; GIS and Spatial Planning; Environmental Management Plans; Community Consultations; and Environmental Social Safeguards in terms of Infrastructure development.
 - Upgraded of Pacific Network for Environmental Assessment (PNEA) Portal, bringing new functionalities and improved security. Membership now has over 300 members and 600 subscribers from across the Pacific growing the community of practice for EIA and ESS.
 - Continue to provide technical and policy advice remotely on EIA and related matters.
3. RO4.2: Improve national capacity for good environmental governance supported by technical assistance for the development of policy and legislation, and in support of the implementation of Member international and regional commitments
 - Completed NEMS for Tuvalu and the draft Kiribati Integrated Environment Policy and finalising NEMS for Palau. Started process for the review of the Vanuatu National Environmental Policy and Implementation Plan; and the RMI NEMS.
 - Supported Kiribati on the development of the Country Social Safeguard Policy in partnership with the Asian Development Bank.

- Provided support for the regional implementation of the EU ACPMEA Phase 3 project in Pacific ACP states in particular the implementation of the review recommendations of the Noumea Convention: preparation for SPREP to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockroom (BRS) Conventions; and the preparation for SPREP on the Convention of Biodiversity.
 - Continue to provide policy and technical advice remotely to Members on environmental policies and related matters.
4. RO4.3: Strengthen environmental data collection, monitoring, and analysis and reporting on results, nationally and regionally
- Tuvalu SOE endorsed by the Tuvalu Government; Vanuatu, Republic of Marshal Islands, Nauru, and Samoa targeted to be complete by this year.
 - Continue to provide technical assistance, training and capacity building on the national data portals, data management, environmental monitoring, and reporting.
 - Launched the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) E-learning training module to assist countries utilising this tool for planning and decision-making support. Building on the successful launch of the EMG e-learning platform in 2021 units include *Pacific Environment Portal Network* and the *Indicator Reporting Tool*.
 - The Inform Project is ending in December 2022 and Secretariat has put in place sustainability measures to continue key platforms and processes established by the Inform project.
 - SPREP continues to work closely with SPC's Pacific Data Hub on the joint Pacific Data Ecosystem.
 - Strengthen the Pacific Environmental Portal network, updating the content management systems and user interface.
 - Support the use and adoption for the Indicator Reporting Tool in at least 2 PICs (PNG and Tonga) and document use for strategic reporting requirements.
 - Build capacity in at least 40 staff in member countries to use the environmental database supported by e-learning platforms
 - Conduct workshop trainings for enforcement officers (Quarantine, Customs and Fisheries) in selected PICs to improve collection of data/information that will contribute to reporting requirements for relevant MEAs, such as CITES, CMS, BRS, Minamata, Waigani and Noumea.
5. Challenges and Opportunities
- COVID19 has significantly affected on the ground delivery of technical assistance, training, and capacity building to Pacific Island member countries.
 - Virtual and online approaches have been used and while it is working out well for some activities there are other challenges such as IT connectivity with some of our member countries which contribute to communication difficulties during meetings and trainings.
 - Numerous extensions of consultancy contracts between SPREP and service providers on works delivered for member countries due to border closure, time difference, communication, and competing priorities at national level.
 - Challenge for SPREP members as secretariat support is reduced as the Inform project wraps up end of December 2022.
 - SPREP members to support enhanced support via the "Pacific Environmental Data Hub" project proposal, funded by the GEF with a portion of participating country Star allocations.

- Strengthening engagement into national and regional decision-making processes on the environmental aspects of sustainable development, including effective participation in key international and regional sustainable development processes.

Recommendation:

6. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:

- 1) **Note** the update on key implementation activities for the 2022-2023 PIP.

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