

## Twenty Third SPREP Meeting of Officials

4-6 September 2012  
Noumea  
New Caledonia

### **Agenda Item 9.4.3: Progress of the EC funded project “Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries”**

#### **Purpose**

1. To outline progress made by SPREP in the implementation of the project “Capacity building related to MEAs in ACP countries”, funded by the European Union.
2. To **endorse** proceeding with a Phase II of the project which will build on the achievements to-date and target future capacity building needs identified through the first phase of the project, and also through the mid-term review.

#### **Background**

3. This 4 year project started on 1 March 2009 and supports capacity building related to MEAs in ACP countries. SPREP is the Pacific Hub, with a budget of US\$1,410,301 for activities in the following Pacific island countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Timor Leste is also involved in this project.

4. The project objective is to strengthen national capacity to effectively implement and comply with MEAs. This will help island countries address pressing environmental and development challenges, including climate change, loss of biodiversity, land degradation, and waste. Through this the project will make a major contribution to poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods. The specific objective of the Pacific Hub is to strengthen the capacity for implementation of MEAs at the national and regional levels. SPREP as the Pacific Hub is delivering quality capacity-building services to the Pacific island countries, such as practical training on issues such as: project writing; negotiations training; drafting of legislation, policies and plans, information management and exchange of lessons learnt.

- **The** main Pacific hub achievements over 2011 were:
  - The mid-term review carried out in June 2011 indicated that the implementation of the Pacific hub is progressing well and is mostly on track, providing an operational and outreach programme that is delivering quality capacity-building services to Pacific island countries. Lessons learned from project delivery are continuously being identified. These are important as they guide our ongoing work and feed into the design of future projects. The review noted the Pacific hub is outperforming the Caribbean and African hubs, in terms of achievement of project outcomes.

- Preparatory meeting for the UNCCD COP10 which included media skills and negotiation skills training using the Pacific negotiators Handbook *"Taking the Floor. A Pacific Island Country Guide to Negotiating International Environmental Agreements"*.
- National negotiation skills training held in four countries: Cook Islands, Niue, Timor Leste and Tonga. A total of 7 countries have now received national training<sup>1</sup> in this area under the project, covering 141 participants from over 40 organisations most being government departments.
- Regional workshop to assist implementation of the Aichi targets from the CBD COP10 meeting in Nagoya, 2010.
- Support for mainstreaming environmental issues into national planning processes has been carried out in 5 countries: Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, and Tuvalu. Altogether, 184 participants from around 86 organisations or government departments have been involved in mainstreaming capacity building.
- Information on MEAs was produced by the SPREP Communication Unit in the form of 8 factsheets and 1 poster, and media support and training was given at three international COP meetings. In addition, the project has built the Pacific media's capacity to report on MEAs in a number of innovative ways including training and support for journalists and a media award for coverage of MEAs in the Pacific Region.
- In 2012 we continue to extend capacity building through national training in negotiation skills, MEA mainstreaming and knowledge management to all 15 Pacific ACP countries. In addition, regional capacity building events will include a CBD COP11 preparatory meeting.

## Phase II

- Phase II of the project is under discussion with the EC, and if successful will commence in March 2013 and continue for a further 3 years. Proposed actions build on the achievements to date and target the main capacity building needs identified by countries at the mid-term review, including:
  - Continued support to all 15 ACP countries on mainstreaming environmental issues into national planning processes
  - Knowledge management for national and regional State of the Environment review processes
  - Continued support for MEA negotiation, including national negotiation skills training and regional COP preparatory meetings
  - Legal support, deriving policies from MEA obligations, and transforming those policies into laws
- Funding to further support capacity building for improved knowledge management at the national and regional is being sought through GEF Capacity Building funds. SPREP has initiated discussions with UNEP to develop a proposal to GEF.

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<sup>1</sup> Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Solomon Islands received negotiation skills training in 2010.

## Recommendation

5. The meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the progress being made by the EU funded project Capacity building related to MEAs in ACP countries; and
  - **Endorse** continuation of this project through a proposed Phase II of the project and the development of a GEF Proposal.
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14 August, 2012