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*The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*

## Twenty Fifth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Majuro, Marshall Islands  
 30 September – 2 October 2014

### Agenda Item 5.1: Presentation of Annual report for 2013 and Director General's Overview of Progress since the Twenty-Fourth SPREP Meeting

#### Purpose of the Paper

1. The purpose of the paper is to present the 2013 SPREP Annual Report to Members and provide SPREP Members with an overview report from the Director General on progress since the 2013 SPREP Meeting.

#### Background

2. Over the last 5 years SPREP has implemented an ambitious change management process which has increased the level of practical and tangible support to SPREP Pacific Island Members, while also improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Secretariat. The results of this change management process include:

- ✓ increasing SPREP support to Pacific Island countries and territories during the past year, as can be clearly seen through the list of all projects SPREP implemented in Pacific Island countries and territories in 2013 (refer Annex B of the Director General's report);
- ✓ doubling SPREP's direct financial and technical support for member countries over the 2010-2013 period, with SPREP's direct financial support to Pacific countries and territories increasing from US \$9.2 million in 2010 to US \$17.8 million in 2013;
- ✓ increasing SPREP's budget from US\$7 million in 2008 to US\$22 million in 2014. The increasing budget has been allocated to practical programmes in Pacific Island countries and territories. It is not going towards building up a "SPREP empire" in Samoa: in fact, salary costs as a percentage of the total SPREP budget have dropped, from 44% in 2008 to 27% in 2013, reflecting the fact that extra funding for SPREP is going directly to programmes in Pacific member countries;
- ✓ SPREP significantly strengthened its governance in 2013 and 2014 with major reforms and improvements in the areas of executive governance, financial management, coordination between divisions and human resource management to improve effectiveness and accountability. This has greatly contributed to more effective programme delivery for SPREP Members;

- ✓ demonstrating SPREP's convening power in 2013 with the implementation of two major conferences. First, the integrated series of meetings of the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, the Disaster Roundtable and the Pacific Meteorological Council, working together towards an Integrated Strategy in the Pacific Region for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, which will come into force from 2016. Second, the 9th Nature Conservation and Protected Areas Conference which brought together 800 experts from the Pacific region and internationally to address biodiversity issues and develop the Regional Framework for Nature Conservation; and
  - ✓ responding clearly and effectively to the directions from members, including through implementing the majority of decisions from the 2013 SPREP meeting, implementing virtually all recommendations from the 2008 Independent Corporate Review, as well as responding quickly and effectively to requests from Members for support and advice on specific issues over the past year.
3. Specific achievements and practical outcomes from the SPREP change management process are detailed in the attached Director General's report.

### Recommendations

4. The Meeting is invited to:
- **note** the report
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14 July 2014