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



## Twenty Seventh SPREP Meeting of Officials

Alofi, Niue

19 – 21 September 2016

### Agenda Item 9.2.2: Paris Agreement and Preparation for COP 22

#### Purpose

1. To update Members on SPREP's support for Pacific Island Member Countries attending the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

#### Background

2. COP 22 will be held in Marrakech, Morocco, from November 7<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. Pacific Island Member Countries are all Parties to this Convention, and will also be invited to take part in regional preparatory meetings in Marrakech directly ahead of these meeting dates, including a meeting for Members of the Least Developed Country (LDC<sup>1</sup>) group (most likely 1-2 November, TBC); Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) (most likely 3-4 November) and the Group of 77 and China<sup>2</sup> (5-6 November). Additionally, SPREP will be seeking funding for a one day event, to bring Pacific Island member countries together, in Marrakech, to assist with the coordination of Pacific Island delegations attending COP 22.
3. COP 22 will build upon the outcomes of the previous COP (21) where the Paris Agreement was adopted.
4. Key outcomes adopted at COP 21, in Paris, relevant to Pacific Island member countries include:
  - The Paris Agreement was adopted, and was opened for signing and ratification on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. To date, all SPREP members with the exception of one (Niue) have signed the Paris Agreement and six SPREP members (Fiji, Nauru, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, and Tuvalu) have ratified it.
  - The Paris Agreement calls for a limit to the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius, above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
  - It calls for all Parties to understand and communicate efforts to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
  - It also calls for all Parties to develop and communicate long term low emission development strategies

<sup>1</sup> This includes Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu only

<sup>2</sup> This group does not include Palau and Tuvalu

- It establishes a global goal on adaptation, and calls for countries to report against their adaptation efforts through an adaptation communications.
  - It provides for a separate article on the issue of loss and damage, to the adverse impacts of climate change, and provides for support on, inter alia, slow onset events, risk insurance facilities, non-economic losses, and events that may involve irreversible and permanent loss and damage.
5. A key focus of COP 22 will be carrying out the preparation work necessary to allow the Paris Agreement to come into force, no later than 2020. Issues to be covered at this session will include:
- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This looks at what a country does to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. Discussions focused on providing guidance to countries on how they would clarify their NDCs (transparency) and account for their emission reductions (accounting), and on converting their initial NDCs submitted before Paris into the actual NDCs.
  - Adaptation Communications. This will focus on providing guidance to how countries would report against their adaptation actions, assessments and needs, and the relationship between these and other existing documents (including their NDCs).
  - Transparency. Looking at the scope of a transparency framework for the Paris Agreement, its modalities and support mechanisms, and how it relates also to compliance.
  - Compliance. Developing a system that finds the balance between taking on board lessons from Kyoto, but is more facilitative and universal in its nature.
  - Global Stocktake. Discussions focused on identifying the sources to input into the global stocktake, modalities of work for the stocktake and how this relates to work in progress under SBSTA in relationship to the IPCC.
  - Ratification of the agreement, including what happens if the agreement enters into force earlier than 2020.
6. There will also be regular agenda items before the COP of importance to the region such as guidance to the financial institutions, review of the Warsaw International Mechanism on loss and damage, research and systematic observation, capacity building and technology transfer.
7. Given the high priority that Pacific Island Member Countries have placed on the Paris Agreement, SPREP has developed a programme of work to help Pacific Island member countries to meet their obligations under the agreement, and implement its relevant clauses. This programme is attached to this paper as Annex A.
8. Additionally, SPREP has taken a lead coordination role implementing many actions to support PIC's in their participation of on-going UNFCCC meetings, including the upcoming COP 22. These activities are listed in the table below:

Date	Pacific Voyage Preparatory Activity
April 2016	High Level Support Mechanism (HLSM) event for Pacific Island senior climate change negotiators and Ministers. This event focused on understanding the implications of the Paris Agreement for Pacific Island Countries, and developing a programme of support to assist PICS to implement their obligations under the Paris Agreement.  The HLSM support programme is a joint project implemented by SPREP, Climate Analytics and Charles and Associates.
May 2016	On-site technical support provided to Pacific Island Countries to the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies and Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA) sessions, Bonn, Germany (16 – 26 May).

Date	Pacific Voyage Preparatory Activity
September 27 to 29, 2016	High Level Support Mechanism (HLSM) event for the Pacific (again targeting senior negotiators and ministers) to prepare delegations for COP 22, and further develop a regional support mechanism to assist PICs to implement the Paris Agreement.
Week of October 31	Proposal to have a 1 day preparatory meeting for Pacific Island country negotiators, in Marrakech, to enhance PIC coordination at COP 22.
November 7 to 18, 2016	Onsite technical support to be provided to Pacific Island countries at COP 22, which will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced written briefings to be prepared</li> <li>• Technical and policy support on site</li> <li>• SRPEP media officer to provide on site support</li> <li>• Pacific Side event – on international cooperation on climate change data and information management, highlighting some of the lessons learned from the Pacific Climate Change Portal (tbc)</li> <li>• Pacific exhibition booth – as a venue to show case Pacific success stories on climate change (tbc)</li> </ul>

9. SPREP will be leading and coordinating a One CROP+ team in delivering this work, working in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders, which will include but not be limited to Pacific CROP agencies (SPC, USP, PIFS), PIDF, IUCN, UNDP and international organizations such as Climate Analytics and Independent Diplomat.

### Recommendation

10. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the information in this paper;
- **provide** additional comments regarding ways in which SPREP can support PICs to implement the Paris Agreement (as per the attached proposal);
- **provide** additional comments regarding ways in which SPREP can support PICs at COP 22; and
- those in position to do so are also invited to **provide** additional resources to support SPREP's work in this area.