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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 9.2.4: Progress and Future of the SPCR Regional Track: Mainstreaming and the RTSM**

#### **Purpose**

1. To inform the meeting of the progress of the work under the SPCR PR components and to seek direction from the meeting to ensure: a) that the mainstreaming work is further progressed in other countries, and b) that the RTSM continues to provide support to SPREP members. The meeting should also note that the SPCR-PR components implemented by SPREP and administered by ADB ends 01 June 2017.

#### **Background**

2. The Strategic Program for Climate Resilience; Pilot Program for Climate Resilience- Pacific Regional Track (SPCR-PR) has featured two main bodies of work, 1) mainstreaming and 2) the establishment and operationalization of the Regional Technical Support Mechanism.

#### **Mainstreaming**

3. The mainstreaming work piloted in two countries Federated States of Micronesia (Kosrae State) and Tuvalu has provided a valuable insight and lessons and a platform for the replication of this work to other SPREP members as part of SPREP's technical services. As a general proposition, while the term mainstreaming is often used in relation to climate change, its practical application is often not well understood. The SPCR PR technical assistance has demonstrated how climate change and disaster risk can be practically embedded into the 'normal' development planning processes and - through these processes - incorporated into sector plans, programs and budgets. This mechanism provides for a systematic and integrated approach to building resilience against climate change rather than treating climate change as a separate and standalone issue.
4. For Kosrae and Tuvalu, the approach taken to mainstream climate change and disaster related risk was to firstly identify the analysis tools to be used and the specific sector plans, policies, programs, and projects (case studies) they would be applied to. This was done inclusively, involving national decision and policy makers as well as development partners. After the tools were developed and introduced (cost benefit analysis, monitoring and evaluation, and central agency appraisal checklists) they were then progressively adapted in national participatory workshops to ensure relevancy to the selected area of practical application.

5. As a result of the mainstreaming work four policies have been strengthened to date. The *Kosrae Strategic Development Plan (Infrastructure Component)* was strengthened by taking the Malem-Utwe inland road proposal through a detailed CBA and central agency appraisal process confirming its high prioritization on the *Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP)* list. The *Kosrae Overseas Development Assistance Policy* now requires that all ODA proposals must include in their design consideration inclusion of climate risk. The *Master Plan for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Tuvalu* was strengthened through the development of a Monitoring Evaluation Framework to support adaptive management of the plan including key climate change and disaster risk elements and is now being actively monitored by Tuvalu government officials. In addition an *Integrated Waste Policy and Action Plan* has been developed by SPREP with European Union funding drawing on the mainstreaming work. The strengthening of national plans and policies has been described above but the tools have also improved the design of specific projects and project proposals such as strengthening the inland road relocation proposal for the Adaptation Fund in Kosrae.
6. The TA has highlighted that it is essential to ensure the process of building national capacity as part of the strategy to integrate and mainstream climate change risk into national development. The TAs focus is the sustainability of the process that goes into the development, implementation, and review of these policies, plans and budgets. Plans and policies come and go but it is crucial that national capacity and skill sets is there to apply these tools - as part of an Effective integrated CCA and DRR response system.
7. In this regard, the mainstreaming tools developed under this TA are also being built into the suite of technical services that SPREP provides as they form part of the technical competency SPREP must have to assist its members address CCA and associated DRR. The SPCR PR has been actively involved in SPREP institutional strengthening efforts to promote the use and application of these tools.

#### **Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM)**

8. The RTSM through its establishment and operation has met the Pacific Island Leaders vision of a regional facility that can provide rapid assistance to members to address their priority climate change needs. As of 30 June 2016, there have been nine expert deployments to Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Nauru, Tonga and Vanuatu. In the project pipeline are requests for assistance for Fiji, Marshall Islands, Palau and Solomon Islands.
9. The RTSM represents an innovative and transformative way for regional organisations to draw on their respective comparative advantage to pool together their resources to collectively assist their members address their CCA/DRR priorities. This is done by registering on the RTSM website as an expert <http://rtsm.pacificclimatechange.net/> and being selected from this pool (of CROP, multilateral institution, development partner, national and independent experts) by the Project Committee that includes the requesting country.
10. CROP agencies under the auspices of the *Working Arm of the CROP CEO Sub-Committee on Climate Change and Disaster Resilient Development (WARD)* provides strategic direction to the RTSM. While SPREP is the administrator, the RTSM is collectively owned by CROP. The role of the Project Committee is to apply objective criteria to identify the best possible expert for the assignment. Of the 9 deployments 2 have been from regional organisations (PIFS and SPREP), one has been a national expert (Tonga), two from partner organisation (NIWA) and three have been international experts.

11. The RTSM is attractive to Pacific island countries on a number of levels. Firstly it is a grant not a loan. It focuses on food security and infrastructure, two priority areas where Pacific countries are at their most vulnerable as documented in their various national climate change policies and planning documents. The RTSM is also highly responsive. Although rapid response is defined in the RTSM Operations Manual as being three months (from the time the request is received until deployment on the ground), some deployments have been achieved within 30 days. The RTSM is set up to assist members identify experts that fit the needs of the countries without the administrative burdens of having to find these experts themselves. It deals directly with the donor that is providing the grant which can be onerous for the country in terms of time, resources and commitment to handle administration, procurement, contract and financial management associated with donor funds. This burden is carried by the regional organizations administering it and providing strategic oversight.
12. Having established the RTSM as a model to demonstrate how the regional organisations can collectively assist member countries and noting that the SPCR-RT does come to an end 01 June 2017, this meeting provides an important opportunity to receive feedback and comments from interested beneficiaries and partners on the future of the RTSM in particular on how it can be funded to ensure its continued operation into the future.

### Recommendation

13. The Meeting is invited to:
- **note** the progress made under the SPCR-PR track;
  - **direct** the Secretariat to ensure that the mainstreaming tools and approach developed under the SPCR-PR are built into the suite of SPREP technical services to assist its members address CCA and associated DRR; and
  - **invite direction** from the meeting on the future of the RTSM when the SPCR-PR program ends 01 June 2017.