



CIRCULAR

FILE: AP_3/29 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points from
PICs (including MFA from PNG and Tonga)
PICs Climate change focal points
One CROP Plus

DATE: 26 March 2021

CIRCULAR: 21/22

SUBJECT: One CROP+ preparations for UNFCCC COP26 engagement

Dear Focal Points,

This serves as an update on the work planned and undertaken to assist the Pacific region prepare for COP26 and related meetings.

Introduction

The One CROP+ team, led by SPREP, comprises of SPREP, SPC, PIFS, USP, FFA, UNDP and UNEP. PIDF has not responded to enquiries about continued engagement with the team and has been absent from the meetings since 2019 hence their removal from the email list.

The team has been meeting regularly in 2020 and 2021 and have confirmed arrangements for the work ahead. The One CROP+ agreed to have joint meetings with the UK Presidency in the lead up to COP26.

One CROP+ Pacific Voyage to COP26

Engagement Plan:

- SPREP will continue to lead on the Plan, and further enhancements, suggestions or inputs to the Plan from One CROP+ be forwarded to SPREP. A core objective of the Plan is to assist and enhance coordination, inclusivity, and partnership amongst members and potential members when providing support to our Pacific island parties to the UNFCCC.
- Key points of the plan include: ToRs to be developed for all One CROP+ members attending the COPs to ensure best support possible for our Members; record keeping of commitment and assistance provided from One CROP+ as part of the monitoring and evaluation process; and coordination of institutional and technical knowledge to provide the most efficient assistance possible for our Pacific island parties to the UNFCCC.



Communications Plan:

- The Voyage to COP26: Communications Plan was circulated to One CROP+ Members for further input before finalising on 31 March for implementation. In preparation, the One CROP+ team have been asked to provide content for a social media campaign. The next step will be to secure commitment from each member of One CROP-Plus to support implementation of the communications plan.
- Further updates will be presented to our Pacific Islands Members that may also be approached to provide content.

Survey of Pacific participation in UNFCCC events:

- SPREP conducted a survey of Pacific climate change focal points, delegates, and officials from December 2020 to January 2021 to gauge the level of participation in the UNFCCC organized events of November 2020 by Pacific Island countries. The survey received responses from 13 of 14 Pacific Parties to the UNFCCC. All responders have attended COPs and are familiar with international meetings, special events and roundtables that occur in the context of past COPs.
- 90% of the respondents were aware of the November climate change dialogues organised by UNFCCC, but only 30% were able to participate. Those respondents were able to participate in 13 of the events, usually no more than 2 respondents per event, and only once were 4 respondents in one of the events.
- 50% of respondents stated that they had connectivity issues during the events which prevented them from participating. Time difference was also pointed out as a major issue in their ability to join the dialogues.
- This information has been communicated to the COP26 Bureau and UNFCCC Secretariat, AOSIS and PSIDS, and by the SPREP DG to the UK COP26 Ambassador for Asia-Pacific. A follow-up survey will be carried out to seek further inputs around challenges faced with virtual participation in the region.

Planning ahead:

- One CROP+ will meet monthly, and more frequently closer to key events. SPREP will conduct an induction workshop on One CROP+ processes and working procedures for new members of the team in March 2021.
- One CROP+ will attend various virtual events in the lead up to COP26, noting that the international calendar is still in a state of uncertainty. For example, the scheduled Subsidiary Bodies session in June 2021 may have to take place in a hybrid virtual/in-person format. This is yet to be confirmed.
- One CROP+ have a shared calendar of events to ensure that there is adequate coverage and attendance at events, and preparations where needed. *The calendar is attached as an Appendix 1.*



- A One CROP+ sub-committee has been established to provide dedicated high-level support for Leaders' engagement in the UNFCCC process and on climate change matters generally.
- SPREP will, together with One CROP+ team, organize preparatory and negotiations support meetings in the months ahead, again very much determined by the shape of the international agenda. The Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) has launched an e-learning platform, which will host an online course for negotiations skills, capacity building and thematic specifics, as presented during the SPREP Executive Board in 2020.
- SPREP discussed with the UK:
 - ✓ the need for PSIDS access to the Presidency (preferably as Friends of Chair, but for now UK confirmed it would be through Ambassador O'Flaherty);
 - ✓ call for Pacific Pavilion space in a prime area;
 - ✓ discussion on the PSIDS essential areas of ambition, finance and environmental integrity and how these are also covered by the UK's proposed 5 themes (needs of vulnerable states; assessment and review of NDCs; finance; just transition; enhancing adaptation); and
 - ✓ the possibility of a full UK-Pacific Leaders (or Ministerial) meeting. This would be in addition to the 31st March meeting organized by the UK to which only Fiji, Tuvalu and PIFS have been invited (SPREP has called for broader representation in that meeting).
- The possibility of a ministerial preparatory session has also been raised, and SPREP will work with the One CROP+ team to see how best this can be organized, including determining the level and type of support that Leaders or Ministers would require. A separate brief on this matter is being developed by One CROP+.

For queries regarding One CROP+ activities or any further information, please contact Espen Ronneberg (espenr@sprep.org)

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kosi Latu".

Kosi Latu
Director General