



PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
E: sprep@sprep.org
T: +685 21929
F: +685 20231
W: www.sprep.org



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

Twenty Sixth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Apia, Samoa
22nd – 24th September 2015

Agenda Item 6.3: Pacific Climate Change Centre Update

Purpose

1. The purpose of the paper is to update Members on the progress made on the development of the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) at SPREP, with funding from the Japanese Government's Grant Aid Cooperation to the Government of Samoa.

Background

2. The aim of the PCCC is to strengthen and sustain the delivery of climate change information and services to Pacific island members of SPREP. This will include the application of both climate variability prediction and long term projection tools to support planning and decision making in SPREP Pacific Island Members on climate change and disaster risk management.

3. The 2012 SPREP Meeting endorsed the application being made to JICA for Grant Aid to build the Pacific Climate Change Centre. SPREP Meetings in 2013 and 2014 have been fully briefed on the PCCC and have endorsed action undertaken by the Secretariat. A detailed proposal was submitted to the Government of Samoa Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for submission to the Japanese Government on 13 June 2013.

4. At the Seventh Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 7) in Iwaki, Japan in May, 2015¹, H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan formally stated in the PALM 7 Declaration: "*Japan's intention to provide comprehensive assistance, in collaboration with SPREP, including the development of the Pacific Climate Change Centre and capacity-building which supports the efforts for tackling climate change by the Pacific region as a whole*". Pacific Leaders at PALM 7 welcomed this support from Japan and also welcomed the accreditation of SPREP as a regional implementing entity to the GCF, as an important measure to improve access to the Fund for Pacific island countries.

¹ Countries represented at PALM 7 included: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, all members of SPREP. All Pacific island countries were represented by their President or Prime Minister.

Update

5. In 2015 the consultancy firm Yamashita Sekkei have been contracted by the Government of Japan through JICA to lead the initial phase of the Pacific Climate Change Centre. To date they have conducted three missions to Samoa which have enabled:

- a. The signing of Minutes of Discussions between the Government of Japan, Government of Samoa and SPREP;
- b. the signing of the Technical Note between SPREP Secretariat and Yamashita Sekkei Inc;
- c. the development and submission of a Business Plan for the PCCC by the Secretariat; and
- d. identification of the location site.

6. As part of the PCCC the Government of Japan has provided a JICA Expert Dr. Michinobu Aoyama who is the Pacific Climate Change Adviser situated in the Climate Change Division. The expert commenced duties in April 2015. His key duties have been to assist with the formulation of technical cooperation activities that will be carried out in the PCCC; and providing technical support and advice to on-going projects of the Climate Change Division.

PCCC Business Plan

7. A Business Plan was developed by the Secretariat for the PCCC which outlined activities that will be carried out in the Centre. The Business Plan aims to operationalise how the capacity building goals and relevant targets will be executed; and to help define an approach SPREP will use to monitor and evaluate the use of the PCCC and the successes of its programmes.

8. Included in the Business Plan is the issue of maintenance. Members were advised at the 2014 SPREP Meeting that maintenance costs for the building would be similar to those for the existing TEC at SPREP and would be of the order of USD12,000. Maintenance costs for the PCCC will in fact be less than that for the TEC due to the application of renewable energy in PCCC design and construction. It is envisaged that the operational budget will be incorporated into the budget for SPREPs Corporate Services and a budget line will be included in each new climate change related project as a surcharge for the maintenance of the PCCC.

PCCC Activity Summary

9. The PCCC will be used by all divisions of SPREP.

10. Specifically for the Climate Change Division the activities of the PCCC will fall under the following headings.

Climate Change Mainstreaming, Policy Implementation, and Monitoring and Assessment

11. The PCCC will provide practical and focused advice and capacity building to PICTs on climate change and disaster risk reduction, including appropriate policy development and mainstreaming. Monitoring and evaluation to assess "on ground" impacts, to ensure emerging issues are captured, and identify where implementation could be improved. This will include assessing the impact of climate change on sustainable development and, in particular, providing a mechanism for mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation into National Sustainable Development Plans.

Design and Implementation of Adaptation and Mitigation Programmes

12. A core part of PCCC activities will be the design and implementation of adaptation and mitigation programmes to support PICTs. Design phases are crucial for the achievement of envisaged adaptation outcomes. Thus integrated approaches such as ecosystem based adaptation, whole of island approaches, risk and vulnerability assessments and other approaches, such as cost benefit analysis, will be integrated and applied to the design and all other stages of programme development and implementation.

Climate Change Science, Meteorology and Climate Services

The Pacific Meteorological Desk

13. The Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP), as the Secretariat to the Pacific Meteorological Council, will be housed in the PCCC. The Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy outlines how Pacific Island National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) will enhance their base services to provide the fundamental information required for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and operates closely with the goals laid out by the WMO's Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS).

Climate Change Applied Research Facility

14. The PCCC will provide a focal point for researchers within and beyond the region to address issues such as:

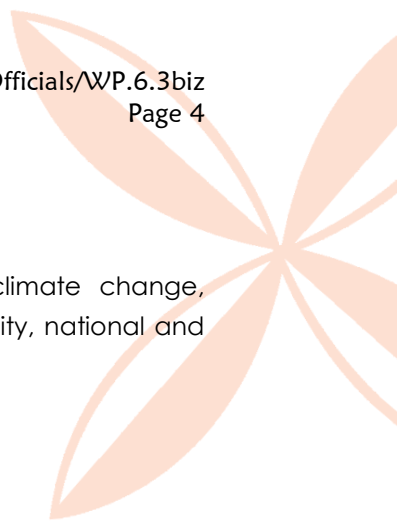
- Pacific Islands climate including climate prediction;
- Mitigation and Adaptation (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions development using SPREP guidelines, sharing of best practices and methodologies from regional programmes such as PIGGAREP and PACC);
- Policy (Joint National Action Plans for disaster risk and climate change adaptation, national sector policy and planning, international issues in the UNFCCC); and
- Financing (national implementing entity accreditation for international funds, Fit-for-purpose Funds, eligibility and standards for direct budgetary support).

Sustainable and Climate Proof Design and Construction

15. The PCCC will be designed and built to sustainable and environmentally friendly standards, such that it uses a combination of passive and active techniques to lower the energy consumption and other environmental impacts of the building, with the goal of zero fossil fuel consumption. The PCCC will be designed as a showpiece for the Pacific region, and will demonstrate the advantages of sustainable design.

Partnerships for Climate Change and Resilient Development

16. The PCCC will strengthen SPREP's existing partnerships on climate change with relevant Pacific and international organizations, and initiate new relationships by providing a centrally located technical and policy development focus and facility for the region. The PCCC will enhance and strengthen regional coordination for climate change activities including coordination meetings and support for the working arm of the CROP executive sub-committee for climate change and disaster risk management.



Communication and Knowledge Management

17. The PCCC will enhance coordination of better understanding of climate change, variability and extreme events, which is needed to inform PICTs at the community, national and regional levels. This will mean:

- better understanding of existing observations;
- improving the quality and quantity of relevant data;
- improving access to data and information;
- undertaking analyses to understand key climate processes; and
- translating climate change science into applicable information products and tools to inform decision makers.

18. The Pacific Climate Change Portal and SPREPs Information Resource Centre (IRC) and Communications Technology (ICT) capacity is important in ensuring that information and knowledge arising from the PCCC are disseminated in a timely and effective manner and form that can be easily understood and applied.

Access to Climate Finance

19. The PCCC will assist Pacific countries to access climate change funding from the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund through targeted and high quality advice on sources and access to funds. There is a strong need in the region for improved access to resources available under the GCF and other multilateral sources, such as the GEF, of funding for projects addressing the priorities of the global environmental conventions and national sustainable development strategies. This is a key strategic area for the PCCC and the development of the Pacific Region generally and a key component of the Centre's activities would be concerned with taking a proactive lead in accessing finance on behalf of Pacific members, and in building institutions at the national level which are adequately equipped to comply with the reporting requirements which underpin multilateral finance.

Recommendations

20. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the progress made with the development of the Pacific Climate Change Centre and envisage strengthened services from SPREP to its Pacific Member countries;
- **note with appreciation** the support from the Governments of Japan and Samoa; and
- **direct** the Secretariat to report to the next SPREP Meeting on the status of the implementation of the PCCC.