



Sixteenth meeting of the Noumea Convention

Sixteenth ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the convention for the protection of the natural resources and environment of the South Pacific Region and related protocols (Noumea Convention)

Virtual - Apia, Samoa
02 September 2021

Agenda Item 7.2: ACP MEA Phase III Programme Update

Purpose of paper

1. To inform the Parties on the ACP MEAs Phase III Programme and its contribution towards strengthening the management and implementation of the Noumea Convention; and
2. To seek the support of the Parties on the implementation of the two components of the Programme.

Background

3. The ACP MEAs Phase III Programme is a partnership between the European Union, the Organization of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States, UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
4. The programme aims to build capacity support and fulfil the obligations of parties to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to address environmental issues.
5. The ACP MEAs Programme is now in its Phase III having completed Phases I and II. Phase I was implemented by SPREP from 2009 to 2013 which focused on the mitigation of adverse effects of climate change; loss of biodiversity, drought, land degradation, chemicals and waste and other threats to the environment. Phase II was implemented by SPREP from 2014 to 2018 and the focus was on key areas of environmental governance; enabling sound management of chemicals, waste; and lessons learned in Phase 1.
6. The ACP MEAs Phase III, which started implementation in 2020 is expected to be completed in 2024, and aims to enhance the mainstreaming and implementation of MEAs related to biodiversity and chemicals and waste, with a focus on the mainstreaming of biodiversity in agriculture, the management of chemicals and waste (including hazardous pesticides), the reinforcement of compliance and enforcement measures and the strengthening of the implementation of Regional Seas Conventions in ACP countries.

7. The total budget for the ACP MEAs Phase III Programme which covers all the Activities, inclusive of the Noumea Convention, is USD\$3.2 million dollars.

Project Components

8. The ACP MEAs Phase III Programme comprises of two components.
9. The first component focuses on the effective implementation, monitoring, enforcement of, and compliance with MEAs related to biodiversity and chemicals and waste; the development of knowledge sharing tools, guidelines and mechanisms for the effective implementation of selected biodiversity and chemicals and waste conventions. There are 27 Activities for selected Pacific Island Countries including regional activities.
10. Under the first component, the key result areas are:
 - (i) Enforcement and compliance with selected biodiversity and chemicals and waste conventions;
 - (ii) Development of national frameworks, legislations and mechanisms for the effective implementation of selected biodiversity and chemicals and waste conventions;
 - (iii) Development of knowledge sharing tools, guidelines, and mechanisms for the effective implementation of selected biodiversity and chemicals and waste conventions/COP readiness and support; and
 - (iv) Communications, awareness-raising, outreach, and political will.
11. The second component focuses on the effective implementation of the regional seas convention to address pollution such as the reduction of influx of waste such as plastics entering the marine environment and integrated coastal zone management. The Noumea Convention of 1986 is the Pacific's Regional Seas Convention of which SPREP is the Secretariat. This component comprises of 29 Activities for selected Pacific Islands Countries including regional level activities. Its key result areas are:
 - (i) Reinforcement of regional seas convention governance frameworks and associated protocols (reinforcement of existing mechanisms);
 - (ii) Development of regionally representative networks of MPAs;
 - (iii) Reduction of the influx of waste (plastics, etc.) entering the marine environment (reduce the generation of waste); and
 - (iv) Communication, awareness-raising, outreach and political will.
12. This Programme aims to strengthen SPREP's capacity as the Secretariat of the Noumea Convention to enable it to assist and support the Parties to the Convention to address the environment issues in the region (attached as 7.2/Att.1) is the summary list of key priority activities of the programme that will support the implementation of the Noumea convention).

Programme Coordination and Implementation of Activities

13. The ACP MEA III Programme Coordination Team based in SPREP have been organising one-on-one inception workshops for the Member countries. These inception workshop sessions are envisaged to provide specific information and details of the Activities selected for each Member country. Most of the activities under the two components of this Programme are regional activities for Member countries.
14. The implementation of the various and specific Activities for selected Member countries and the regional Activities holds a paramount purpose and objective which is to strengthen the capacity of the member countries to meet their obligations under the biodiversity and waste clusters of MEAs.
15. Many of the Member countries are contracting parties to a plethora of MEAs. However, the capacity to implement and meet MEAs obligations has always been a major challenge faced by Members. Thus, strengthening institutional, systemic, and individual capacity to effectively implement MEAs is the paramount focus of the ACP MEA Phase III Programme.

Recommendation

16. The Parties are invited to:
 - 1) **welcome** the assistance provided under the ACPMEA III Programme to support the Noumea Convention and **note** the update on the ACP MEA Phase III Programme; and
 - 2) **collaborate** closely with the Secretariat to implement Activities that support the Noumea Convention.
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