



## 30<sup>th</sup> SPREP MEETING OF OFFICIALS



### “Accelerating actions for a resilient Blue Pacific”

7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021, Hybrid Platforms  
12:00pm – 5:00pm Samoa Standard Time

#### **Agenda Item 8.4: Overview of Regional Goal 4 – Pacific people and their environment benefit from commitment to best practice of environmental governance**

##### **Purpose of paper:**

1. To provide the Meeting with an overview of key priorities to support the implementation and achievement of Regional Goal 4 for the biennial period 2022 - 2023.

##### **Introduction:**

2. For the biennial period 2022-2023, SPREP will continue to assist Members to achieve goals on environmental governance, policy development, planning, monitoring, and reporting for sustainable environmental outcomes and to keep pace with socio-economic development. This will include strengthening and supporting political leadership on environmental issues in the region.

##### **Key Areas of Work for 2022-23:**

##### **RO4.1: Strengthen national sustainable development planning and implementation systems.**

3. SPREP will continue to deliver awareness, training, and capacity building on the regional EIA guidelines; the regional EIA coastal tourism development guidelines; and the regional Strategic Environment Assessment guidelines; and provide policy advice and technical assistance on the review of existing and development of new EIA policies, legislations, and guidelines.
4. Increase SPREP’s Geographical Information Systems (GIS) capacity through funding support from existing and possibly new SPREP projects; produce GIS e-learning module for beginners and environmental assessors; and building partnerships to convert critical SPREP data into GIS data for use by PICTs.

##### **RO4.2: Improve national capacity for good environmental governance and development of policy and legislation to support of the implementation of Member international and regional commitments**

5. SPREP will continue to support PICTs to update and develop National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS) and the integration of NEMS and Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) commitments into national planning processes.

6. Implement the EU ACP MEA Phase III Programme implemented through UN Environment and executed directly by SPREP with a total budget of USD3.2 million for a period of 4 years starting in 2020. This programme will contribute towards the implementation of key priorities for Regional Goal 4 specifically capacity building on MEAs and the implementation of the Noumea Convention.
7. SPREP will continue to support PIFS and PSIDS with the on-going negotiations on the Internationally Legally Binding Agreement (ILBI) on BBNJ.
8. Work with at least 2 PICTs in developing national environmental standards for issues such as water quality, air quality or soil toxicity standards.

**RO4.3: Strengthen environmental data collection, monitoring and analysis and reporting on results, nationally and regionally**

9. SPREP will continue to build capacity on national level environment reporting in at least 2 PICTs with linkages to the State of Environment Report (SOE) reporting, MEAs and SDGs reporting obligations
10. SPREP will continue to implement the Regional Inform Project focusing on:
  - Strengthening the Pacific Environment Portal (PEP) network, updating the content management systems and user interface. Increase available datasets over 10000.
  - Supporting the use and adoption for the Indicator Reporting Tool (IRT) in at least 2 PICs and document use for strategic reporting requirements.
  - Building capacity in at least 40 staff in member countries to use the environmental portal supported by e-learning platforms
  - Conducting workshop trainings for enforcement officers (Quarantine, Customs and Fisheries) in selected PICs to improve collection of data/information that will contribute to reporting requirements for relevant MEAs, such as CITES, CMS, BRS, Minamata, Waigani and Noumea
11. Work closely with Members and Partners to develop at least one proposal to scale up and address gaps such as environment standards; field data collection for key indicators; enhancing GIS capacity; and converting data to information use which were not covered in the existing projects such as the Inform project.

**RO 4.4: Strengthen access to funding mechanisms and using funds effectively and efficiently to deliver required interventions**

12. Review the progress of the ACPMEA Phase III Programme and develop a new project proposal to address critical priorities that will be identified.

**Challenges, Opportunities and Coordination**

13. The main challenge in implementing Regional Goal 4 is due to the limited capacity of the Secretariat to meet increasing demands from PICTs for policy and technical assistance. Three core positions in the Environmental Monitoring and Governance Programme are still vacant due to lack of funding and these are the Environmental Monitoring and

Reporting Adviser, Environment Legal Adviser, and the Spatial Planning Officer. Earlier departure before end of contract by some staff contributed to the challenge.

14. Another major challenge especially in 2020 and continuing to 2021 is the impact of Covid19 in causing delays in implementing some of the key activities on the ground.
15. The Inform project which has established national and regional environment data portals as well as the development of SoE Reports and NEMS will come to an end in 2022 and the Secretariat requests the support of the Members to work with the Secretariat in developing new funding proposals to sustain the project beyond 2022. Refer Agenda Item 8.4.1.
16. Some of the opportunities that are available to support the implementation of Regional Goal 4 include:
  - The effective implementation and application of key policy documents such as SoE Reports, NEMS, EIA guidelines, tools and data portals produced and developed to support planning, reporting and decision making. For example, SoE Reports are useful tools to use as the basis for Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) reporting including reporting to relevant national processes including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
  - The ACP/MEA III Programme is fully integrated across the SPREP Technical Programmes namely the Environmental Monitoring and Governance, Islands and Oceans Ecosystems and the Waste and Pollution Programmes. This approach creates an excellent opportunity to address key environmental issues and priorities in an integrated and holistic manner.
  - The Pacific Learning Partnership for Environmental and Social Sustainability which consists of SPREP, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and University of South Pacific will continue to be used as a strategic platform to coordinate the delivery of EIA/ESS capacity building and training to PICTs.

**Recommendation:**

17. The Meeting is invited to:

- 1) **endorse** the key strategic priorities to support the implementation and achievement of Regional Goal 4 for the biennial period 2022 to 2023.