



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Twentieth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa

17 – 20 November 2009



Agenda Item 6.2.1: Implementation Plan on Energy

Purpose

1. To present for Members' consideration the implementation plan for the rationalisation of the energy programme of the Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) as per the Joint Meeting of SOPAC, SPC and SPREP Governing Bodies, and to invite further discussion of SPREP's role on energy policy as it relates to climate change.

Background

2. To reorganise the framework of Pacific intergovernmental organisations as proposed by the review of the Regional Institutional Framework (RIF), SOPAC functions will be rationalised into the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and SPREP. At the 39th Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) in 2008, Leaders directed representatives on the respective governing councils to take all the final decisions to enable implementation to commence no later than 1 January 2010.

3. In April 2009, Pacific Regional Energy Ministers agreed to strengthen 'regional and donor coordination of delivery of energy services ... through one energy agency and through one programme.' Ministers noted 'there was a need to ensure that energy policy and climate change policy remained separate where environmental aspects are managed by SPREP and energy sector activities by SPC.'

4. In July 2009, the Joint Meeting of SOPAC, SPC and SPREP Governing Bodies on the RIF endorsed the decision taken by energy ministers, and

- (ii) *recognised the interrelationship and links between energy and climate change and the need to address energy policy in relation to climate change as an integral part of the final implementation plan for rationalisation of the energy programme of SOPAC; and*
- (iii) *noted that this plan will be presented for consideration to the meetings of the governing body of SPREP in September and of SOPAC and SPC in October 2009 to enable implementation from January 2010.*

5. The joint meeting agreed to transfer to SPREP from January 2010 several specific SOPAC functions, including ‘the component of the energy sector relating to monitoring and evaluation of greenhouse gases and the clean development mechanism (CDM)’. *For more information see working paper 6.1.* The July 2009 SPREP Special Meeting endorsed and ratified these outcomes.

6. In August 2009, at the 40th PIF meeting, Leaders welcomed the decisions. Implementation now needs to be approved by each governing council:

- The 39th SPC Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations in October 2009 noted that arrangements for the RIF reforms are on track for implementation on 1 January 2010 and that SPC will require additional resources.
- The SOPAC Governing Council meeting of October 2009 had not been held at the time of writing.

7. The SPREP Meeting is now invited to consider the implementation plan for the rationalisation of the SOPAC energy programme, as approved by the SPC CRGA meeting (SPC CRGA paper 6.1, *Organisational reform and the implementation of the RIF*, attached). The proposed approach is on the basis of ‘many agencies, one team,’ and will see SPC establishing a Regional Energy Sector Programme in a new Economic Development Division, in order to raise the profile of energy and become the ‘lead coordination agency in the regional energy sector.’ The plan states:

An important initiative agreed to by the major stakeholders in the regional energy sector programme is the need for co-location of expertise in one office, namely SPC’s premises in Nabua. If agreed and implemented, this will mean that PPA, SPREP’s renewable energy project, and the SPC/SOPAC energy programme will operate from the same office while retaining their specific agency status. This initiative will give credence to the ‘many agencies, one team’ approach that underpins this new partnership in the region’s energy sector.

8. The plan acknowledges SPREP’s mandate on climate change and energy policy. SPREP Members may wish to take this opportunity to discuss further the opportunities for SPREP to lead the regional approach to energy and climate change as a partner in the new SPC Regional Energy Sector Programme.

Current SPREP activities

9. The Secretariat's key energy activity is the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Programme (PIGGAREP) – a 5 year project in the Climate Change focal area with a remaining life of up to June 2012 and a remaining budget of US\$3.3 million. The PIGGAREP is currently leading the support to member countries with their greenhouse gas inventories and mitigation analysis as part of preparing their Second National Communications under the UNFCCC. The Secretariat is also leading the regional effort on the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in partnership with the EU, UNEP and the ADB in its Climate Change effort, oil spills and disposals in its Wastes Programme and vulnerability of energy infrastructures in its Adaptation activities. There are only two CDM projects in Pacific island countries and Members should bear in mind the ongoing negotiations under the UNFCCC on long term cooperative action, in particular the development of modalities for Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action, as this may impact on the level and nature of support that will need to be provided in relation to current and future CDM projects as well as other mitigation action in the region. Decisions on these issues are expected to be completed at the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC at Copenhagen in December 2009.

Many agencies, one team approach

10. The Secretariat supports the 'many agencies, one team' approach and hopes to further discuss the technicality of the co-location option with SPC. The Secretariat is keen to see that, should its renewable energy activities be co-located with the other functions, then this should become an integral component of the 'core' regional energy programme. The Secretariat would also seek to ensure that its effort is picked up by the joint SOPAC-SPREP regional energy project to be proposed in 2010 under the 10th European Development Fund, and subsequently supplemented with core-funded resources.

11. The PIGGAREP is being overseen by the UNDP Samoa Multi-Country Office. From 2004-2008, the Danish-funded Pacific Islands Energy Strategic Action Programme (PIESAP) was implemented by SOPAC in Suva but supervised by UNDP from Samoa. A co-location of the PIGGAREP to Suva will be through a similar administrative arrangement.

12. The transfer of the components of SOPAC's energy programme to SPREP would have minimal immediate staffing, work programme and financial impacts as the Secretariat is currently leading the implementation of activities in these two areas. However, the outcome of the RIF is an opportunity to address the acknowledged interrelationship between energy policy and climate change. The Secretariat is therefore prepared to redefine its role on the energy sector during the course of developing with SPC and other stakeholders the detailed implementation plan for the regional energy programme.

Recommendations

13. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** that arrangements for the Regional Institutional Framework (RIF) reforms relating to energy policy and climate change are on track for implementation on 1 January 2010, as outlined in the implementation plan for the rationalisation of the SOPAC energy programme, recently approved by the SPC CRGA meeting;
 - **note** that the respective CEOs will continue to discuss the details of the implementation, and that the Secretariat plans to implement these reforms within its planned budget, and to review the level of resources it requires in 2010, following these discussions;
 - **direct** the Secretariat to explore further roles and opportunities for SPREP in relation to energy policy and climate change, noting the need for improved coordination and cooperation among CROP agencies: e.g. by increasing joint implementation of PIGGAREP with SPC, PPA, USP and other project partners from January 2010; and
 - **endorse** that the Secretariat's component of the joint SOPAC-SPREP EDF 10 energy project proposal continues the momentum gained in the PIGGAREP, given SPREP's recognised role on energy and the environment.
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