



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Twentieth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa
17 – 20 November 2009



Agenda Item 6.2.2 : Implementation Plan on Climate Change

Purpose of the Paper

1. The purpose of the paper is to provide SPREP members with information and update as to the Secretariat strategy with respect to the transfer of certain functions from SOPAC to SPREP from January 2010. These functions were agreed to by the Joint Meeting of the Councils of SOPAC, SPC, and SPREP concerning the Regional Institutional Framework (RIF). The Joint Meeting also agreed that progress with regards the transfer of the SOPAC functions be reported to the annual meetings of the governing bodies. The Secretariat seeks the discussion and endorsement of the SM20 in particular with the absorption and planned placement of certain SOPAC functions within the Secretariat's existing programmes.

Summary of Issues

2. The SOPAC functions to be transferred from SOPAC to SPREP are listed below as per the summary of decisions of the Joint Meeting of the Councils of SOPAC, SPC, and the Special SPREP Meeting of July 2009 in Suva, Fiji. The following decisions were provided to and subsequently endorsed by the Pacific Forum Leaders at their annual meeting in Cairns, Australia in August 2009. The decisions of the Joint Council Meeting were that:

With respect to the balance of the SOPAC core work programme, the joint meeting of the governing bodies:

- i) welcomed the commitment by members to strengthen SPREP as the region's lead environmental agency, including through support for the implementation of the approved decisions relating to the independent corporate review of SPREP;
- ii) agreed that the following specific SOPAC functions be transferred to SPREP from January 2010:
 - a. the Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System (PI-GOOS),
 - b. the Islands Climate Update (ICU), the
 - c. Climate and Meteorological Database (CMD), and
 - d. the component of the energy sector relating to monitoring and evaluation of greenhouse gases and the clean development mechanism (CDM);

a. *The Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System (PI-GOOS)*

Background

- i. The Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System (PI-GOOS) programme has been in operation since 1998. A strategy to guide programme implementation was developed in 2001 and subsequently revised in 2006. The primary focus is to work within an integrated framework that systemically acquires oceanographic and marine data and disseminates as useful information in response to the needs of government, scientific research and the public to address marine related issues in the South Pacific region.

Current Situation

- ii. The post of the PI-GOOS Coordinator was recently vacated in early 2009. SOPAC had initially begun recruitment in June 2009 but then suspended active recruitment pending the outcomes of the RIF. Given the current result, SPREP has contacted the SOPAC Secretariat as to the status of recruitment and plans to resume this from SPREP's end. It has been agreed that SPREP will resume recruitment pending a discussion of SPREP and PI-GOOS donors and stakeholders to be concluded in late 2009.

Next Steps

- iii. Given the PI-GOOS strengths in marine data and research and its past activities to reach across various users of marine and coastal data, the Secretariat is looking from the outset to place this programme within the Islands and Ecosystems Programme where its programme strategies can be incorporated into IEP activities. Strategically, this is to assist in informing and gathering data and information for the sustainable development and management of coastal resources and marine ecosystems that support life and livelihoods.
- iv. Support of activities in terms of planning and advice and strategy are currently provided by the PI-GOOS Advisory Committee formed of donors, key partners and stakeholders both regional and international and whom have guided the annual plans of the PI-GOOS Officer. The Secretariat intends to work closely with donors and the Advisory Committee to ensure and assure that the PI-GOOS programme will continue to receive the required Secretariat support as it has received in the past, and to ensure that the PI-GOOS will be well clustered with supporting programmes of the Secretariat including the PI-GCOS, climate change, and coastal and marine ecosystems programmes.
- v. In terms of funding, the SM are asked to note that the proposed 2010 Work Plan and Budget does not yet contain the budget of the PI-GOOS as the Secretariat is planning to have a meeting with stakeholders and donors just prior to the annual SPREP meeting to discuss budgetary matters and other related issues. The midterm review of the Work Plan and Budget in mid-2010 shall include the PI-GOOS funding detail in completeness.

b. *The Island Climate Update*

Background

- i. The Island Climate Update is an activity centered on the collection, evaluation, compilation, and publication of a monthly newsletter containing data and information about the state of the Pacific region climate, and a forecast of future conditions. The objective is the dissemination of accurate, timely and relevant climate information to assist climate scientists and other end users in the Pacific in forecasting and planning climate affected activities.

Current Situation

- ii. The ICU activity involves the monthly collaboration of Pacific and Pacific Rim based climate scientists to exchange data, views and a discussion leading to a consensus view of the current and near term state of the Pacific's climate, upon which technical information output is produced for use of climate scientists and interested end-users. This activity is part of a well meshed body of effort which others also contribute to, such as the Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Project, run by the Bureau of Meteorology and funded by AusAID. This function is outsourced to NIWA and does not involve the transfer of personnel.

Next Steps

- iii. The next steps are to finalize a new terms of agreement with NZAID as principal donor of this activity, and SPREP as well as finalization of 2010 activities in planning with the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) who produces the monthly newsletter and assists with the facilitation of the monthly teleconference of Pacific climate scientists.
- iv. Based on the early confidence of the continued implementation of the ICU activity, an activity and budget entry has been made in the proposed 2010 Work Plan and Budget, of an estimated average amount of NZD\$100,000. This activity will fall into the area of work of meteorology support offered by the Secretariat and currently undertaken by the Pacific Islands – Global Climate Observing System (PI-GCOS) Officer position, and in future by the Meteorology Climatology Officer (MCO) position. It is nested under Output 2.1.4 of the proposed 2010 Work Plan and Budget.

c. *Climate and Meteorological Database*

Background

- i. The Climate and Meteorological Database is an activity that was begun by SOPAC and NIWA in 2006. This activity centers on the compilation and digitization of historical climate and meteorological data records held in New Zealand with some sourcing from Pacific based met services. The objective is the rescue and digitization of historical climate information to assist climate scientists and other data users in the Pacific to better access such data.

Current Situation

- ii. The activity involves the collaboration of SOPAC and NIWA to enable NIWA to review stores of data for active digitization and for entering into an electronic database hosted at NIWA. SOPAC receives updates and copies of digitized metadata while the core climate and meteorological data is stored on a NIWA database that is used to provide access to Pacific Islands met services and other end users upon request. This activity does not involve the transfer of personnel.

Next Steps

- iii. The next steps are to finalize a new terms of agreement with NZAID and NZ Ministry for the Environment (MfE) as principal donor of this activity, with SPREP as well as the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA).
- iv. Based on the early confidence of the continued implementation of the ICU activity, an activity and budget entry has been made in the proposed 2010 Work Plan and Budget, of an estimated average amount of NZD\$100,000. This activity will fall into the area of work of meteorology support offered by the Secretariat and currently undertaken by the Pacific Islands – Global Climate Observing System (PI-GCOS) Officer position, and in future by the Meteorology Climatology Officer (MCO) position.

d. *The component of the energy sector relating to monitoring and evaluation of greenhouse gases (GHG) and the clean development mechanism (CDM);*

Background

- i. Monitoring and evaluation of GHG and CDM are central to the effort on mitigation in climate change. Energy is a key sector in GHG mitigation. The Joint Council Meeting recognized the interrelationship and links between energy and climate change and the need to address energy policy in relation to climate change.

Current Situation

- ii. The Approved Work Programme and Budget of SOPAC for 2009 does not have any activities relating to the monitoring and evaluation of greenhouse gases (GHG). It does have CDM as an activity but with no budget allocation. CDM activities at SOPAC is being carried out by an officer responsible for Gender and Energy and is mostly on awareness materials. SPC does have activities relating to CDM in its Forestry sector activities.
- iii. SOPAC does have activities on energy database. The energy database is an important inputs to the GHG inventory and mitigation analysis but its main purpose is to assist with energy planning and policy formulation and review.
- iv. SPREP is currently taking the lead among CROP agencies in assisting PICTs with their Greenhouse Gas Inventories and Mitigation Analysis which is part of the preparation of their Second National Communication to the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC. The funding for this support is from the GEF-funded Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP).

- v. Most of the current regional activities on CDM are being funded by the European Union through UNEP under the “**Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries.**” The UNEP Risoe Centre (URC) is responsible for implementing the project’s *Component 2 (1) – Capacity Building for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)*. SPREP is the Pacific hub for the project in the Pacific. The Asian Development Bank is also providing capacity building support on CDM to PICs and SPREP is coordinating EU’s / UNEP’s effort with the ADB’s.

Next Steps

- i. A framework of the regional energy sector programme has been agreed to with SPC and was presented to the 39th CRGA in Tonga in October. SPREP fully supports the proposed **many agencies, one team approach** and will further discuss the co-location option with SPC and other related CROP agencies. SPREP currently has expertise and funds for renewable energy and is keen to see that any co-location of its energy-related activities become part and parcel of the core energy programme to be lead and coordinated by SPC.
 - ii. SPREP is therefore prepared to redefine its role on the energy sector and is looking forward to further discuss these with SPC and other stakeholders in this sector during the course of developing the detailed implementation plan for the regional energy sector.
 - iii. No financial resources and /or staff will be transferred from SOPAC and the implications of the transfer on the future work programme, budget and staff would be very minimal in the immediate future but would likely increase after 2011.
3. The four functions agreed to be transferred from SOPAC to SPREP if appropriately resourced and supported will complement and strengthen existing activities within the SPREP programmes

Recommendation

4. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **note** the status of the four SOPAC functions to be transferred to SPREP and the proposed next steps for each; and
 - **endorse** the absorption and planned placement of the four SOPAC functions within the Secretariat’s existing programmes.