



Twentieth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa
17 – 20 November 2009



Agenda Item 9.1.3: Capacity Building for the implementation of Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA) in the Pacific.

Purpose of Paper

1. To update the Meeting and seek support for the Pacific regional project funded by the European Union through UNEP aimed at enhancing the capacity of Pacific ACP States to implement Multilateral Environment Agreements.

Background

2. The Pacific ACP Countries that are Parties to the various MEAs and the SPREP Secretariat are benefiting from EC funding totalling USD 1.6 million. The European Commission (EC) has committed to funding a programme for capacity building related to Multilateral Environment Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States. This initiative is in alignment with a range of EC commitments to international environmental and sustainable development agendas and agreements including the priorities outlined in the EC-ACP Partnership Agreement (Cotonou, June 2000) particularly the priority to: *“promote environmental sustainability, regeneration, best practices and the preservation of natural resource base (Article 20e)*

3. UNEP was formally designated the implementing agency for the initiative and developed a concept paper, in collaboration with other implementing agencies, outlining the intent and scope of the MEA Capacity Building Programme. UNEP also consulted with regional institutions in the three ACP regions to determine the appropriate focal institution for coordination of the project. In the Pacific, consultations between UNEP, the Forum Secretariat and SPREP led to the designation of SPREP as the Pacific’s lead CROP agency for the coordination of this initiative.

4. During the second half of 2007 the Secretariat worked closely with UNEP to develop and finalize a Financing Proposal for presentation to the EC. This was accomplished towards the end of 2007 and led to the eventual signing of a Financing Agreement in December 2007 between the EC and the ACP. During February 2008 the SPREP Sustainable Development Advisor participated in a Consultative Stakeholder Meeting in Brussels organized by the EC and UNEP, to discuss the project objectives, scope and activities. The EC and UNEP have also included Timor Leste in the project.

5. The Secretariat hosted a Side-event during the 19th SM in Pohnpei to introduce the project to Members and the Ministerial meeting welcomed the project for implementation in the Pacific Region.

6. The project officially started in March 2009 following receipt of funds from the EC by UNEP. SPREP has entered into a Project Cooperation Agreement with UNEP and has undertaken an inception phase including consultations with countries and identifying priority capacity building needs. The inception phase will end in August 2009 and implementation of activities to proceed soon after.

Program scope and approach

7. The Programme will be implemented over duration of four years. A summary of the Programme and the Pacific component is attached to this Meeting Paper (Attachment 1) An important first step in the implementation of the Pacific component is the inception phase during which time the Secretariat will be in consultation with Members that are Parties to the targeted MEAs to identify priority needs and actions, appropriate delivery modalities and schedules.

8. An important aspect of the programme is its support for the Secretariat to become the Pacific Regional Hub for MEA Capacity Building. Over the past years the Secretariat has been playing a leading role amongst CROP agencies in supporting its Members with MEA negotiations, implementation and reporting. This program will enhance the capacity of the Secretariat to continue with this role over the coming years and enable its Program Staff to work closely with Members to address common and specific capacity needs.

9. While Territories are not direct Parties to the MEAs the project capacity building activities may address some of the capacity needs. SPREP focal points in the Territories have been informed of the project and invited to seek funding to participate in the range of capacity building activities to be implemented. The Secretariat will also be pursuing various avenues to secure funding support for participation by the Territories.

10. The project will help address a range of capacity needs identified by countries through their National Capacity Self Assessment Projects, other national assessments and also enable the Secretariat to respond to needs and requests from Members.

Recommendation

11. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the measures taken by the Secretariat to enable the Pacific to participate and benefit from the EC and UNEP assistance;
 - **note** the invitation to the Territory Governments to participate in the range of capacity building activities offered by the Project;
 - **note** the participation of Timor Leste in the project;
 - **note** the approach taken by the Secretariat to identify and work with national counterparts for project planning and implementation; and
 - **record** its acknowledgement and appreciation to the EC for funding the program and to UNEP as the designated UN implementing agency assisting SPREP and the Pacific with the planning and implementation of the program.
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Attachment 1

Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA) in ACP Countries

Funded by the European Commission and Implemented through UNEP

Program Summary

- Program Title:** Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA) in ACP Countries
- Program duration:** Four years
- Overall Objective:** To improve the environmental situation of the ACP countries in line with MDG Goal No.7, ensuring environmental sustainability in line with the international commitments taken at the national levels through the signature of the MEAs.
- Purpose:** To enhance capacity of ACP countries to comply with MEAs and related commitments and thereby improve their management of the environmental and natural resources therein.
- Results:**
- 1: Enhancement of regional, sub-regional and national capacity related to MEA implementation.
 - 2: Countries equipped with tools and skills for integrating UNCCD into national and sub-national programmatic frameworks.
 - 3: Strengthening capacity in participating countries to meet obligations under the MEAs in the fields of chemicals and wastes such as the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel Convention.
 - 4: Existing obsolete pesticide stocks eliminated and the opportunities for reduction of reliance on synthetic chemical pesticides explored.

Programme Components

- Component 1: Supporting regional MEA hubs
- Component 2: Supporting the implementation of specific MEAs
- UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol - particularly in relation to the Clean Development Mechanism
 - UNCCD – Mainstreaming and resource mobilization
 - Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions – particularly related to the Quick Start Program and Clean up of obsolete chemicals Programme.

Programme Budget Summary

Components and thematic areas	Implementing agency	Budget (Euros)
Component 1 – Allocation for 3 ACP regions and including UNEP coordination costs	UNEP	6.5 Million
Pacific Hub	SPREP	1.3 Million
Component 2		
UNFCCC – Clean Development Mechanism	UNEP	4.35 Million
UNCCD – Mainstreaming and Resource Mobilization	UNCCD Global Mechanism	3.25 Million
Quick Start Programme	UNEP	2.15 Million
Clean up of Obsolete Pesticides	FAO	4.9 Million
Program Evaluation	UNEP	0.2 Million
Audit	UNEP	0.1 Million
Total Programme Budget		21.45 Million

Note:

Pacific ACP States will benefit from the funding through the Pacific Hub as well as through activities implemented under the different thematic areas in Component 2.

SPREP has appointed the Capacity Development Advisor, Frank Wickham, to be Project Coordinator. frankw@sprep.org; frankjw.2006@gmail.com