



Fifteenth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Pape'ete, French Polynesia
13-16 September 2004

Information Paper

Agenda Item 13.3: Update on 5 Pacific WSSD Type II Partnership Initiatives facilitated by SPREP

Purpose of Paper

1. To provide the Meeting with an update on the status and progress of the five Pacific WSSD Type II partnership initiatives, facilitated by the Secretariat.

Background

2. 14 Type II partnerships initiatives were released by Pacific Leaders and Officials at the World Summit for Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 2002.

3. SPREP is facilitating five (5) of these Type II's and as such is providing summaries on the nature, status and progression of these partnership/initiatives in this information paper.

4. **Pacific Umbrella Type II: Waste Management:** There are a number of ongoing activities and partnerships to assist in addressing waste management and pollution concerns in the region. These include efforts in: the collection and removal of persistent organic pollutants and some hazardous waste; awareness campaigns on waste minimization; assessment and proposed control of trans-boundary marine pollution; response measures for oil spills; databases on WWII ship wrecks; the trans-shipment of hazardous materials in the region (Waigani and Basel Conventions); and the development of a Regional Waste Management Strategy, (RWMS) and Type II umbrella partnership for Waste Management in the Pacific.

5. The Pacific RWMS will in the first instance will focus on three specific priority areas: Key institutional aspects, including policy and legislation development coupled with planning, information exchange, and public education and awareness; Improvement and upgrading of existing waste disposal systems for solid, hazardous and shipping-related marine waste; development and/or enhancement of waste minimization activities such as recycling, so as to reduce the quantities of wastes being produced.

6. To support this, SPREP is developing a “Regional Waste Management Programme” to assist PICT’s implement the RWMS. This programme will be managed by SPREP in collaboration with various regional and international partners, and facilitated through the Type II umbrella partnership on waste management. Shared technical expertise, exchange of information, promotion of best practices, securing resources and organizing regional consultations and meetings, will be facilitated through this partnership.

7. **The Pacific Type II Umbrella Initiative on Mainstreaming Conservation and Traditional Knowledge:** is focussed on collaborative efforts to implement activities consistent with the regional Action Strategy for Nature Conservation, and is coordinated through the Roundtable for Nature Conservation. As such, it has had major impact on coordination and focus of conservation action in the Pacific, through its membership of donors, conservation agencies, NGO’s and inter-national organisations. Efforts are now underway to monitor progress on both the outputs of this Type II and also the outcomes in terms of impact, based on a number of indicators that are being developed. This partnership is working well as it builds on an existing regional strategy and a pre-existing co-ordinating mechanism. At a recent partnership meeting in June 2004, significant new partnerships were developed, including new commitments for mobilisation of support for implementing the strategy by the World Council of Churches (Pacific), UNESCO - World Heritage, FSPI and others.

8. **Pacific Type II Umbrella Initiative on Planning for Sustainable Community Lifestyles:** respects the notion that 80% of coastal and land degradation stems from development and human activities (UNEP GPA)¹ at the local level, and that local communities remain the best stakeholders to address degradation. It also addresses the call for holistic implementation mechanisms for policy and best practice through integrated planning systems – a key ingredient to improving enabling environments for sustainable development (JPOI; ‘Nadi High Level Meeting’, March 2002; Pacific Position, 2004). In difference to their SIDS colleagues most PICs lack resource/land use planning systems, to tie in with their environment protection systems. They also face large voids in basic data and information sets upon which to institute sound integrated planning processes for sustainable development.

9. Under the banner of this Initiative the following activities have occurred: a case study in Vanuatu exploring the role of environmental planning approaches in mainstreaming the environment; a strategic environmental planning workshop, May 2003; input to ADB’s Pacific Regional Environment Strategy (PRES); a submission to CSD 12 on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development in PICs; and a new network - Pacific Network of Planners (PNOP). New and additional partners include the UNESCAP, the International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED), the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI); the Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC); the International Association of Impact Assessments (IAIA) and UNEP, Bangkok. There have also been related and independent actions that have been brought into the fold of the Initiative: draft strategy on Urban

¹ UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of Marine Resources from Land Based Activities. (UNEP GPA), 1995

Development Management (December 2003 – UNHabitat, UNESCAP and PIFS) and the Asia-Pacific sustainable cities initiative.

10. **Pacific Type II Umbrella Initiative on Capacity Building:** Throughout the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), there have been references to the importance of capacity building. The region's aspirations for sustainable development can be achieved only if it has the adequate capacity at all levels. This often calls for clearly established capacity needs, capacity building frameworks, effective delivery mechanisms and people having increased access to capacity building opportunities, higher levels of education and targeted/ demand-led research. This umbrella initiative therefore aims to, support and/or establish:

- National capacity assessments and priorities
- National and regional capacity building frameworks.
- Inventories of training activities and resources in the region.
- Increased opportunities for Pacific islanders to have access to training and research opportunities.
- Strengthened capacity of and collaboration between regional centres of excellence
- Strengthened delivery mechanisms to support education for environmental management and sustainable development.

11. A number of partnership initiatives are being forged to support SPREP members with capacity assessments and capacity building initiatives. This includes the development of a regional support mechanism with a range of partners to provide support to countries in the implementation of their national capacity self assessments (NCSA – GEF). This support mechanism will also assist countries identify priority areas for capacity building in respect of multi-lateral environment agreements (MEAs). This umbrella Type II will also be developing initiatives to strengthen delivery mechanisms for existing education and training activities at the primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational levels and provide more opportunities for Pacific islanders to undertake research activities. SPREP and USP are jointly facilitating this partnership initiative.

12. To date partnerships have also been forged through the following programmes and projects:

- UNESCO's Education For All (EFA) commitment and follow-up activities to the Dakar World Education Forum (April 2000) through its vision of Education for Sustainable Development. This entails an integrated education approach to address inter-sectoral policies, strategies and programmes toward water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (WEHAB) development.
- Links to ICSU's "Science and Technology for Sustainable Development" initiatives, and WSSD parallel sessions.
- Direct link to START/TWAS/IFS plans for capacity building for global change science.

- Link to the joint initiative of APN and Ministry of Environment, Japan, Type 2 on 'Scientific Capacity Building for Sustainable Development in Developing Countries'

13. **Adaptation:** This Type II initiative will focus on implementing activities consistent with the Pacific islands regional framework on Climate Change, Climate Variability and Sea Level Rise. This framework is coordinated through the Climate Roundtable which brings together countries, development partners, agencies, NGO's and regional organisations. SPREP will convene the next roundtable meeting in 2005 to finalise a new framework for 2005-2009. The priority focus area will be progressing adaptation initiatives and identifying activities and targets for partners to deliver against during the lifespan of the framework.

14. Roadmaps for the development and management of the Type II partnership initiatives are available from the Secretariat or at www.pacific-sidsnet.org.

15. There is still a significant amount of work that needs to happen to further these Initiatives as platforms for improved collaboration amongst partners. Particular effort needs to focus on means for donor partners to utilize the Type II initiatives as coordination mechanisms to direct funds to the national level. In addition to this benefits at the National level must be clearly outlined to ensure PIC's are able harness these. This in part may be assisted by bilateral and multi-lateral donors, investing in the development of the partnerships as well as building awareness and establishing focal points at the national level for each initiative. Avenues for this to occur are being facilitated through the preparations for the BpoA+10 in particular the development of National Assessment Reports, and the development of National Sustainable Development Strategies by 2005 as agreed to in the JPoI.

Recommendation

16. The Meeting is invited to:

- **consider** the status of Pacific WSSD Type II partnership initiatives facilitated by SPREP;
- **note** the need for CROP, Pacific island countries and territories, development partners and donors to use the Type II partnership initiatives to consolidate collaborative efforts for environmental protection and sustainable development in the region.