



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

ICR task force discussion paper

For discussion - not for further circulation

28 September 2009

SPREP Secretariat**Priority regional activities and existing obligations**

Task: The ICR task force asked the Secretariat to ‘conduct a rigorous analysis of priority regional activities and existing obligations arising from, *inter alia*, MoUs and SPREP meeting decisions,’ and to provide ‘a commentary on proposed key essentials and associated costings.’

Notes on the attached summary**(A) Existing Secretariat obligations:**

Functions that the Secretariat is required to undertake because they are specifically stated as SPREP obligations in legal instruments (Agreements, Conventions, MoUs) or decisions during the past 5 years of SPREP Meetings. It is not an exhaustive list, since there may be less direct sources of obligations, such as the Pacific Plan, CROP and Pacific Forum arrangements. Costings are provided where the Secretariat has 90% confidence, based on the expenditure on and by staff implementing the listed activities. In some cases it has not been possible to identify specific activity costs.

SPREP Meetings have not necessarily recorded clear ‘decisions’. Therefore it is difficult to use decisions to define how Members have directed the Secretariat to prioritise its business. The summary includes activities where there was clear confirmation that the Meeting ‘decided’, ‘agreed’, ‘endorsed’ or ‘directed’ an action. However, other major Secretariat activities have merely been ‘noted’. Future SPREP Meetings could be chaired and reported in a way that clearly identifies points on which Members are asked to make a decision on Secretariat priorities.

(B) Suggested priority activities supported by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat has collated the attached information for the benefit of further analyses and debates. SPREP Members, through the ICR task force and beyond, will need to take this opportunity to highlight Members’ perspectives on priorities and provide guidance to their Secretariat. The suggestions should not be viewed in isolation, but in the context of the task force discussions to date, as recorded by the report of the first meeting held in Samoa on 10-11 September 2009.

Unfortunately, several of SPREP’s senior managers were unavailable at the time of the discussions that produced this information, and therefore the analysis does not have the benefit of their knowledge.

(A) Existing Secretariat obligations

Activity / Function	SPREP meeting decisions 2004-08	MEA/MoU & other obligations	Status	Total costs 2004-08 (USD)
1. Essential secretariat services				
Meetings: prepare budgets and papers for conferences of parties, report and monitor follow-up		SPREP Agreement		
	Implement and report on the ICR recommendations (19SM 6.1 para 118)		Current	63,033
		Noumea Convention		
		Waigani Convention		
		Apia Convention	Suspended	75,429
Promote ratification of conventions		Basel-Waigani MoU		20,854
Clearing house for environmental information		SPREP Agreement		81,795
		Basel-Waigani MoU		
	Institutionalise the PILN Coordinator function; develop capacity building activities in other areas based on the lessons (19SM 9.1.2 para 247)		Current – decision was ‘subject to available funding’; partial funded secured	604,711
Corporate services - HR, Finance, Admin, Library, Registry, IT				9,634,437

Activity / Function	SPREP meeting decisions 2004-08	MEA/MoU & other obligations	Status	Total costs 2004-08 (USD)
2. Regionally coordinated responses				
Coordinate environment-related efforts of donors * Also references in other decisions to donor facilitation, e.g. on regional responses.	Request a continued partnership between SPREP, UNDP, GEF and PICs to source more funds for more regional and national greenhouse gas mitigation activities (16SM 7.2.1 para 303)		Current – GEF-PAS coordinated work covers this and more	N/A
	Continue climate change adaptation for local communities and request other development partners (16SM 7.2.1 para 303)		Current – including GEF-PAS projects, executed by or regionally coordinated by SPREP	1,332,283
		SPREP Agreement		
Coordinate regional response to priority issues	Implement the Strategy for Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (16SM 7.2.2 para 333)		Current to 2015 Resources: Japan and other donors, national user-pays systems	912,318
	Implement the Action Plan for Managing the Environment of the Pacific Islands Region for 2005 – 2009 (15SM 5.2.1 para 25)		2010+ action plan to be prepared. 'Members, the Secretariat, donors and the international community' to work on resources	Refers to annual work plan and accounts: Total for 2004-2008 \$36,636,355
	Implement the Marine Species Programme Framework for 2008-2012 (18SM 8.1.1 para 223)		Current to 2012 'Develop and implement a Resourcing Strategy (including financial and human resources and associated capacity building required)'	425,491

Activity / Function	SPREP meeting decisions 2004-08	MEA/MoU & other obligations	Status	Total costs 2004-08 (USD)
	Implement the Strategic Programmes 2004-2013 (15SM 7.1 par 28)		Current to 2013, following mid-term review/revision 'SPREP and its donors will develop resourcing strategies'	As per action plan, not specified but integral to annual work plan and accounts
	Develop a regional initiative for the establishment and management of marine protected areas – collaborating with CROP agencies (17SM 8.1.4 para 241)		2007 regional workshop in PNG, etc	513,918
	Implement the Regional Strategy on Shipping Related Invasive Marine Pests in the Pacific Islands and 'fully support and participate in implementing' (17SM 8.2.1 para 266)		Current to 2010 'Pacific-Rim countries should be approached to fund the Strategy and implementation', as well as noting GEF possibilities.	421,610
	Implement Pacific Year of the Reef 2008 Action Plan (18SM 8.1.3 para 250)		Complete * Previous years not formal decisions: 2006 Year of the Sea Turtle: 16SM 'noted' progress; 2005 Year of Action Against Solid Waste: 15SM 'noted the availability of a strategy'	213,694
Facilitate regional initiatives under global environmental agreements	Implement the second phase of Pacific Islands Renewable Energy Programme, 'provided there were sufficient funds to carry out the activities;' and by collaborating with SOPAC (15SM 11.2.2 para 51)		Completed 2006, but 2007-2011 implementing Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) Five other country/multi-country GEF-PAS projects	633,907

Activity / Function	SPREP meeting decisions 2004-08	MEA/MoU & other obligations	Status	Total costs 2004-08 (USD)
	Work with CMS Secretariat to finalise an MoU for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific (16SM 7.1.4 para 269)		Finalised 2006: implementation current; Action Plan compatible with SPREP's Whale & Dolphin Action Plan	191,432
	Progress regional arrangements for dugongs and marine turtles including under the auspices of the CMS (16 SM 7.1.4 para 269)		Current: an MoU for turtles is a priority of the 2008-2012 Regional Marine Species Programme, as is encouraging SPREP range states to sign the 2007 CMS dugong MoU	511,984
	Implement the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006–2015 (16SM 7.2.1 para 303)		Current to 2015 Addressed through 12 GEF-PAS CC country and multi-country projects	684,832
	Complete the current phase of the Pacific Ozone Depleting Substances Project (16SM 7.2.1 para 303)		Project completion date Oct 2005	680,886
	Collaborate ... to develop a Regional Action Plan for sharks (18 SM 8.1.1 para 223)		FAO funded consultancy: final draft action plan due October 2009	
	Prepare for the review of Regional Meteorological Services Directors (19SM 9.2.5 para 273)	Pacific Island Forum Leaders Communiqué 2008	Current – review team selected; funding strategy being developed	53,670
Support Members to access technical assistance		Waigani Convention SPREP Agreement Pacific Plan		

Activity / Function	SPREP meeting decisions 2004-08	MEA/MoU & other obligations	Status	Total costs 2004-08 (USD)
	Secretariat to 'assist countries in identifying their capacity building priorities, development of appropriate indicators in environmental reporting and monitoring for standardization processes' (15SM 7.1 para 28)		Current	
	Support countries in the National Capacity Self-Assessments Pacific Regional Support Mechanism Noting 'the potential for the Secretariat to back-stop national activities particularly in relation to the development of the toolkit and benchmarking'; and to build capacity (15SM 11.1.1 para 43)		Ongoing and includes providing training for national NCSA teams and providing technical backstopping where requested	
Support Members with MEA compliance and reporting	Implement the Secretariat's approach to address greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation measures and in support of assisting Pacific Island Countries with Second National Communications (15SM 11.2.2 para 52)		Capacity Building for the Development of Adaptation Measures in Pacific island countries (CBDAMPIC) completed 2005 UNFCCC communications assistance ongoing	PIGGAREP 634,188 CIDA 1,571,848 PIREP 610,549 (GEF-PAS projects as regional financial mechanism for UNFCCC total \$45,092,000)
	Develop and implement the Island Biodiversity Programme of Works (CBD) (16SM 7.1.1 para 223)		Current through 2010; implementing as member of CBD's Global Island Partnership	219,799 (GEF-PAS funding for biodiversity total \$37,715,220)

Activity / Function	SPREP meeting decisions 2004-08	MEA/MoU & other obligations	Status	Total costs 2004-08 (USD)
	Trial option 1 for streamlined reporting by Pacific Island Countries to multilateral environmental agreements (18SM 6.2 para 162)		Current: pilot in collaboration with Australian environment department	
		MoU/contract with UNEP for SPREP to serve as the Pacific hub for MEA implementation		
Support Members with MEA negotiations and advocacy	Organise a preparatory workshop for PICs for the 12th UNFCCC CoP and its Kyoto Protocol (16SM 7.2.1 para 303)		Complete	49,449

(B) Suggested priority activities

1. Essential secretariat services

1.1 Secretariat to meetings

The Secretariat's administrative services and corporate services are indispensable to facilitate the servicing of the annual SPREP Meetings: (i) to help the organisation function well – i.e. a content neutral role of framing issues for Members to decide, preparing papers, reports and facilitating meetings; (ii) to manage corporate and institutional resources and to oversee follow-up work; and (iii) to promote cooperation in the region through facilitating communication and cooperation between Members.

Additionally, SPREP should facilitate parties' negotiations under the regional treaties for which SPREP is the designated secretariat: the SPREP Agreement, the Waigani Convention, the Apia Convention and the Noumea Convention. This involves preparing budgets and papers for conferences of parties, reporting, implementing and/or monitoring follow-up actions for meetings.

1.2 Clearing house for environmental information

The Secretariat must serve as a clearing house for environmental information for the region, identifying and responding to the region's environmental challenges and opportunities. This involves research to identify and address information needs by hosting the regional environment information network and reflecting Members' priority resources or interests in country profiles; conveying information to members on key issues such as climate change (hosting the Pacific climate change portal); and developing toolkits that share lessons learned in the region (such as in biodiversity conservation). This role is required by the SPREP Agreement and the Basel-Waigani MoU. To uphold regional standards, it will be necessary to enhance Members' capacity to monitor and improve their national environments, including through strategic environmental assessments and integrated planning.

1.3 Advice to Members

Given the expertise of its staff and its links with global organisations and regional networks, the Secretariat is the logical source for Members seeking technical or policy advice on environmental issues. Depending on the capacity of the Secretariat, this can be provided directly – through in-house experts and focal points – or indirectly, by the Secretariat referring queries to independent experts or consultants (as required under the Basel-Waigani MoU).

2. Regionally coordinated responses

2.1 Regional strategies

The Secretariat must prioritise the task of developing, for the consideration of SPREP Members and other stakeholders, regional strategies that address key environmental challenges and opportunities and that would not be better developed by an alternative regional organisation (e.g. **climate change adaptation and mitigation, conservation of biodiversity, capacity building in environmental governance, environmental communication**). The Secretariat then needs to monitor and report on the implementation of the strategies.

2.2 Capacity building to meet obligations

The Secretariat has a responsibility to use its comparative advantage, gained by its links with secretariats of global environmental treaties and its expertise in environmental and related law, to support Members to meet their reporting and compliance obligations under such arrangements (e.g. climate change – UNFCCC – and biodiversity conservation – CMS, Ramsar, CBD).

2.3 Resource mobilisation

SPREP Members need to be able to depend on the Secretariat to obtain, and support Members to obtain, funds from donors and global organisations (e.g. the GEF) to supplement funding for priority environmental initiatives that SPREP has been mandated to deliver but which cannot be fully met by Members. This involves SPREP promoting key environmental partnership initiatives that bring together key partners to work collaboratively on those initiatives.

2.4 Mainstreaming environmental considerations

The Secretariat must ensure that improvements in regional environmental and natural resource management are enhanced and sustainable. Using its expertise, the Secretariat serves SPREP Members by facilitating the mainstreaming of the environment into national and regional policies and plans and development program initiatives. This involves capacity building on mainstreaming environmental considerations into national development planning and strengthening stakeholder NSDS-based decision-making linked to sector plans and budgetary processes.

2.5 Coordinating regional positions in MEAs

To complement its role in building the capacity of Members to meet their obligations under MEAs, it is logical that the Secretariat should draw on its links with secretariats of global environmental treaties to analyse the agendas of the MEAs on which SPREP takes a lead in the region, and alert Members to issues of regional significance. In cases such as preparations for the UNFCCC, the Secretariat's input will be invaluable to assist regional groupings determine their priorities and, as required, develop shared positions. Beyond the role of disseminating information and training/capacity building in environmental education and advocacy, there can also be a call for the Secretariat itself to undertake 'social marketing'/environmental advocacy directly, concerning the region's links to global issues.