



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Twentieth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa
17 – 20 November 2009



Agenda Item 6.3: SPREP Action Plan 2005-2009 Review

Purpose

1. To propose a process for reviewing the 2005-2009 SPREP Action Plan and developing a new Action Plan for 2010-2015.

Background

2. The SPREP Action Plan for 2005-2009 represents the regional agenda for managing the environment of the Pacific islands region. It embodies the vision of SPREP Members for the long-term management of their shared environment to achieve sustainable development. It is the main planning document outlining the broad areas of focus and priorities of the region, and therefore it is at the core of the Secretariat's planning framework, guiding the design of SPREP's Strategic Programmes and annual Work Programmes and Budget.

3. SPREP Members have acknowledged the central role of the Action Plan in setting and guiding the work of the SPREP Members and the Secretariat. The current Action Plan was endorsed and approved by Members at the 15th SPREP Meeting in French Polynesia in September 2004. It called for a new SPREP Action Plan following the five-year review of the current plan.

4. Due to the significant implications that the Regional Institutional Framework (RIF) review process posed for SPREP in terms of its programme delivery and focus, organisational structure and budgetary issues, the Secretariat put on hold the review of the current Action Plan until the outcomes of the RIF review were known. It was the intention of the Secretariat that if the July 2009 joint governing council meeting on the RIF decided to transfer the majority of the SOPAC functions to SPREP, then a new Strategic Plan would be developed and presented to the 2010 SPREP meeting with the effect of replacing the current Action Plan.

5. The outcomes of the RIF review process relating to SPREP are now known to be likely to have a minimal impact on SPREP's functions and resources. The Secretariat's view is that this clearly necessitates a review of the current Action Plan and development of a new Action Plan for the coming five years.

6. The Action Plan review needs to take cognizance of other relevant processes such as the ICR exercise on the defining the core functions of SPREP, but the review of the Action Plan need not wait until the completion of that exercise. This was the view of some Members of the ICR Task Force. Furthermore the ICR exercise on defining the core functions of SPREP is likely to continue into 2010, and may both contribute to and draw ideas from the process of reviewing and replacing the current Action Plan.

7. In the meantime the Secretariat proposes that it continue to use the current Action Plan until the new Action Plan is developed and endorsed by Members.

8. Furthermore, the Secretariat proposes the following process for the review of the current Action Plan and the development of a new SPREP Action Plan for 2010-2015.

- i. The Secretariat to begin the process by (a) drafting for Members' consideration a summary of the extent to which the 2004-2009 Action Plan has been implemented, and the extent to which the outcomes of the 2004-2009 Action Plan have been achieved; and (b) preparing and submitting a questionnaire for Members to consider and complete as part of the initial information gathering exercise. The questionnaire can be developed by the Secretariat and submitted to Members by December 2009.
- ii. Members to conduct national and community consultations on the questionnaire and report back results – conveying Members' views on the extent to which the current Action Plan has met their needs and suggestions for components to be added, deleted, expanded or contracted in the new Action Plan – to the Secretariat by April 2010.
- iii. Consultations between senior management of the Secretariat and a broad cross section of Members from January 2010 through country visits. To minimise the budget requirements for in-country consultations, the Director's travel costs will be funded from his separate travel budget.
- iv. Conducting a regional workshop to which representatives from all SPREP members are invited to examine and validate the findings of the review, and to use these findings to begin drafting a new Action Plan (June 2010)
- v. Action Plan submitted to the 2010 SPREP annual meeting for endorsement (September 2010)

9. There is a budgetary allocation of USD40,000 for 2010 to commence this exercise, but this will only be sufficient to carry out a small number of the steps required to ensure that the new Action Plan builds on the lessons learned from the implementation of the current plan, and responds adequately to Members' priorities. The Secretariat proposes to use this sum to engage an expert to assist in planning and facilitating this process, and enable the expert to participate in some country visits.

10. The following estimated budget for the remaining steps required to review the current Action Plan and produce a new one includes the costs of several country visits and all the steps required to finalise a new Action Plan, as per elements (iii) and (iv) above, and interpretation and translation services:

Budget Estimates for Action Plan Review and Drafting	\$ USD
In-country consultations	80 000
Regional workshop/meeting	100 000
Translation and interpretation	35 000
Report production	5 000
Total Funds required	220 000

Recommendations

11. The Meeting is invited to:
- **endorse** the proposed process for the review of the current Action Plan and the development of a new Action Plan for 2010-2015;
 - **consider** the budgetary implications and **agree on a way forward** to fund the review and development of the new Action Plan; and
 - review and **approve** in-principle the draft terms of reference (WP.6.3/Att.1) for the review.