



Twentieth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa
17 – 20 November 2009



Agenda Item 9.2.1: Solid Waste in the Pacific

Purpose of Paper:

1. To present to the Meeting a paper on an Outcomes-based proposal for SPREP Members with respect to the Solid Waste Management work and seek the members' endorsement on it.

Background:

2. In 2009, the Independent Corporate Review (ICR) of SPREP made a number of recommendations that SPREP had to implement to improve the services that the Secretariat provides to the members and the way in which these services are provided. Recommendation 79 called for *the Secretariat to explore further options for strengthening the engagement between the Secretariat and Members* while Recommendation 80 *encouraged ongoing interaction between Secretariat staff and representatives of all Members so that the draft strategic plan and work programme adopted at SPREP Meetings are based on a clear understanding of Members' needs and priority areas for assistance, as well as on the capacity of the address them.*

3. Over the last few years, the solid waste management work area has progressed from establishing sound regional and national strategies and useful technical resources to being one of on-ground project implementation. In addition to this, there are new emerging funding opportunities in the form of traditional bilateral aid, the French Overseas Agency and the GEF-PAS, for project-based improvements; meanwhile, SPREP Members have also been encouraged to develop efficient and sustainable methods of funding day-to-day operations of the waste management system.

4. These emerging opportunities will strain Members capacity to apply for, and operationalise the funding. To address this problem, SPREP envisages utilizing project delivery as an opportunity for "action learning" capacity development in widely applicable skills such as project management and community engagement on the ground.

5. To better focus SPREP and Members on project delivery, the following proposal is presented:

Proposal for Delivery Phase of Solid Waste Work

- a. Re-focus waste delivery onto a country-specific project basis while maintaining regional information dissemination, particularly on the best practice countries and projects to alert decision-makers to improvements in waste management.
- b. Senior SPREP management negotiate a year long work program with milestones at Ministerial level and gain significant public profile for the agreement to improve waste management.
- c. Trial a new approach of SPREP staff spending a much longer period in country to try to build momentum and also help with the difficult initial project implementation phase. Regular return visits with capacity building sessions would be scheduled as the project proceeds.
- d. Initial projects would be chosen for their likelihood of success and public profile as well as their impact on the waste system in order to build momentum and political / public support. Projects would be those identified by Members as among their highest priority.
- e. All projects to have a strong community engagement strategy and capacity building to build and maintain support.
- f. Assist Members to seek sponsorship (if necessary) for each project.
- g. Use project delivery to enhance capacity for generic skills like project management, not just technical skills. In this way, capacity building would be “action learning” based on the project and would have a very strong project management and communications component. This would make the process more useful and attractive for those more peripheral to the core of the waste project.

Recommendation

6. The Meeting is invited to:
- **review** and **endorse** the proposal;
 - **commit** itself and all members to fully support and participate in implementing the activities contained in the proposal.
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