

**SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region and Related Protocols (Noumea Convention)

Madang, Papua New Guinea
2 September 2010

Agenda Item 8: Consideration and Adoption of the Core Budget and Discussion of Operational Budget**Purpose**

1. To present the core budget for consideration and adoption by the Meeting.

Background

2. The core budget for the 2011-2012 biennium is attached as WP.8.1. It was prepared in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Convention. The budget is funded by contributions by the Parties. These funds have traditionally been used for the limited purposes of providing for the next Meeting of the Parties and for the Secretariat providing technical advice.
3. The status of Parties' contributions to the Convention as at December 2009 is attached as WP.8.2.
4. In addition to Parties' contributions there are now two sources of funds available which can be used for additional activities.
5. Paragraph 45 of the Joint Eighth Conferences of the Parties to the Apia and Noumea Conventions 2006, stipulated that the existing funds of the Apia Convention Account be directed to the Noumea Convention programme of work and budget. For ease of accounting the funds have remained in the Apia Convention account, 2501.
6. As previously noted the United States made a voluntary contribution to the Noumea account at the end of 2008. The US contributed a similar amount (US 60,000) in 2009. The total amount available is US \$61,274.00.
7. The use of either or both funds is open to the Meeting to discuss and decide upon.
8. A suggested activity would be a follow-up study in Papua New Guinea for the proper disposal and management of tailings in the marine environment and the bolstering of EIA systems to deal with tailings and other mine-related problems. The study could also consider impacts from existing and planned mines in Fiji, or the Solomon Islands that have the potential to impact directly or indirectly on coastal and immediately off-shore marine environments. Another activity could be a study on seabed mining in the Cook Islands. The results of any such work would be useful for non-Parties such as New Caledonia and Vanuatu.

9. Whatever activities are decided on, an allocation of funds (the “operational budget”) should also be made.

Recommendations

10. The Parties are invited:

- to **consider** and **approve** the core budget and contributions for the biennium 2011 – 2012.
 - to **commit** to urgently clearing outstanding contributions.
 - to **decide** on an activity or activities to be undertaken by the Secretariat in the next biennium and to **approve** a corresponding operational budget.
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30 July 2010