Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

TWENTY-FIRST SPREP MEETING

Madang, Papua New Guinea
6 – 10 September 2010

Agenda Item 6.1: SPREP Strategic Plan 2011-2015

Purposes

1. To outline the consultative process used to incorporate Members' priorities in the development of the Strategic Plan, and to seek the endorsement of the 2011-2015 SPREP Strategic Plan Agreement.

Background

2. Article 2 of the SPREP Agreement requires the SPREP Meeting to adopt from time to time an Action Plan to achieve SPREP's purposes. The 20th SPREP Meeting encouraged the Secretariat to 'explore the possibilities of streamlining SPREP's strategic planning processes … into a new Strategic Plan that will be the action plan for the purposes of the SPREP Agreement.' The Meeting endorsed a consultative process to review the 2005-2009 Action Plan and prepare a new plan to come into effect in 2011.

3. The agreed consultative process required the Secretariat to undertake a Members' questionnaire, and Members to conduct national and community consultations and report back results. Additional financial support from Australia enabled the Secretariat to expand this, by contracting a consultant and holding two consultative workshops, at no cost to island country and territory participants. In summary, the consultation comprised:

i. *Questionnaires – March to May 2010*. Responses relating to progress under the previous Action Plan and future country and regional priorities were received from 18 Members: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States and Vanuatu. It also analysed the results of questionnaires completed by 26 SPREP professional staff and 15 partner organisations (ADB, Birdlife International, Conservation International, CMS, EU, FAO, FFA, GTZ, Global Invasive Species Programme, IUCN Oceania, JICA, Micronesia Challenge, Pacific Invasives Initiative, UNEP and the USP).

ii. *Member consultations – May 2010*. The consultants and senior Secretariat staff facilitated workshops in Guam and Fiji to review the findings of the questionnaires and develop consensus on regional strategic priorities and targets for the coming five years. The Guam workshop involved delegates from Guam, Marshall Islands, Palau and the Micronesia Challenge. The Fiji workshop involved delegates from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States and Vanuatu.

iii. *Comment period – July to August 2010*. The Secretariat circulated a draft Strategic Plan 2011-2015, based on the priorities developed during the regional workshops, to Members for further comment, and took the opportunity of meetings with partner organisations to canvass their views (including other CROP agencies). These views were taken into consideration during the preparation of the final plan.

(i) Single plan

4. Member questionnaires and consultations confirmed strong support for streamlining SPREP's planning framework (see the figure below from the questionnaire analysis). Therefore, the Strategic Plan 2011-2015 has been developed as a single plan – replacing the previous 5-year Action Plan and 10-year Strategic Programmes documents.

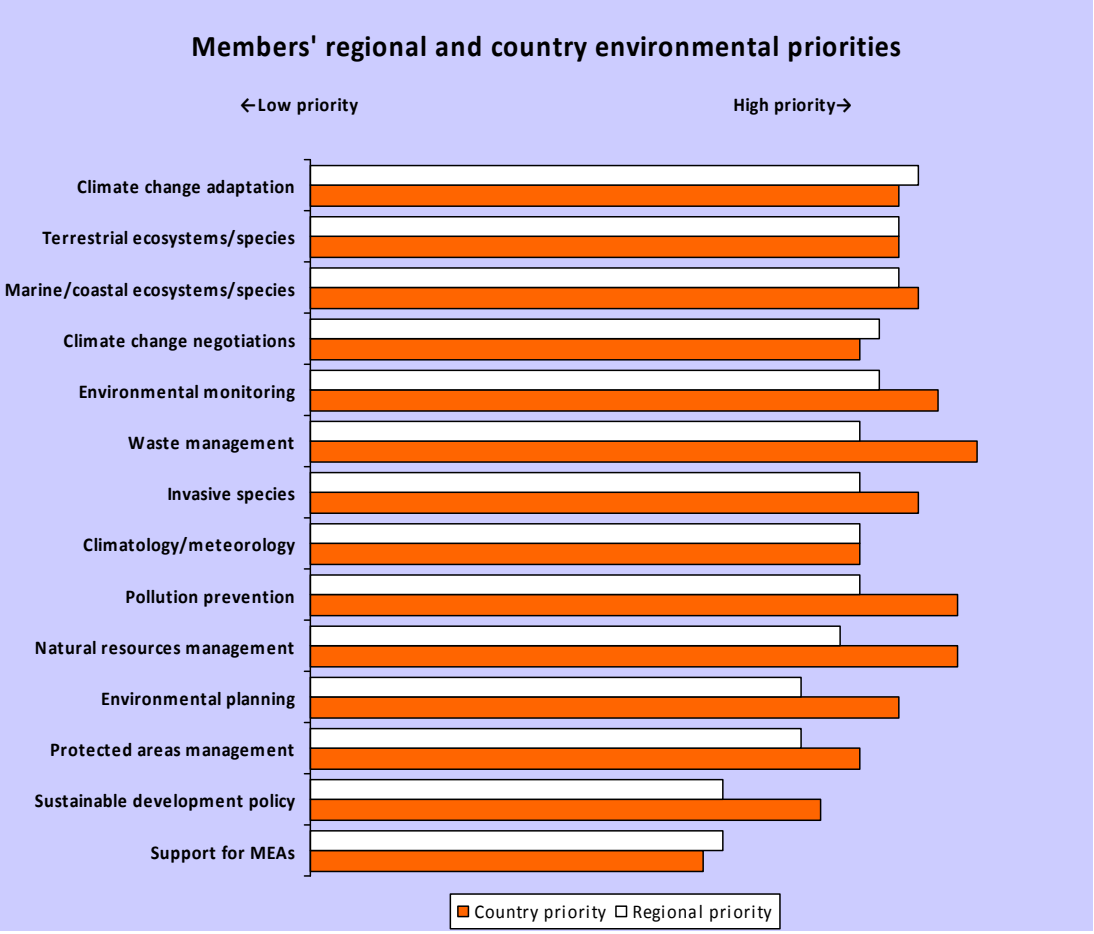
5. The single plan aligns the regional environmental priorities and the Secretariat's response. The framework draws on both generic best practice for strategic plans, and elements of the previous action plan and strategic programmes, by covering the regional context, SPREP's vision, specific strategic priorities, implementation and monitoring. The plan has also been prepared in the context of Members' call for environmental priorities to be addressed through both regional coordination and national delivery.

(ii) Four priority strategies

6. In light of the 20th SPREP Meeting's definition of SPREP's core business as 'the *minimum set of capabilities SPREP* ***must*** *provide to Members on a regional basis, in accordance with its mandate as the regional environment organisation, which SPREP is best placed to deliver, and which should be funded through members' assessed and voluntary contributions*', clear consensus developed around the following core regional environmental challenges and opportunities over the coming five years. These are shown in the plan as:

- Climate change;
- Ecosystem and species conservation and management;
- Waste management and pollution control; and
- Environmental monitoring and governance.

These priorities are consistent with the detailed feedback Members gave on their priorities for country delivery and regional coordination:

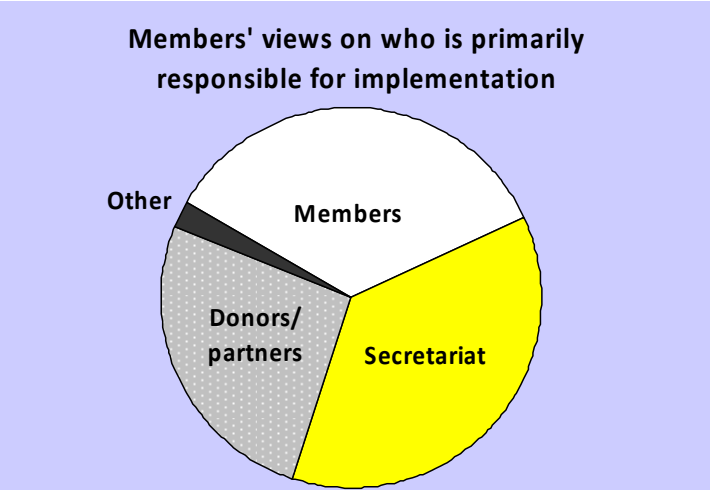


(iii) Targets and monitoring

7. Widespread concern emerged during the consultations that neither Members nor the Secretariat had adequately monitored progress towards the goals of the previous plan, and indeed that environmental monitoring was lacking in the region. Therefore, the Strategic Plan places strong emphasis on this are, and includes specific measurable targets, identifies Member and Secretariat responsibilities to monitor achievements, and makes environmental monitoring and governance one of the strategic priorities.

(iv) Shared responsibility for delivery

8. The questionnaires and consultations confirmed that Member governments view implementation of the Strategic Plan as a shared responsibility. This also reflects the Independent Corporate Review finding that Members must take, and the Secretariat enable, country ownership of the organisation's strategy and core business. Therefore, although the Strategic Plan is primarily a blueprint for how the Secretariat will serve the needs of Member countries and territories, it is also a blueprint for collaboration between the Secretariat and Members on actions and monitoring roles, and is prepared in a way that enables partner organisations and donors to identify their opportunities to contribute.



Recommendations

8. The Meeting is invited to:

- **endorse** the SPREP Strategic Plan 2011-2015.

Attachments:

1: *SPREP Strategic Plan 2011-2015 (to be available shortly before the Meeting)*