



## Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

### TWENTY-FIRST SPREP MEETING

Madang, Papua New Guinea  
6 – 10 September 2010

#### Agenda Item 6.2: ICR and EC Assessment Follow up

##### Purpose

1. To outline steps taken to progress key recommendations of the Independent Corporate Review (ICR) and the implementation plan of the European Commission's Institutional Assessment of SPREP.

##### Background

2. The Director's approach to change management continues to be guided by key principles: (a) to improve the delivery of tangible services to Members; (b) to improve internal processes, in particular in response to recommendations of recent reviews; (c) to strengthen SPREP's partnerships, including with other regional organisations; and (d) to improve the link between policy and action, such as field demonstration projects.

3. These principles have also guided the Secretariat response to the ICR and the EC Institutional Assessment.

##### *ICR implementation*

4. In 2008 the 19<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting adopted, with some amendments, the recommendations of the ICR report, and directed the Secretariat to report annually on progress towards implementation. The Secretariat provided an implementation progress report to the SPREP Special Meeting of July 2009, which established a task force to address the recommendations relating to core business and SPREP's governance arrangements. Members received updated progress reports in November 2009 at the 20<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting and in May 2010 by circular, highlighting reforms ranging from the functioning and transparency of the executive team and the designation of staff as thematic focal points, to the finalisation of a new performance and development system. A fifth progress report is provided as Attachment 1.

5. In 2009 the 20<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting defined core business – 'subject to further discussion and confirmation at the 21<sup>st</sup> SPREP Meeting' – 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.*' It also requested the task force to "*develop further proposals for improving engagement with Members.*" In late 2009 the Secretariat invited Members to discuss these matters further through the on-line discussion group established for the purpose, but no substantial discussion ensued.



6. The May 2010 sub-regional consultations on the Strategic Plan 2011-2015 in Guam and Fiji conducted detailed analyses of country and regional priorities, and developed the core SPREP priorities included in the Strategic Plan (climate change, ecosystem and species conservation and management, waste management and pollution prevention, and environmental monitoring and governance). Both workshops also discussed the possibility of improving engagement with Members through various means, including establishing sub-regional offices for the Secretariat. The Secretariat will consult further with SPREP members on these matters.

#### *EC assessment implementation*

7. In October 2009, the European Commission finalised its compliance analysis of SPREP's accounting, audit, control and procurement systems. The EC report identified key reforms necessary to ensure that SPREP's internal procedures meet international best practice. The 20th SPREP Meeting directed the Secretariat to provide a progress report on these recommendations, which the Secretariat provided by circular in May 2010. This report is also attached. The report indicated the ways in which the Secretariat had reformed key financial procedures, adopted a rigorous procurement manual, updated several policies on human resources, and is developing a risk management framework.

8. The Secretariat has had further discussions with the EC, and understands that a reassessment will be possible in 2011.

#### **Conclusion**

9. The Secretariat continues to make good progress on addressing key needs for reform identified in the recommendations of the ICR and the EC assessment, and is building on these to become a more efficient and effective organisation in serving the needs of its Member countries and territories.