

SOPAC 2008 RIF Decision

[AS37 Item 10.1]

Recommendations

Council commended the work of its Committee during the year, to provide a positive and timely response to the challenge outlined in the 2007 Forum Communiqué;

SOPAC Council :

- 1) took into account the 2007 and 2008 Forum Communiqués relating to the RIF Review.
- 2) took into account the 2008 SPREP Council and Pacific Community CRGA decisions on the RIF.
- 3) recognised the need to ensure a cautious approach is adopted when considering the legal, financial, administrative, and programmatic implications for rationalising SOPAC functions into SPREP and SPC.
- 4) requested the Director of SOPAC to engage collaboratively with the CEOs of SPREP and SPC immediately following the 2008 SOPAC Council Meeting to determine and jointly identify proposed institutional arrangements based on an analysis of:
 - (a) transparency and timeliness with respect to the process, and effective involvement of stakeholders.
 - (b) cost effectiveness.
 - (c) analysis of the core function of each SOPAC programme to assess whether it is primarily (a) an environmental programme or (b) an economic development programme.
 - (d) synergies and linkages between programmes.
 - (e) optimizing delivery and sustainable continuation of regional services.
 - (f) strengthening organizational capacities.
 - (g) maintaining the integrity of the applied science and technical services.
 - (h) a mechanism that will enable the benefits of STAR to be continued.
- 5) requested the Director of SOPAC to work with the other CEOs to provide joint, formal quarterly updates on progress and to seek and share the views of, and give due consideration to all members of SPREP, SPC and SOPAC.
- 6) encouraged the Director of SOPAC to provide regular briefings to members with Suva-based representation, as well as regular email updates to all members.
- 7) requested the Director of SOPAC in collaboration with the CEOs of SPREP and SPC, jointly commission an independent analysis of the legal, financial, administrative and programmatic implications of their proposed institutional arrangements, avoiding duplication of work already undertaken.
- 8) requested the Director of SOPAC to work with the other CEOs to ensure that the proposed institutional arrangements and analysis of implications are circulated to all member focal points of SPREP, SPC and SOPAC with an invitation for a representative from each Member country to attend a meeting of all countries and territories for consideration by May 2009.

- 9) requested, subject to the guidance of the above-referenced meeting, the Director of SOPAC to work collaboratively with the CEOs of SPREP and SPC to finalise and jointly recommend new institutional arrangements and implementation plans, to be provided to Members by July 2009, for consideration and decision by their respective Governing Bodies in 2009.
- 10) agreed that it will meet to consider the institutional arrangements and implementation plan recommended by the three CEOs before the next Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting in 2009.
- 11) Agreed that an independent external consultancy may be commissioned and if necessary, to assist the three CEOs to achieve the objective of paragraph 4 acknowledging that additional resources would be sought.
- 12) noted the instruction by the SPREP meeting to the Director of SPREP in his deliberations on the new institutional arrangements to take account of the ICR recommendations and implementation.
- 13) to immediately respond by writing to the Forum Chair, Chairs of SPC and SPREP governing bodies, Chair of STAR, donor partners and key stakeholders advising of the outcomes of its consideration of the issue at the 2008 Council Meeting.