



GOVERNING COUNCIL 38th SESSION

Port Vila, Vanuatu
21-29 October 2009

AGENDA ITEM	TITLE
10	REGIONAL INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK
10.3	Implementation
10.3.4	Specified core SOPAC Work Programme functions to SPREP

Purpose of Paper

To present to Council the proposed, necessary actions to transfer those specified functions of the Core SOPAC Work Programme, identified under the decision of the joint SOPAC, SPC and SPREP governing bodies on the regional institutional framework, to be transferred to SPREP.

Background

Part b) and part c) of the decision of the Joint Councils of SOPAC, SPC, and SPREP have implications for SPREP. These are covered under AS38/10.3.2 which include details for the rationalisation of SOPAC's Energy Programme and this paper which outlines the rationalisation of the remaining functions that have been identified for transfer to SPREP.

SOPAC Functions to SPREP - The following elements of part c) of the decision as articulated below are relevant to the transfer of those core SOPAC work programme functions that have been identified for transfer into SPREP:

c) *With respect to the balance of the SOPAC core work programme, the joint meeting of the governing bodies:*

- (i) Welcomed the commitment by members to strengthen SPREP as the region's lead environmental agency, including through support for the implementation of the approved decisions relating to the independent corporate review of SPREP;
- (ii) Agreed that the following specific SOPAC functions be transferred to SPREP *from January 2010*: the *Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System*, the *Islands Climate Update*, the *Climate and Meteorological Database*, and the component of the energy sector relating to monitoring and evaluation of greenhouse gases and the clean development mechanism (CDM);

Rationalisation of Specified Functions for Implementation from January 2010

Part (c) of the decision of the joint SOPAC, SPC and SPREP governing bodies on the regional institutional framework makes specific reference to those functions to be transferred to SPREP. These include the:

- (1) Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System
- (2) Islands Climate Update
- (3) Climate and Meteorological Database
- (4) (Component of the energy sector relating to) Monitoring and evaluation of greenhouse gases and the clean development mechanism (CDM)

Subject to legal requirements, the transfer of the functional areas should be reasonably straightforward from a financial and administrative perspective.

(1) Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System - Financial and contractual matters are only specific to the transfer of functions associated with the Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System (PI-GOOS). These are being discussed with development/donor partners that support PI-GOOS and a meeting between SOPAC, SPREP and donor partners that support this important regional initiative is planned for the margins of the SPREP Council meeting to convene in Apia in November 2009. These discussions will likely range to include recruitment of a PI-GOOS coordinator (held awaiting RIF outcomes). Following satisfactory discussions between the parties and necessary documentation, PI-GOOS funds and assets will be ready for transfer to SPREP.

All data, documentation and residual funds related to the PI-GOOS will be transferred to SPREP.

(2) Islands Climate Update (ICU) - The design and development of the next phase of the *Island Climate Update* initiative or a much improved derivative, has commenced. The ICU has been funded by New Zealand and therefore discussions for the next phase should include New Zealand as well as other interested donor partners for which climate change is a high priority.

This opportunity provides SPREP an open canvas to create an initiative that will improve delivery of services of current, critical climate and meteorology information to members.

All data and documentation related to the ICU will be transferred to SPREP.

(3) Climate and Meteorological Database (CMD) - SPREP will be able to strengthen the islands climate update function along with the continued maintenance and strengthening of the climate and meteorological database (that will also be transferred to SPREP).

These functions are mutually reinforcing, with the opportunity for both of these functions to be built into SPREP's broader Climate Change Programme.

All data and documentation related to the CMD will be transferred to SPREP.

Energy Functions related to CC - In so far as the component of the energy sector relating to monitoring and evaluation of greenhouse gases and the clean development mechanism (CDM) SOPAC's current energy programme does not have financial resources allocated against these. The work programme and administrative requirement will be to ensure that any data and information relating to these mentioned functional areas are transferred to SPREP.

These functions will undoubtedly be the subject of more detailed discussions during the establishment of a single regional energy programme and the establishment and strengthening of the "Energy Alliance".

General comment for all functions to be transferred - These functions will need to be integrated into SPREP as part and parcel of their overall positive response to the SPREP Independent Corporate Review, which seeks to strengthen SPREP as the premier regional organisation for environmental services.

Recommendation

For those SOPAC functions to be transferred to SPREP, Council is requested to:

- Acknowledge that transfer could be reasonably straightforward from a financial and administrative perspective and tasks the Secretariat to work closely with SPREP to ensure that the functions identified are prepared for transfer from January 2010 as expeditiously as possible.
- Consider passing a resolution providing for the drafting of a legal agreement between SOPAC and SPREP governing these functions.