Pacific Environment Forum 2015

Provisional agenda

21 September 2015

Apia, Samoa

SPREP's Role as a Regional Implementing Entity for climate change finance

1. Background

The Pacific Environment Forum (PEF) is an initiative by the Secretariat to facilitate discussion amongst officials and other stakeholders in a less formal setting on key issues relevant to the work of SPREP and its Members. The PEF precedes the SPREP Meeting (SM) allowing for the outcomes to be tabled at the SM for its information. PEF was held for the first time in 2011.

This 2015 PEF focuses on the issue of climate change finance and opportunities and challenges, particularly on how members and SPREP could work together to improve access to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Adaptation Fund (AF) and other funds. This will also be relevant to strategising for COP 21 in Paris on climate change finance issues.

Climate change is a key focal area in the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan, and specifically on climate finance, the Secretariat is tasked to support members in increasing their access to climate change finance. In turn, measurement of the Secretariat's performance is also linked to effective partnership for increased climate change financing for the implementation of national priorities.

The Strategic Plan commits SPREP :

- By 2015, there is a significant increase in resources for adaptation: more funding disbursed and projects implemented
- Measured by the percentage increase in annual funding for adaptation over 2010 level and the percentage increase in annual number of adaptation projects implemented above the 2010 level

As a Regional Implementing Entity (RIE) for the AF and GCF, SPREP has sought to improve the region's access to climate change financing for adaptation and mitigation, and also support activities that underpin those efforts such as science, capacity building and technology transfer. SPREP is committed to undertake this role as a means to support of country-driven priorities, and to assist countries access and manage the AF and GCF resources for practical on the ground climate change actions. SPREP is also seeking to assist countries achieve National Implementing Entity (NIE) status, and has produced a lessons learned guide on accreditation, as well as guide for AF project preparation.

With the accreditation as an RIE there are numerous issues that must be addressed, and these include fostering an understanding in the region as to what types and characteristics that projects need to have in order to be successful. PEF this year will also build on the GCF regional workshop that was held in Nadi in July 2015, in order to bring relevant information to a wider audience. Refer to Annex 1 for further background.

2. 2015 PEF Theme and Objectives

The theme of the 2015 Pacific Environment Forum is SPREP as an RIE for the GCF and AF.

The meeting objectives are to:

1. Provide an update on the GCF and the AF, the status of the funds, and recent updates in relation to its programming and processes, for participants to be aware of the challenges and opportunities.
2. Explain clearly the process for accessing funds and submission of applications through SPREP as a RIE to the GCF and AF, including for readiness proposals.
3. Identify opportunities for (1) accessing finance from other dedicated climate change funds and (2) facilitating maximum local and global impact.

Structure of the PEF

The day will start off with an introduction and background session and followed by a panel discussion on key issues for the GCF and AF.

In the afternoon there will be a session on opportunities for (1) accessing finance from other dedicated climate change funds and (2) facilitating maximum local and global impact, based on a draft working paper commissioned by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Time	*Activity*	*Lead/Facilitator*	*Output*
8:00 – 8:30	Registration		
8:30 – 8:45	Welcome	Mr. David Sheppard (SPREP)	Highlight objectives of PEF and introduce chairs
Session 1: Introduction and background to the GCF (Chair - Samoa)			
8:45 – 10.30	**Speakers**: GCF and AF Secretariat (to be confirmed) Introduction and background to the GCF and AF(15min) Q&A Update on status of the fund, and recent updates in relation to its programming and processes (15 min) Q&A The process SPREP would use to submit applications through SPREP as a RIE to the GCF and support (15min) Q&A General discussion	[TBC] Mr. Espen Ronneberg (SPREP) Mr. Simon Wilson (SPREP) Mr. Simon Wilson (SPREP) Facilitator, Dr. Netatua Pelesikoti	Role of SPREP establishing a framework for support to eligible PICs to access the GCF and AF Share new information Process perspectives. How to access support
10:30 – 11:00	Morning Tea		
Session 2: Panel discussion on key issues on the GCF and AF			
11.00-12.30	**Speakers**: (10 minutes) Samoa - Samoa country climate finance coordination Q&A FSM – experience with Adaptation Fund as a lesson for GCF Q&A	Speakers TBC	

	Cook Islands – lessons learned from seeking NIE status Q&A UNDP on climate finance studies Q&A GIZ on readiness programme Q&A General discussion	Facilitator, Mr. Espen Ronneberg	
12:30-2:00	Lunch		
2:00-3:30	Opportunities for (1) accessing finance from other dedicated climate change funds and (2) facilitating maximum local and global impact EU on climate change finance USAID on climate change finance	Dr. Steven Newman – Consultant (ComSec) EU representative USAID representative	
	Afternoon tea is available while plenary continues		
3:30 – 4:30	RTSM Pipeline development Discussion in plenary on lessons learned. Actions and next steps going forward General discussions (country or groups)	Ms. Satui Bentin Dr. Netatua Pelesikoti Facilitator, Ms. Diane McFadzien	Leads to PEF Report: Outcomes Statement of key points
4:30-4:45	Wrap up and Close: PEF Outcomes and Statement		PEF Report: Outcomes Statement of key points to be presented to the SPREP Meeting under Agenda Item 6.2.

List of SPREP Facilitators

1. Dr. Netatua Pelesikoti
2. Dr. Steven Newman
3. Mr. Simon Wilson
4. Mr. Espen Ronneberg
5. Ms. Diane McFadzien

Annex 1: Background

SPREP's Role as an RIE for the GCF and AF

What does this mean - SPREP is accredited to the GCF to deliver 'Category C' (low-risk) projects of up to $50 million through a project management modality. This means working with eligible SPREP Member countries to develop project proposals that when approved by the GCF Board, would be delivered in a collaborative manner, to support mitigation and adaptation – or in GCF terms - low-carbon and resilient development. Under the AF SPREP can access funds of up to US $10 million for individual country projects.

SPREP delivery modality - Two main delivery modalities are available for projects under the GCF - one where SPREP would lead delivery / management of project activities (Figure 1) and one where the SPREP Member would lead delivery/management of project activities (Figure 2). In both instances SPREP maintains responsibility for the relationship with the GCF, and ensuring GCF (reporting etc) requirements are met. For the AF, SPREP can only act as illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 1

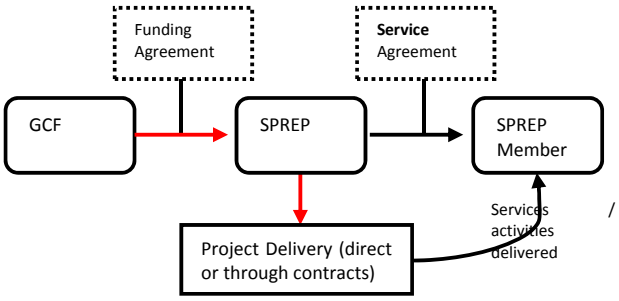
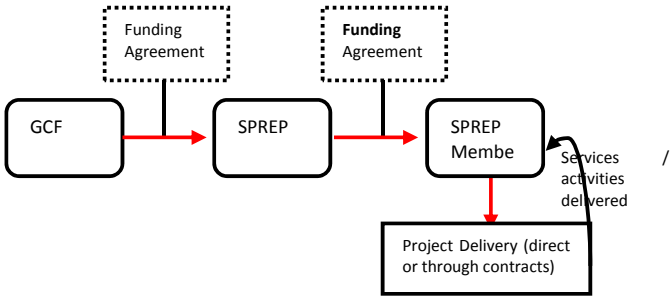


Figure 2



Note: red arrows depict the flow of funds

Project Pipeline

At the 9th GCF Board Meeting held in Korea in March, the GCF Board encouraged accredited entities to work with its constituents to develop project proposals for approval at the 11th board meeting, to be held in November 2015. This required full project proposals to be submitted to the GCF Secretariat by early August. SPREP will provide an update on projects that were submitted.

Based on input from SPREP Members, SPREP will work to establish a project pipeline of potential future national, multi-country or regional GCF projects for further development and commencement over the next 2-5 years, for submission to subsequent GCF Board meetings. SPREP will also investigate opportunities under the GCF's Enhanced Direct Access Pilot Programme.

SPREP has also invited other CROP agencies to work with SPREP on potential GCF opportunities that they see. SPREP, in consultation with our Members, will in turn look for opportunities for

collaboration and coordination opportunities with our partner CROP agencies and other delivery partners.

Readiness

To assist national entities to engage with the GCF, the GCF has established GCF Readiness programme. The GCF Readiness programme aims to support countries to develop their capacity to engage with the GCF, and benefit from its resources. Readiness support can be accessed directly, or indirectly (through SPREP as an accredited agency) to support NDA / Focal Point and institutional strengthening, development of a strategic GCF investment framework and project pipeline and national GCF accreditation efforts. SPREP can assist with accessing readiness support including through other mechanisms such as the RTSM and other donor supported programmes.

What Process SPREP will use? SPREP has established an internal Project Review Monitoring Group (PRMG)that will receive, review and evaluate proposals and concepts, and will allocate relevant staff to work with project proponents, to assist them in either improving the concept or guiding them through the further development of the concept or proposal. SPREP will ensure that GCF deadlines are met, and that projects and concepts that are not yet ready will be entered in the GCF pipeline. Further information on this process for engaging with SPREP on Climate Finance will be provided at the PEF.