



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

*Twenty-Second SPREP Meeting*Apia, Samoa
13 – 15 September 2011**Information Paper 8:****Regional Economics of Climate Change Study (RECCS) for the Pacific region****Purpose**

1. To inform the Meeting on recent developments concerning the Pacific Regional Economics of Climate Change Study (RECCS) project.

Background

2. Following the release of the Stern Review in 2006, the UK Government's Office for Climate Change has been providing technical support in applying Stern-type methodologies around the world in the form of Regional Economics of Climate Change Studies (RECCS). At present, RECCS have been undertaken in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and Africa. These studies intend to consolidate global data under a single technical framework (that is, adapting the Stern methodology to local contexts), so that the costs and benefits of climate change can be compared across regions.
3. In 2008, the UK government Stern Review team invited the Pacific region to be part of this global study. As part of this initiative, the Commonwealth Secretariat has provided funding for an environmental economist to be based in SPREP and co-ordinate this work. However, technical assistance from the Stern Review team will no longer be provided as initially proposed.
4. The Australian Government, through the International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (ICCAI), has contributed some funds towards developing the Pacific RECCS project design.

Pacific RECCS

5. The Pacific RECCS is a key part of the soon-to-be updated Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC) which will include a strategy to improve Pacific Island countries' capacity, knowledge, and understanding of climate change and risk reduction.
6. More specifically, a Pacific RECCS is expected to:
 - a. Increase awareness of the impacts of climate change in the region; and
 - b. Inform future negotiations concerning climate change by quantifying the region-specific benefits and costs associated with it.

7. An Environmental Economist, through the Commonwealth Secretariat funding, has recently been engaged by SPREP to co-ordinate the Pacific RECCS.
8. The Pacific RECCS will be a collaborative body of work including other relevant CROP agencies, PIC governments, and possibly donor partner organizations.
9. To progress the Pacific RECCS work, SPREP is in the process of forming a Steering Group.
10. The Steering Group will be responsible for overseeing the overall direction and implementation of the Pacific RECCS and is expected to comprise two senior SPREP staff (Pacific Futures Programme Manager and Climate Change Adviser), three senior officials from PICs (to be determined), and two to three regional economic experts (to be determined).
11. SPREP Focal Points, CROP agencies, and Pacific Island Countries Permanent Secretaries or CEOs for Treasury or Finance will have been informed of the Pacific RECCS work program in June through a SPREP Circular.
12. It is planned that a Concept Note will be complete by December 2011. This Concept Note will, among other things, clarify/specify the objectives of the Pacific RECCS and outline the broad approach to be undertaken to implement the RECCS. It will also be used to help attract funding and/or technical support to fully implement the Pacific RECCs project.

Recommendations

13. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **note** the developments outlined concerning the Pacific RECCS.

21 July 2011