

Inform Project Steering Committee Meeting

No.5 – Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 28th April 2021

Venue: Zoom

Time:

- Samoa: 5:00pm
- Vanuatu: 3:00pm
- Kiribati: 4:00pm
- Nairobi, Kenya: 7:00am
- Washington State: 9:00pm

Attendance:

1. Mr. Vatumaraga Molisa - Chair and representative for Melanesia Sub Region (Vanuatu)
2. Ms. Sailele Aimaasu – Representative for Polynesian Sub region (Samoa)
3. Ms. Nenenteiti Teariki-Ruatu – Representative for Micronesia Sub Region (Kiribati)
4. Mr. Paul Anderson – PMU, Secretariat
5. Mr. Jochem Zoetelief – UNEP Task Manager
6. Ms. Sabrina Reupena – SPREP

Apologies

1. Mr. Jope Davetanivalu – SPREP representative

Opening Remarks

Paul Anderson welcomed members and acknowledged members of the Steering Committee meeting.

Agenda Items:

- 1. Inform Project update on project implementation**
 - a. Project Cooperation agreement (PCA)**

Paul gave a brief overview of the PCA no-cost extension as well as the budget and expenditure of the Inform Project. Jochem Zoetelief, UNEP steering committee member, noted the PCA amendment is ready to send to SPREP for signature.

- b. Achievement and challenges in 2020**

Paul highlighted the achievements during the past year and during this pandemic having five national SoE's approved in 2020. The last three remaining SoE's are under development, Vanuatu, Nauru and Kiribati. Another highlight this past year was also the migration path from Drupal 7 to Drupal 9 mapped out as well as the production and launch of the first regional SOEC report.

Looking forward, the project team notes that traveling is very limited therefore moving project capacity building efforts to online platforms such as e-learning is a priority in 2021. The Inform project is in the process of developing an Online platform for capacity building for users.

- c. Planned activities adjustments for 2021**

SOEC e-learning platform has been developed to support project partners use national and regional data. This will be launched in the second quarter of 2021.

2. Nominations of New Steering Committee Members

Paul gave a brief on the purpose of the Steering Committee and also gave the floor to the Steering Committee for their nominations for their relevant sub-region. Currently on the Steering Committee is Vanuatu, Kiribati and Samoa.

- The Melanesian sub-region nominated PNG
- The Polynesian sub-region nominated Samoa which will remain the representative for this sub-region
- The Micronesia sub-region nominated Palau to represent this sub-region for the Steering committee

Action New Steering Committee will meet in May once new members are confirmed and have selected a chair.

3. Up scaling project development

Paul Anderson presented briefly on scaling up post 2022 and on avenues to continue current progress once the Inform Project ends.

- Vanuatu representative Vatumaraga Molisa expressed interest and noted likely benefits from having standards developed which are currently non-existent.
- Jochem Zoetelief stated there are provisions for the next cycle – 8th GEF replenishment, which starts in July 2022. Currently member states are formulating the vision for the next cycle. The Pacific is included in this and there are new initiatives being proposed and new priorities. If there are priorities from SPREP member countries or from the Inform project to be introduced now is the time to take this opportunity.
- Nenenteiti Teariki-Ruatu asked if there is a sustainability plan from SPREP
- Suggestion to put in place mechanisms for the national SOE and ensure all data stored on the portals are continually maintained.

Action: SPREP to look into integrating these ideas and interest into a concept note as well as delivering support via ongoing Inform implementation.

4. Other Matters

Nenenteiti Teariki-Ruatu asked if there is sustainability plan on the regional level. The Inform project manager referred to the multipart sustainability plan, which is part of the region wide environmental standards concept note and currently in the early stages of implementation.

Closing

Paul thanked the Steering Committee for their oversight of the Project noting achievements thus far and for a successful meeting and all looking forward to future discussions and developments.

Meeting was adjourned at 6.00pm