

We are seeking your agency's input into the Pacific Climate Change Portal

Geoscience Australia has been engaged by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to undertake a consultancy to investigate the design of a Portal to assist in climate change information collation and dissemination. At the 2008 Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (Roundtable), the portal's requirements were described broadly as:-

1. Facilitate improved sharing of Pacific-relevant climate information and data produced by organisations and institutions in the Pacific and outside the region.
2. Address the need for Facilitate the need for improved communication and collaboration in the development and implementation of climate change adaptation initiatives at the international, regional and national level.
3. Beginning in 2008 a matrix of existing and planned climate change-related activities in the Pacific was collated and this has been more recently updated in May 2010. It is envisaged that this matrix, once established, will form a crucial element of the proposed Portal.
4. Provide tools to allow the widest utilisation by a large variety of end users, which may require that the Portal also be considered in the context of other initiatives in the region on capacity building, such as the SPREP-EC MEA project.
5. Collaborate with established portals building upon linkages reducing duplication of effort where feasible.

Consultancy High level objectives

1. Provide SPREP and member countries with a business case for the development of a Pacific Climate Change Portal; and
2. Suggest a range of feasible options for its design and implementation, and from these options to recommend the most effective way forward within the Pacific context. These options need to include considerations and recommendations of choice of platform for the portal and structures and systems of governance to ensure that the portal development is guided by the recommendations and information needs of the range of identified stakeholders.

Consultancy Deliverables

1. Carry out a **brief analysis of websites** (including portals and portlets) of core institutions and organisations and their relevant datasets, products and services to make recommendations for the most appropriate options for a Pacific Climate Change Portal. The analysis will include portals that are proposed or under development, their sustainability and duration (if time bound) and it will be based on references and information provided by or through SPREP.
2. Develop a brief analysis for further investigation by SPREP and its collaborators of **possible partnerships** with core international portal projects of a similar nature. The outcomes of this analysis will be reflected in the presentation to the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable.
3. Based on user groups identified by SPREP and their needs for climate change-relevant information, and the need for enhanced communication and collaboration between stakeholders, formulate a set of high-level objectives **that define the operational structure of the portal.**

4. Develop a series of **feasible conceptual design options** for the portal to meet these identified objectives. Design options need to include considerations of the choice of platform, timelines for development and implementation, and systems and processes of governance and management. An approximate costing of each design option is required. A range of options must be presented to all key partners for their considerations.

Progress to date

Due to the short nature of the consultancy, face-to-face interviews have been limited. To date interviews have been held with a representative sample of SPREP and its partners. These include UNDP, SPREP, SPC (including its SOPAC Division), GIZ, the Forum Secretariat and, to be planned shortly, NOAA, the East-West Centre and FSM.

A draft report of progress is due at the end of February for dissemination by SPREP.

How can you contribute?

If you wish to have input into the requirements gathering exercise please email Trevor.jones@ga.gov.au with your contribution by or on 20th February. We apologise for the short consultation period, however, this is necessary to prepare the outputs on the portal in the leadup to the Roundtable. We value your input. Examples of the questions we have discussed during interviews are below. On the basis of timing the demonstration at the Climate Change round table may not include all requested requirements. The final report will detail all requested requirements.

Consultancy Timeline

- Consultancy Engagement late December 2010
- Consultation period January/February 2011
- Concept design options mock-up developed February 2011
- Presentation to Roundtable 2011
- Final Report due 2 April 2011.

Example Questions

Who do you believe is the primary target audience in your Ministry/Department/organisation for the Pacific Climate Change Portal?

How do you see your Ministry/Department/organisation interacting with, contributing to and using the Pacific Climate Change Portal?

What challenges are you experiencing that you believe the Pacific Climate Change Portal should address?

What information would you find most beneficial if stored and managed as part of the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable?

What existing resources or developments should the consultants be aware of in regards to developing the business case for the Pacific Climate Change Portal?

What do you believe the Pacific Climate Change Portal shouldn't deliver?

Background statements from SPREP

1. In recognition of the potential adverse impacts of climate change in the Pacific region and the negative implications this has for the sustainable development of Pacific island countries, Pacific Island Leaders in 2005 endorsed the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006-2015. The Framework provides the region's guiding vision for enhancing the resilience of the Pacific island people, their livelihoods and environment to the risks and impacts of climate change.
2. The goal of the Framework is to ensure that Pacific Island peoples and communities build their capacity in relation to climate change with the key objective to deliver on the expected outcomes under the following Principles: Implementing adaptation measures; Governance and decision-making; Improving our understanding of climate change; Education, training and awareness; Contributing to global greenhouse gas reduction; and Partnerships and cooperation.
3. At the request of Pacific Island Leaders an Action Plan for the implementation of the Framework was developed. The Action Plan provides detail on the steps required and outcomes to be achieved under the Framework.
4. As part of the process of tracking progress on the implementation of the Framework and associated Action Plan, the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) convened a regional climate change meeting, the 2008 Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (13-17 October 2008, Apia, Samoa), which brought together representatives from Pacific island countries, Pacific regional organisations, donors, multilateral agencies and non-government organisations.
5. Delegates to the Roundtable began the task of collating a matrix of existing and planned climate change-related activities in the Pacific. It is envisaged that this matrix, once established, will form a crucial element of the proposed Portal.
6. A significant body of information on climate change issues in the Pacific already exists and considerable amounts of data are available from a variety of sources (on and off-line). Pacific-relevant climate information and data is produced by organisations and institutions in the Pacific, but are often not shared in a coordinated manner. Added to this, further information and data, both directly and indirectly relevant to the Pacific, is produced by organisations and institutions outside the region.
7. A key concern for decision makers, researchers, institutions and organisations in the region is accessing this information in a timely manner and in a useable form. This requires that the information to be provided in a way that can be interpreted and for the user to be able to interpret the information and apply it successfully. The portal will need to provide tools to allow the widest utilization by a large variety of end

users, which may require that the portal also be considered in the context of other initiatives in the region on capacity building, such as the SPREP-EC MEA project.

8. There is a clear need for the Pacific to gain access to existing information and data and to ensure new information and data is made available to decision makers as soon as practicable. Yet, currently there is no region-wide agreed mechanism for collating and disseminating climate-related information in the Pacific.
9. Equally important is the need for improved communication and collaboration in both the development and implementation of climate change adaptation initiatives at the international, regional and national level. The portal should facilitate enhanced communication and provide a common forum for collaboration, maximising synergies and reducing duplication between key stakeholders.
10. SPREP, as the organisation with the mandate of “consolidating and distributing information on climate change” in the Pacific islands region, is the logical locus of any effort to provide a single point of access to information and data on climate, climate change and climate variability in the region.
11. In an effort to bring SPREP’s proposal for a Pacific Climate Change Portal to life, a sub-set of Delegates at the 2008 Pacific Climate Change Roundtable formed a working group to discuss the concept of the Portal, its operational requirements and potential format. The Pacific Climate Change Portal Working Group made recommendations to Roundtable Delegates endorsing the Portal concept and urging the Roundtable to mandate the Working Group to move forward to a scoping phase and exploration of funding options. The Roundtable endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group, resulting in the production of these objectives.