

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

Name of the Partnership/Initiative:

Capacity Building for Pacific Island Countries in Oceans Policy Implementation

Expected date of initiation: November/December 2002

Expected date of completion: 2007

Partners Involved:

Governments: Australia; Pacific Island countries, territories and organisations identified in the Pacific Islands Oceans Initiative (2003-2007) – of which the lead partner is the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) through its Marine Sector Working Group.

Leading Partner: National Oceans Office, Australia

Name of the contact person/focal point: Bernadette O'Neil

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative:

This initiative will be closely linked to the *Pacific Islands Oceans Initiative* (2003-2007), which aims to “assist with the implementation of the Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Policy, to harmonise and build upon ongoing oceans-related programmes implemented within the region, and to identify and implement coordinated programmes of action that will address all priority aspects of the policy”.

Australia is also engaged in implementing a broad oceans policy, *Australia's Oceans Policy*, which provides the framework for integrated ecosystem-based planning and management for all of Australia's marine jurisdictions. The policy is currently being implemented, primarily through the development of regional marine plans.

Australia, through its National Oceans Office, would like to learn from and offer advice and guidance to CROP and the Pacific island countries and territories in relation to the implementation of the Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Policy. Australia recognises that many of the lessons learnt and challenges faced in the development and implementation of regional marine plans and other elements of *Australia's Oceans Policy* would be of interest to the Pacific.

Relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21, as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:

Australia will assist the region to fulfill its international ocean-related commitments. This initiative is consistent with capacity building activities outlined in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, in particular under programme areas F – “Strengthening international, including regional, cooperation and coordination” and G – “Sustainable development of small islands”.

Expected results:

- Increased regional capacity in sustainable, integrated oceans management;
- Regional cooperation and partnerships.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

- Information exchange (on-going);
- Australia's National Oceans Office (NOO) to host representatives from the South Pacific to share information and experiences and assist in the implementation of the Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Policy;
- At the invitation of CROP, NOO to contribute to discussions of the Regional Ocean Strategic Action Plan (SAP) (November /December 2002) and to the Pacific Islands Oceans Forum (mid 2003);
- Technical input during the implementation phase of the Pacific Island SAP (2004-07).

Coordination and Implementation mechanism:

Initially, the proposal consists of exchanges of information and visits by personnel. A sophisticated coordination and implementation mechanism is not required at this stage, and will be developed as required between the partners to the initiative.

Arrangements for funding:

National Oceans Office to fund.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer:

This initiative is aimed at supporting the implementation of the Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Policy, by providing the Pacific island countries and territories with advice and exposure to Australia's approach to oceans management, lessons learnt and challenges faced in the development and implementation of regional marine plans.

Areas where the NOO could be of assistance include approaches to bioregionalisation, stakeholder management (including integration of sectors), establishing appropriate institutional arrangements, and collaboration with scientific agencies.

Australia's regional marine planning process relies heavily on access to a comprehensive information base and on the development and dissemination of information products. As such, a range of technologies has been harnessed to facilitate product development, information collation and management. A range of these tools and techniques, as well as associated expertise, could be of assistance in building a solid foundation for the Pacific Islands Regional Policy.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any):

This initiative will be closely linked to the *Pacific Islands Oceans Initiative*.

Monitoring Arrangements:

Reports will be prepared on the benefits and issues raised during information exchanges between the partners.

Other relevant information:

For more information about the National Oceans Office and its role in developing regional marine plans in Australia, see <http://www.oceans.gov.au>

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