Regional Workshop for the Pacific on the Clearing-House Mechanism

Item 4: National and Regional Experience

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PROTECT PACIFIC WHALES – OCEAN VOYAGERS

SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Overview of SPREP

- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
  - ➤ Has **26** member countries, 21 Pacific Islands Countries and Territories + 5 Metropolitan Countries (USA, New Zealand, Australia, France & UK)
  - ➤ based in Apia, Samoa, 90+ staff members
  - ➤ 4 Strategic Priorities : Waste Management & Pollution Control, Climate Change, Environmental Monitoring & Governance and Biodiversity & Ecosystems Management

Existing Portals and Information Gateways @ SPREP

❖ Pacific Clearing-House Mechanism

➢ Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA)

➢ *http://www.sprep.org/Multilateral-Environmental-Agreements/pacific-regional-clearinghouse-mechanism*

➢ Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal (PIPAP)

➢ *http://pipap.sprep.org/*

➢ Pacific Environment Information Network (PEIN) Virtual Libraries / Country Profiles

➢ *http: pein????*

➢ BIOPAMA –

➢ Pacific Climate Change Portal (PCCP)

➢ *www.pacificclimatechange.net*

The Challenge

➤ Unsustainable – subject to donor funding except for the PEIN

➤ Maintenance

➤ Clarification of roles and responsibilities
  ➤ for collating/analysing/filtering/repackaging/ dissemination and updating of information

The Challenge ->Regional level

➢ Human capacity limitations
  ➢ Lack of trained staff, high staff turnover, low status of information work in the region
➢ Technology – limited ICT infrastructure, lack of trained IT staff to support govt. depts.
➢ Connectivity – slow, unreliable and expensive internet *(some)*
➢ Poor national and regional infrastructure and support for knowledge management
➢ Lack of adequate policies for information sharing on both national/regional level
➢ Duplication of efforts

The way forward

➢ Utilise existing platforms, systems

➢ National portals -> Regional -> CBD

➢ Share lessons learnt from other regions eg. Africa, Europe, Asia etc, Australia, NZ?

➢ Information management to recognize as a priority on the regional agenda/goals

Assistance/Support

➤ Training/Capacity building in information/knowledge management

➤ Develop national/regional information policies/guidelines/frameworks/processes for the CHM

QUESTIONS???

VINAKA & FAAFETAI LAVA! ☺