AGENDA ITEM 10.4.1: *Building national and regional capacity to implement multilateral environmental agreements by strengthening planning and the state of environmental assessment and reporting in the Pacific. Referred to as the Inform Project.*

Purpose:

1. To update SPREP members on the implementation status of the Inform Project and to seek continued support of the environmental portal and reporting tool.

Background:

2. The UNEP-GEF funded regional Inform project executed by SPREP is establishing a Pacific island countries (PICs) network of national and regional databases for monitoring, evaluating, and analysing environmental information to support environmental planning, forecasting, and reporting requirements at all levels. The project inception workshop took place in November, 2017 and environmental data portals have been established in ten of the 14 countries with full coverage expected to be completed by end of December, 2018.

- *Inform Database*

  The Inform project has developed and endorsed an open source database for all 14 countries based on the DKAN software. The national data portals have been designed with an intuitive user interface and low barriers to entry. To date, data portals have been established in 10 of the 14 countries.

- *Reporting Tool*

  The Inform project has developed a National Indicator Reporting Tool. This tool is intended to reduce the reporting burden on PICs, by standardising indicator definitions for use in multiple reporting requirements at the national, regional and international levels, including Sustainable Development Goals and Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The reporting tool is currently being tested and trialled in the Cook Islands.

- *Capacity Building*

  National level support provided for environmental data management storage, sharing and use. Support in the development of environmental indicators. Capacity building will continue to be an ongoing activity throughout the implementation of the Inform project.

Recommendations:

3. The Executive Board is invited to:

    ➢ **note** substantive progress in developing national and regional Inform databases and reporting tool;
    ➢ **endorse** the use of the environmental portal and reporting tool as key tools to support monitoring, reporting, planning and decision making processes in country; and
    ➢ **direct** the Secretariat to continue to support the environmental reporting and planning process through the Inform project.

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16 August, 2018