



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
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An Environmental Policy for the WCPFC Secretariat

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Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to table for the consideration of FAC12 and WCPFC15 essential elements of an Environmental Policy for the WCPFC Secretariat.

Introduction

2. The WCPFC Secretariat currently does not have an Environmental Policy, but it aspires to become a leader in the region in terms of sound environmental stewardship in the manner it manages its operations. As such, the Secretariat seeks to develop an Environmental Policy that aims to integrate a philosophy of sustainable development into all the organization's activities and, to establish and promote sound environmental practices in its operations.

An Environmental Policy

3. The Secretariat has already recognized adverse impacts to the environment associated with the operations of the Headquarters' office. In its efforts to decrease these adverse impacts the Secretariat is committed to implementing a policy that involves taking proactive measures to reduce pollution and conserve resources. The need for responsible and sustainable environmental management should be a shared responsibility by all staff. As such the Secretariat has commenced to incorporate sound environmental practices into its decision-making and operations. It continues to evaluate the impacts of its activities and operations to ensure that they have minimal adverse impacts on the environment and sound waste management, while at the same time conserving resources and improving energy efficiency.

4. When developing such an Environment Policy, the following will be key guidelines and principles:

- Monitoring and complying with all relevant environmental laws and best practices;
- Developing an environmentally sustainable aware culture, where responsibility is assigned and understood;

- Being an environmentally responsible neighbour in our community;
- Conserving natural resources by reusing and recycling;
- Using, in our own operations, processes that do not adversely affect the environment;
- Ensuring the responsible use of energy throughout the organization;
- Participating in efforts to improve environmental protection and understanding;
- Taking steps to improve environmental performance continually;
- Working with suppliers who promote sound environmental practices; and
- Enhancing awareness among our employees – educating and motivating them to act in an environmentally responsible manner.

Action Plan

5. The Secretariat has already taken some key initiatives to demonstrate sound environmental responsibilities and awareness. In order to accomplish the task of reducing further the office's environmental impact, the Secretariat is proposing that a number of activities be endorsed by the Commission.

Increased use of Solar Power

6. In 2012, the Commission authorized the installation of a 20 kWp solar system at the Commission's Headquarters to offset its annual electricity charges and to reduce the environmental impact of the Commission's Headquarters building. As projected, the initial 20 kWp solar system reduced the Commission's electric bill by over \$15,600 a year. In 2013, the Commission approved the expansion of the system from 20 kWp to 60 kWp. With the expansion of the system, the costs savings per month have averaged around \$4,000. In conjunction with other energy savings measures, monthly bills have been reduced from approximately \$8,500 a month to \$3,500. Beyond the cost savings and the positive environmental impact of moving towards the greater use of solar power, the Headquarters building has served as a model for the island on the use of renewable energy.

7. The ultimate goal is making the WCPFC's Headquarters a zero net energy (ZNE) building. Excess energy generated during the day is fed into the electrical grid and is later used during the night when solar energy is not generated. To assist with this goal the US has contributed \$38,000 for the installation of additional solar panels. It is estimated the additional solar panels will offset the monthly utility bill by \$950 per month. In addition to the funding for solar panels provided by the US, an estimated 30 kWp in additional solar capacity is needed to zero net energy (ZNE) building. The cost of the additional solar panels, inverters and installation is estimated to cost \$60,000.

Carbon Offsets for all Travel

8. Carbon Offsets for all travel will be made for all Commission funded flights. On average the Commission procures around 195 flights a year. For a 12-month period, it is estimated that the total carbon emitted by flights paid for by the Secretariat is around 880 tons of carbon. Using carbon offset would mitigate the carbon emitted due to these flights. The cost of offsetting carbon from these flights is estimated to be \$8,775 and can be absorbed into current annual operating costs.

Environmentally Responsible Procurement

9. In order to reduce the amount of waste produced by the office and to reduce the amount of waste that cannot be recycled, the Secretariat will:

- prioritise the purchase of items that are made of recycled materials or are less harmful to the environment;
- limit with the view to prohibit the purchase of single use bottled water; and
- prohibit the purchase of styrofoam or plastic single-use items for use in the office or meetings.

10. The costs of the change will be minimal and absorbed into current annual operating costs.

Reduction of Waste

11. The Secretariat will seek to reduce the amount of trash generated and disposed locally. Paper and cardboard are the most common items disposed of and can be re-used for composting and as bedding for animals. The food scraps can either be fed to animals or composted. Aluminum will be recycled and hazardous materials will be disposed of responsibly. It is envisaged that in the first year of the new policy, trash taken to the dump will be reduced by 20% with an additional reduction of 20% per year for three years. The costs of the change will be absorbed into the current operating costs.

Recommendation

12. The Commission is invited to support the Secretariat's efforts to develop and implement an Environmental Policy.