



# Review of 2013-2017 marine species action plans

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Photo by David Troeger on Unsplash.

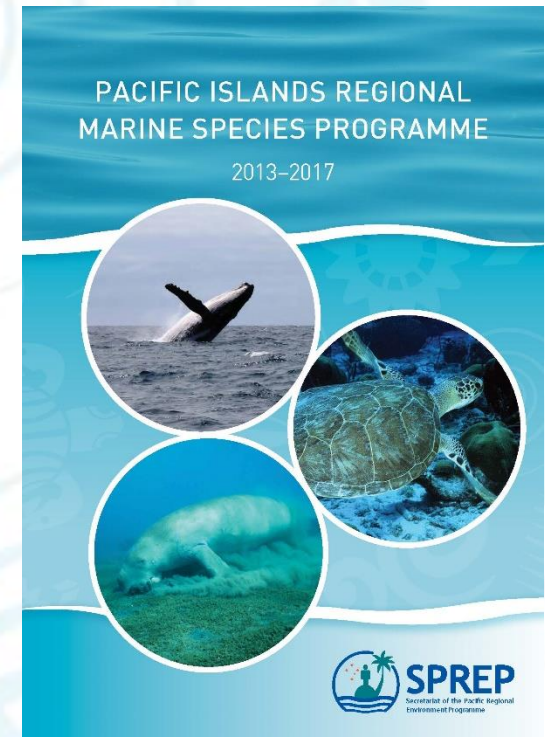


The purpose of this work was to consult with Pacific Island countries and territories to:

- Determine progress on implementation of the 2013-2017 Action Plans.
- Identify issues and challenges with implementing the plans.
- Obtain feedback about the plans in general.

Objective:

- Develop a series of Marine Species Action Plans for 2022-2026.





# PROCESS AND LIMITATIONS

- Implementation tables created
- Prefilled with info where members had already reported on actions from:
  - Whales in a Changing Ocean Conference
  - Pacific Islands Regional Dugong and Seagrass workshop

Action in Regional Dugong AP	National Activities	Comments on progress, gaps and <u>road blocks</u>	Future actions or recommendations
<b>Theme 1: INFORMATION, AWARENESS/EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION</b>			
<b>Objective1: Raise awareness and share information about the importance of dugongs and their habitats</b>			
1.1 Develop information and awareness material on dugongs and their habitats.			
1.3 Increase community awareness of ecological and biological information on dugongs, the threats they face and the need for their conservation including their habitats.			
1.4 Ensure opportunities are provided for community knowledge holders to share traditional knowledge (in relation to any awareness programmes conducted in communities).			
1.5 Encourage and support the incorporation of dugong ecological and biological information and conservation issues into school curricula.			
1.8			



# PROCESS AND LIMITATIONS

- Requests via SPREP focal points to have video calls.
- Collect information and feedback July 2020 until March 2021.
- Video calls: Solomon Islands, Palau, Tonga, American Samoa, Niue, and Tuvalu.
- Completed tables: New Caledonia, Tonga (whales and dolphins only) and the Cook Islands (turtles only).
- Low engagement = limited information we can provide about implementation of the plans and their usefulness, as well as feedback we could take forward in reviewing the plans.
- Implementation tables + video calls + email communications + previous conference workshop reports → implementation report.

# PROCESS AND LIMITATIONS

- SPREP *members* only
- Self-reporting exercise, not thorough review
- Unlikely to capture everything, particularly for countries/territories that didn't respond.



# ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS ACROSS THE REGION

Country	National plans of action <sup>2</sup>	IMMAs (candidate) <sup>3</sup>	CITES <sup>4</sup>	CBD <sup>4</sup>	CMS <sup>4</sup>	Signatory to MOUs <sup>2</sup>	Year of the whale declaration	Sanctuaries/reserves
American Samoa	Sh <sup>5</sup>	1 - Samoan Archipelago IMMA	T	T	T			<a href="#">National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa</a>
Cook Islands	Sh	1 - Cook Islands Southern Group IMMA	✗	✓	✓	Cet/Sh	Y	<a href="#">Marae Moana Marine Park</a>
Fiji	Tu	1 - Vatu-i-Ra IMMA	✓	✓	✓	Cet	Y	
French Polynesia	Cet	4: - Austral Archipelago IMMA - Cook Islands Southern Group IMMA - Marquesas Archipelago IMMA - Society Archipelago IMMA	✗	✗	✗	Cet		EEZ sanctuaries for cetaceans and sharks
Guam	Sh <sup>5</sup>		T	T	T			<a href="#">Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary</a>
Kiribati		(1) Gilbert Islands cIMMA	✗	✓	✗			<a href="#">Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary</a>  Phoenix Islands Protected Area

<sup>2</sup> Cet = Cetaceans, Tu = Turtles, Du = Dugongs, Sh = Sharks

# ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS ACROSS THE REGION

Year of the Whale	Cetacean MOU	Shark MOU	Dugong MOU
9	13	7	5

CITES	CBD	CMS
7	13	4



NPOA sharks	National action plan for turtles	National action plan for W&D	National action plan for dugongs
7	4	2	2



# ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS ACROSS THE REGION

- Year of the Whale 2017 – whales in a changing ocean conference hosted by Tonga, attended by 13 SPREP members (excl partners).
- Solomon Islands hosted regional dugong and seagrass conservation workshop in 2018, attended by 4 of the 6 SPREP member range states.
- Joint project between DOC and SPREP 2012-2017 for community-based monitoring and eco-cultural tourism development for turtles in Pacific Island countries.
- IMMA regional workshop for the South Pacific convened in Samoa, March 2017. 29 candidate IMMAs identified – 18 of which were confirmed by the review panel.
- Niue established whale watching regulations in 2016.
- Management strategy for dugong and seagrass included in Solomon Islands 2018 fisheries regulations – banning the hunting of dugongs, nesting turtles, leatherback turtles.



# ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS ACROSS THE REGION

- New Caledonia Natural Park of the Coral Sea, 2014.
- Cook Islands marae Moana multiple-use marine park established in July 2017 covering the entire EEZ.
- Palau creation of a marine sanctuary covering 80% of EEZ, six largest fully protected sanctuary in the world, implemented 2020.

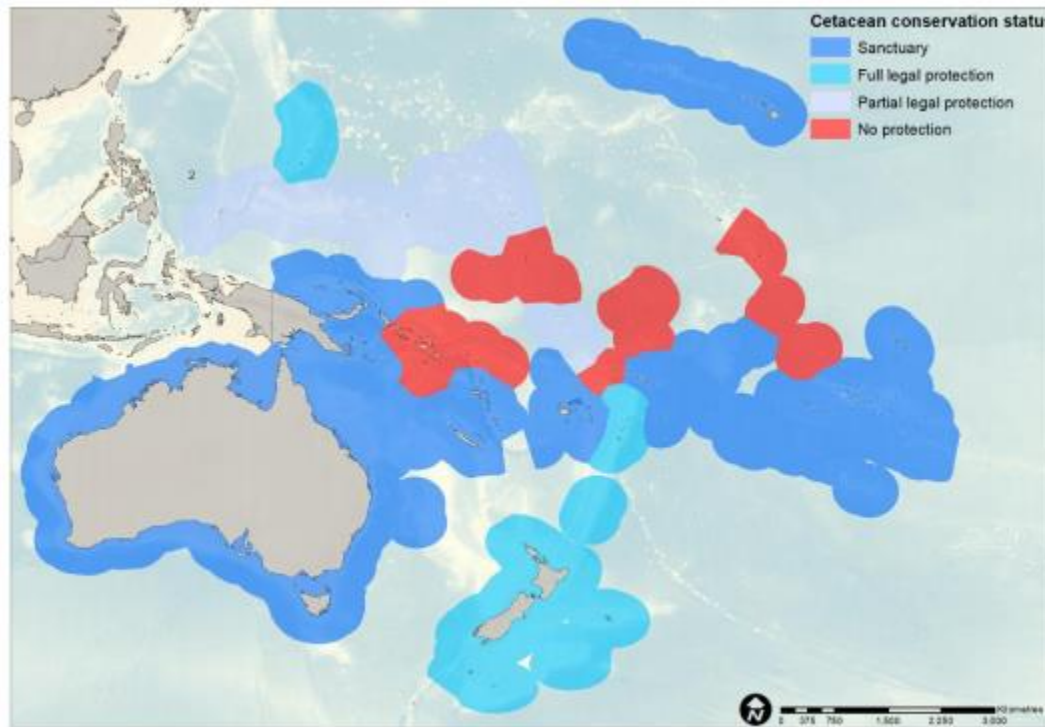


Figure 2. Map of whale and dolphin protected areas and sanctuaries. Note: this is to be updated based on new information before finalisation of document.

- Thorough and ambitious, should be simplified.
- Redundancy of actions across plans.
- Regional network less active = less engagement in action plans.
- List-serves should be reinstated to connect and share across the region.
- Useful outline of objectives on what should/needs to be done.
- Resources are limited across the region to implement the plans.

## Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026



DRAFT VERSION ONLY



Draft 2022-2026  
action plans



**THANK YOU!**



See the full Regional Marine Species Action Plans Implementation Review on the [meeting website](#).

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**FOR MORE INFO**