

# Pacific Conversations NOUMEA CONVENTION PART 3

KNOW MORE, DO MORE, TOGETHER



**SPREP**  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme

## Did you know we have the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution Emergencies in the South Pacific Region?

This Protocol to the Noumea Convention enhances cooperation among the Convention Parties to protect the South Pacific Region from threats and effects of pollution incidents. It is also known as the Emergencies Protocol.

### Why do we need an Emergencies Protocol?

It puts appropriate measures in place to prevent, reduce and control pollution to protect our ocean and marine life. The Protocol guides Parties on how to prevent and combat pollution incidents and reduce the risk.

### What's in the Emergencies Protocol?

For Parties to prevent and control pollution, relevant legislation must be in place, including the preparation of contingency plans to properly respond to a pollution incident.

The Protocol recognises the importance of communication between Parties for an exchange of information. Parties are encouraged to regularly share information with each other on actioning this Protocol and the prevention, and means, of reducing and combating the harmful effects of pollution incidents.

Sharing information is a key necessity and the recommended first response in the event of a pollution incident. Parties are required to promptly inform all other Parties who may be affected, as well as the flag State of any vessel involved in it, and SPREP, to ensure timely and appropriate action is taken towards minimising the incident.

### What is Mutual Assistance?

Mutual Assistance is an important provision in the Protocol that promises Parties requiring assistance during a pollution incident to request, with or without the help of SPREP, assistance of other Parties. Especially in situations where the requesting Party or Parties have limited technology, personnel, and resources to properly handle an emergency pollution incident.

Those Parties whose assistance is requested under the Protocol will be able to provide assistance within their capabilities and based on agreement with the requesting Party or Parties. This mutual assistance provision is operationalised in the Pacific Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN) 2019 that defines how and what assistance will be rendered between Parties.

### Who are Parties to the Noumea Convention, and the "Emergencies Protocol"?

12 of the SPREP Members have ratified or acceded the Noumea Convention and the Emergency Protocol. These are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, United States of America.

You can learn more about the Emergencies Protocol by visiting: [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)



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*A resilient Pacific environment sustaining  
our livelihoods and natural heritage in  
harmony with our cultures.*