

Pacific Conversations NOUMEA CONVENTION PART 4

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SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

The 16th Meeting of the Parties to the Noumea Convention

The Noumea Convention, formally known as the Convention for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (1986) convened its 16th Meeting of the Parties (COP16) on 2 September 2021, to discuss key updates on the activities under the Noumea Convention and an opportunity for Parties to present their country reports on the national implementation of the Noumea Convention.

The Noumea Convention's two Protocols under the Convention ensure the protection of natural resources and the environment in the South Pacific:

Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the South Pacific Region by Dumping (Dumping Protocol):

The Protocol provides a list of the different types of wastes that may or may not be discharged in the Pacific Ocean, and guidance on accessing a permit to discharge in the Protocol Area.

Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution Emergencies in the South Pacific Region (Emergencies Protocol):

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

Declaration on Plastics

During the COP16, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) presented the Pacific Declaration on Plastics. The draft Declaration was developed in consultation with the 12 Parties to the Convention, for presentation to the High-Level Talanoa of the 30th SPREP Meeting held on 10 September 2021 for voluntary endorsement. Parties expressed strong support for a global binding Agreement on plastic pollution and indicated a strong need for Pacific perspective.



Who attended the 16th Noumea Convention?

All 12 Parties to the Convention were present: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and United States. The Parties elected Samoa as Chairperson and Nauru as Vice Chairperson, taking over the proceedings from the outgoing Chair of the last two years, Papua New Guinea. The full meeting report will be available for public access once it has been formally approved by the 12 Parties to the Convention. It will be published to the Noumea Convention webpage.

ACP MEAs 3 Programme

The parties acknowledged and supported the implementation of the ACP MEAs 3 Programme. One of the focus of the project is to strengthen the implementation of the articles of the Noumea Convention and strengthening of the work of the Noumea Convention secretariat

You can learn more about the Noumea Convention by visiting: <http://www.sprep.org>



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