

Report of the 25th SPREP Meeting of Officials and High Level Ministerial Segment

30th September – 3rd October 2014
Majuro, Marshall Islands



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INTRODUCTION

1. The 25th SPREP Meeting of Officials was held from 30 September to 3 October 2014 in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands.
2. American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, Vanuatu and United States of America attended.
3. A range of observers was also present at the Meeting. The complete list of participants is attached as Annex I.

Agenda Item 1: Opening

4. The 25th SPREP meeting was officially opened by Honourable Acting President of the Marshall Islands, Wilbur Heine, at a formal reception on 29 September 2014. The Honourable Acting President welcomed delegates to the Marshall Islands. He highlighted key issues of importance to RMI, in particular the increasing risks of climate change.
5. David Sheppard, Director General of SPREP, thanked delegates for making the time to attend the 25th SPREP meeting and thanked the Acting President and the Mayor and people of Majuro for hosting the Meeting. He highlighted the various areas of work of SPREP, invited all countries and all delegates to work with SPREP on its two-year campaign theme of “Natural Solutions: Building Resilience for a

Changing Pacific” and highlighted the ongoing commitment of the Secretariat and SPREP members to ensuring a better Pacific environment for future generations.

Agenda Item 2: Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

6. In accordance with the “*Rules of Procedure of the SPREP Meeting*”, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), as host country, was confirmed as Chair and Australia as Vice Chair.
7. Mr Elkoga Gadabu of Nauru, as the outgoing Chair, thanked Members for their trust in him over the past year. He also thanked the Director General and Secretariat staff for their support and added that he viewed SPREP as a vibrant and dynamic organisation that has achieved significant positive results in spite of its limited resources. He expressed his confidence in the organisation and stated that he was proud to have been at its helm as the Chair.
8. The Director General thanked Nauru for their guidance and leadership in the past year and observed that the strengthened work of the Troika (which is made up of the past, present and future Chairs of SPREP) was largely due to the commitment of the Chair. The Director General also recognised the active participation of New Caledonia in the Troika, noting that as Chair of the 2012 SPREP meeting, New Caledonia would be stepping down from the three-person committee.

9. The Meeting:

- *confirmed* the Representative of Marshall Islands as **Chair**; and
- *confirmed* the Representative of Australia as **Vice-Chair**.

advised that the office would report to UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok.

14. The Meeting:

- *noted* the report.

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of Agenda and Working Procedures

10. The Meeting:

- *adopted* the Provisional Agenda;
- *agreed* on hours of work; and
- *appointed* an open-ended Report Drafting Committee comprising New Zealand, FSM, USA, France, Australia, New Caledonia, Samoa and chaired by the Vice-Chair.

Agenda Item 4: Action taken on decisions made by the 24th SPREP Meeting

11. The Director General shared a message from Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), via a brief video message. Dr Steiner noted the opening of the UNEP sub-regional office at SPREP in Apia. Mr Steiner's message can be accessed at <http://youtu.be/jFkYn3DCZAU>.
12. The Director General presented the report on action taken on the decisions of the 24th SPREP Meeting, and on action taken on suggestions made by individual Members during the Meeting.
13. In response to a request from Fiji regarding the operation of the UNEP sub-regional office, the Secretariat

Agenda Item 5.1: Presentation of Annual Report for 2013 and Director General's Overview of Progress since the Twenty-Fourth SPREP Meeting

15. The Director General presented the 2013 SPREP Annual Report to Members and provided an overview report on progress since the 2013 SPREP Meeting. He reflected that over the last five years, SPREP has implemented an ambitious change management process, which has increased the level of relevant, practical and tangible support to SPREP Pacific island Members, while also improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Secretariat. The Director General outlined the results of this change management process and further highlighted key achievements in 2013, details of which are in WP.5.1.
16. Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, France, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau and Tuvalu commended the Director General and the Secretariat staff on the presentation and quality of the report and on the work carried out in 2013.
17. New Caledonia, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, Nauru and Samoa reflected on the need to continue to build and strengthen links with the Secretariat, noting its dedication and hard work and the confidence this inspires.

18. New Caledonia noted the need to ensure that this Meeting seeks to conclude discussions and come to clear agreements.
 19. Tuvalu, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue and Nauru noted a number of issues including the assistance of the Secretariat to Members in addressing climate change, development of joint national adaptation plans, biodiversity loss, capacity building for waste management and further acknowledged the partnership with other agencies and countries.
 20. Cook Islands noted that it was the responsibility of Members to support the organisation and ensure it continues to deliver. Niue noted progress since the first independent review and the need for efficient use of funds to ensure tangible benefits.
 21. Samoa observed the need to work more closely with the Secretariat in terms of building national capacity in areas of waste management and other environment matters.
 22. France reflected on the efforts of SPREP to meet the needs of the various Members and observed that this increased each year, with the Secretariat striving to find solutions, and that French territories still did not receive a great deal of funds from the Secretariat. France would continue to try to work together with the Secretariat on this. The bilingualism aspect of SPREP was recalled. France further noted that SPREP's accreditation as an implementing agency of the Adaptation Fund to the UNFCCC was testimony to SPREP's desire to do more to meet the needs of the countries.
 23. The Director General acknowledged the positive comments and suggestions from the Members and further recognised the donors and partners who are assisting the organisation to continue to grow.
 24. The Meeting:
 - *noted* the report.
- Agenda Item 5.2: Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Report (PMER) on the 2013 Work Programme and Budget**
25. The Secretariat presented its report on the monitoring and evaluation of its work programme performance for 2013. Details are provided in WP.5.2/Attachments 1, 2 and 3.
 26. Members commended the Secretariat on the report and the work undertaken in 2013.
 27. Tonga and the Cook Islands acknowledged the Secretariat's efforts and technical advice provided in a range of areas including in climate change adaptation, renewable energy, biodiversity, invasive species, training and awareness in waste management, and assistance with GEF and state of environment reports.
 28. Australia and New Zealand welcomed the greater focus on reporting on outcomes and the efforts to improve monitoring and governance. On the issue of outcome-based reporting, the Secretariat advised that it was already making attempts to report in this format and noted the recruitment of the Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser position to assist in this matter.

29. In response to a query from Australia regarding the lack of progress reported on Strategic Plan Target 1.1.2 (effective management of protected areas), the Secretariat advised that this was a challenging target and fundamentally required the involvement of the Members. The finalisation of the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014 – 2020 would accelerate this process. The Secretariat also noted that an IUCN position on BIOPAMA had been confirmed and would be based in SPREP.

30. New Caledonia queried whether the wide variation in spending for Member countries was indicative of different levels of need or whether some countries had trouble accessing regional funds. New Caledonia encouraged the Secretariat to balance support at regional and national levels to ensure that its work benefits all Members. New Caledonia thanked the Secretariat for providing regular calls for proposals to Members that enable countries to respond to the calls. The Secretariat clarified that funds spent on the different Members were for both national and regional work and this was mostly on countries and less on territories.

31. Federated States of Micronesia requested that the Secretariat make every effort to eliminate the word “South” from its official communications and working documents when making reference to the region.

32. The Meeting:

- *noted* the Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Report (PMER) on the 2013 Work Programme and Budget.

Agenda Item 5.3: Audited Annual Accounts for 2013

33. In accordance with the Financial Regulations, the Secretariat presented its Audited Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013 and noted that the Financial Statements were prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). All documents are available as attachments to WP.5.3.

34. Australia and New Zealand acknowledged the Secretariat’s unqualified audit report, and requested clarification on budget lines with deficit balances.

35. The Secretariat clarified that the core budget should be read in relation to Member voluntary contributions and also noted the unforeseen medical evacuation of four staff and their families. The Secretariat advised that where the budget showed credit balances, this reflects the forthcoming funds from multi-year funding agreements with Australia and New Zealand.

36. The Meeting:

- *adopted* the audited Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report for 2013.

Agenda Item 6.1: Strengthening Regional Linkages Update

37. The Secretariat provided an update on the work to establish a sub-regional presence for SPREP in the Pacific, noting that as of July 2014, a host government agreement had been signed and a technical officer contracted in RMI. The recruitment process for FSM of a SPREP Waste Management Expert was still in progress and the country agreement is still in draft form.
38. The Secretariat also advised that a host government agreement with the Solomon Islands was operational and SPREP's Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Officer was based in Honiara. The EbA officer will support regional activities and work on the USAID funded EbA project in Choiseul Province.
39. Other progress included the signing of an MOU with the Melanesian Spearhead Group in December 2013 and the signing of a Project Agreement with the Government of Germany to extend the EbA work in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu through the recruitment of an additional four project officers. These positions are fully project funded and have no impact on the Secretariat's core budget.
40. RMI, Nauru and Cook Islands expressed full support for the placement of sub-regional Technical Officers. RMI and Nauru requested that the operating budget for the two positions be increased to allow the two Technical Officers to be fully effective beyond the national level.
41. The Secretariat clarified that the Technical Officer position in RMI was to provide national technical support through the coordination of country water management priority issues and that the operating budget associated with the positions was derived from core funds. This could only be increased with the support of Members, and as such made it difficult for the two officers to operate beyond their country of placement. The Secretariat advised that the Host Agreement associated with each position could be made available to Members with the permission of the Host Country.
42. New Caledonia and France acknowledged the role of the sub-regional positions to reinforce regional links, rather than only local activities. However, they cautioned Members to carefully consider the budgetary implications of any future expansion of sub-regional appointment of Secretariat staff, noting the limited ability of Members to support the Secretariat's core budget. Fiji considered that the positions were likely to be cost effective and acknowledged the German Government for their support of the EbA officer positions.
43. The United States sought clarification on country placements of officers from within the EbA project as part of this sub-regional approach. USA indicated the necessity for timely review, including distribution of work programmes and goals and objectives of the positions to allow assessment of the effectiveness of the two Technical Officer placements.

44. Australia expressed support for the enhanced Secretariat sub-regional presence, but indicated the necessity of development of a formal frame of reference, which would include a statement of objectives, in order to enable assessment of progress, performance and efficiency of these positions in terms of enhancing regional delivery of Member services.
45. Samoa indicated that a full assessment, including a cost benefit analysis of placement of the Technical Officers, should be completed for Member consideration before the programme is extended beyond 2015. Tokelau highlighted the need for Members to consider the best mechanisms to strategically strengthen regional engagement.
46. The Meeting:
- *noted* the developments in relation to the placement of technical officers in RMI and FSM and their respective host agreements;
 - *noted* the developments in relation to SPREP project-based officers in the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu;
 - *directed* the Secretariat to follow up with FSM on the recruitment and finalisation of the host country agreement;
 - *directed* the Secretariat to continue strengthening its partnership with the MSG to enhance coordination and delivery of services;
 - *directed* the Secretariat to canvass additional funds and establish an operational budget for the Technical Expert Officers;
 - *directed* the Secretariat to develop, for consideration at the 2015 SPREP meeting, a methodological framework for the cost benefit analysis and effectiveness reviews of sub-regional technical officers, which can also be used to assess the regional benefits of country based SPREP project officers; and
 - *directed* the Secretariat to review the effectiveness of the Technical Expert Officers' arrangement, including a cost benefit analysis, for consideration by the 2016 SPREP Meeting.
- Agenda Item 6.2: Accessing Multilateral Financing – Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Adaptation Fund (AF) Accreditation**
47. The Secretariat reported that the Adaptation Fund (AF) Board had accredited SPREP as a Regional Implementation Entity (RIE) by its decision of 1 November 2013. The Secretariat noted this as a landmark achievement in improving SPREP's ability to assist countries in developing and submitting climate change adaptation proposals for funding consideration by the AF. The Secretariat further advised that it was still in the process of seeking accreditation as a project agency under GEF. Lessons learned have been distilled and compiled and can be accessed via the SPREP website. Members were invited to contact the Secretariat directly if they had specific questions.
48. The Secretariat also noted that the Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) project is providing additional

assistance and guidance on matters related to climate change.

49. Tuvalu, United States and RMI congratulated the Secretariat on becoming an RIE under the Adaptation Fund.

50. The United States noted that they would not be taking a position on the recommendation until after the evaluation of the first stage of accreditation at the 47th GEF Council Meeting scheduled for October.

51. In supporting the Secretariat's bid for GEF accreditation, New Zealand asked how GEF accreditation status, if successful, would be accommodated under the existing SPREP structure. The Secretariat advised that steps have already been undertaken to accommodate this by way of an internal GEF Advisory Group and the appointment of a Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser.

52. New Caledonia requested specific information about the estimated GEF and AF funding available through SPREP, observing that a significant amount of time and money had been invested in seeking accreditation. The Secretariat advised that dollar figures were not known for GEF but that AF funding is capped at ten million dollars per country. The Secretariat acknowledged the time and effort put into accreditation and explained that the process had both direct and indirect benefits to Members and to the Secretariat itself, as reflected in the organisation's strengthened internal processes and robust governance measures.

53. The Meeting:

- *noted* the Secretariat's efforts to seek GEF Project Agency Accreditation;
- *suggested* that Pacific Island Countries support a second round of accreditation of project agencies for the GEF, when this is discussed at the GEF Council Meeting in October/November 2014, and request the Secretariat to convey this through to the Pacific GEF Council Representatives (Amb. Winston Thompson of Fiji) and Alternate Representative (Ms. Myra Patai of the Cook Islands);
- *noted* the accreditation and RIE status of SPREP with the Adaptation Fund;
- *noted* the availability of a guide for AF accreditation developed by the Secretariat and invited Members to use the guide and to work with SPREP on accessing resources from the AF; and
- *invited* Members to utilise SPREP as a RIE for adaptation projects under the Adaptation Fund, bearing in mind the financial requirements for project development.

Agenda Item 6.3: Reviews of SPREP (Second Independent Corporate Review and the Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan)

54. Theresa Manarangi-Trott of the Review Team, presented the Independent Reviews of the (i) Second Independent Corporate Review of SPREP (ICR) and the (ii) Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2011 -2015 for Member consideration.

55. The reviews were guided by a reference group of Members and undertaken in a fully consultative manner with SPREP Members, partners, donors and staff. The two reports and the Secretariat's response were circulated in August, 2014 and can be accessed from the SPREP website www.sprep.org.

56. Members acknowledged the report and noted that it was generally positive. It was noted that the costs of implementing the recommendations of the Reviews would have to come from the core funds and Members would need to provide well-considered guidance on next steps. A Friends of Chair Group was established to progress discussions and included Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, France, Niue, New Caledonia, United States, the review team consultant and two representatives from the Secretariat.

57. Australia on behalf of the Friends of the Chair, tabled two documents which outlined next steps for action against the review team recommendations.

58. Australia responded to queries, noting that the intent was to minimise any major financial implications in 2015.

59. Papua New Guinea referred to the consultant report and advised that in future such presentations be reviewed before the SPREP meeting, to prevent the need to establish a Friends of the Chair arrangement.

60. The Meeting:

- *considered* the Second Independent Corporate Review Report and the recommendations;
- *considered* the Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2011 to 2015 Report and recommendations; and
- *accepted* the recommendations made by the Friends' of the Chair as outlined in the attached tables in Annex II.

Agenda Item 6.4: Audit Committee Report for period July 2013 to June 2014

61. Tokelau, on behalf of the Audit Committee, reported on activities as per the Secretariat Internal Audit policy and Audit Committee Charter requirement. He noted that the Audit Committee is an integral component of SPREP's Governance arrangements and that its responsibilities are to oversee and monitor: Governance; risk; and internal control issues affecting the Secretariat's operations.

62. The Audit Committee membership is Samoa, New Zealand and Tokelau, plus Troika members, with the Secretariat's Human Resources and Legal Advisers. The main report focuses on Governance, Risk and Performance and its activities are outlined in WP.6.4.

63. The Audit Committee Chair highlighted that the Secretariat had addressed 90% of the identified risks to its operations and suggested that this was an indication of the commitment of the organisation to improvement.

64. Australia congratulated the Audit Committee on its activities and advised the meeting that Australia would be providing a Technical Advisory Service to provide expert services to regional organisations on the issues investigated by the Audit Committee. Australia suggested that SPREP make use of these services.
65. United States welcomed the Audit Committee report and requested that relevant papers be posted on the website. The Secretariat agreed to do this in the interests of transparency.
66. The Director General noted that Australia and New Zealand had shifted to multi-year funding and that this was a key part of having a more stable financial framework. SPREP would take advantage of Australia's Technical Advisory Service, especially in view of the need to respond to the review team's proposals.
67. New Caledonia also commended the Audit Committee report and welcomed Australia's offer of advisory services.
68. The Meeting:
 - *noted* the activities performed by the Audit Committee during the 2013-2014 period.

Agenda Item 6.5: SIDS Conference 2014

69. The Secretariat provided an update on the Third International United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) held in Samoa from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, noting that its

primary role involved providing technical assistance to Member country delegations through its role as co-Chair with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) of the CROP Sustainable Development Working Group. At the request of the Government of Samoa, the Secretariat provided technical support and financial assistance for waste management, greening the conference, and media and communications. The conference was a unique opportunity to highlight SPREP's work to the global community. The SPREP Campus was an official parallel event site for the conference.

70. The draft Outcomes Document of the conference is titled: S.A.M.O.A. Pathway (Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action) and is available in English from <http://www.sids2014.org/content/documents/358N1447112.pdf> and in French from <http://www.sids2014.org/content/documents/358N1447113.pdf>.
71. Australia, Fiji, France, New Caledonia, New Zealand and Tokelau congratulated Samoa on its excellent organisation of the Conference and further thanked the Secretariat for its support to Members during the preparations leading up to the Conference.
72. Australia acknowledged the Secretariat for the support it provided to an Australian side event through which they were able to highlight ongoing work and collaboration in the climate and meteorology area, under the COSPPAC programme.

73. New Caledonia noted that the information provided by the Secretariat had enabled Members to participate in the parallel and side events. New Caledonia participated in the conference through their Environment Minister and the President of New Caledonia, who attended two key forums at which the value of working at regional level was underlined. The President also visited the SPREP headquarters to attend two events. New Caledonia noted that this was a positive start to strengthening relations between SPREP and New Caledonia.
74. Tokelau suggested that a standing item be included on the SPREP meeting agenda dedicated to the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway and monitoring and evaluation of its progress. Tokelau also acknowledged the government of New Zealand for enabling Tokelau to participate in the conference.
75. France advised that the French Minister of State for Sustainable Development and *Francophonie* had attended the conference and held discussions with several states as well as with a number of regional organisations. The conference and discussions highlighted for France the importance of a unified regional voice regarding climate change. France would seek to bring together the various messages conveyed to the Minister and would try to find a balanced approach that takes into account the different perspectives.
76. New Zealand noted that the SIDS conference offered a once in a 10-year opportunity to focus the world's attention on issues of critical importance to the development of SIDS, including impacts of climate change, sustainable use and conservation of oceans, fisheries management and disaster risk reduction. The S.A.M.O.A Pathway will be a key touchstone for Pacific SIDS as we take forward negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals.
77. Samoa acknowledged the comments of Members and noted that the support of many partners was essential in ensuring a good outcome. Samoa further acknowledged SPREP for its leadership in the lead up to and during the conference, observing that SPREP was second only to UNEP in terms of the number of partnerships. The representative noted that there was now a need to align national and regional priorities with the S.A.M.O.A Pathway Outcomes to ensure positive environmental outcomes.
78. The Secretariat stated that it had started internally to look at how to move forward on the S.A.M.O.A Pathway and was beginning with a process to rationalise the various partnerships with which the Secretariat is involved. Immediate priorities for action were Oceans and Islands, and Sustainable Energy. Two working groups have been established within the organisation to work on these. At the regional level, work had commenced to identify gaps and priorities for implementing the S.A.M.O.A Pathway. Sustainable consumption and production had been identified as a key gap. The Secretariat also acknowledged the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and Maritime New Zealand for their role in supporting the successful conference.

79. The Meeting:

- *noted* the update on the SIDS Conference 2014;
- *noted* the Secretariat's role and support to the Conference;
- *noted* the S.A.M.O.A Pathway Outcomes; and
- *congratulated* Samoa for the outstanding hosting and presidency of the 3rd SIDS conference on behalf of the Pacific region.

Agenda Item 6.6: Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) - Proposal

80. The Secretariat tabled an update on the proposal on the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC), advising that the PCCC would aim to strengthen and sustain the delivery of climate change information and services to Pacific island members of SPREP. This service will include the application of both climate variability prediction and long term projection tools to support planning and decision making by SPREP Pacific island members on climate change and disaster risk management.

81. At the invitation of the Chair, the Ambassador of Japan to RMI highlighted that, while Japan was not a member of SPREP, they had been working closely with SPREP and the region through JICA on their solid waste management programme. The Ambassador welcomed the work on climate change and advised that the Government of Japan was carefully studying the proposal and would be announcing the outcome on the proposal. The Ambassador further added that the PCCC would provide

training on preventive measures on climate change, among other things.

82. Tuvalu welcomed the housing of the PCCC at SPREP and thanked the Government of Japan for considering this. Tuvalu added that the PCCC should serve the interests of all Member countries and territories and that programmes should be developed and undertaken based on the needs and interests of the Pacific islands. Tuvalu requested that the Kyoto Protocol be considered properly by developed countries.

83. New Caledonia advised that two years ago it did not have a climate change policy and was therefore not in a position to make comment on this issue. However, thanks to SPREP, Meteo France, IRD and the Pacific Fund, New Caledonia was in the process of equipping itself with a policy on adaptation to climate change. Similarly, French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna and Pitcairn Island would also be developing policies on adaptation to climate change through SPREP, thanks to the Intégré Project financed from the European Fund. This will allow the territories to be part of the regional initiatives and contribute meaningfully through their experiences to the regional work.

84. The United States and Australia supported the initiative and noted the importance of working with existing partners to identify the role of the PCCC in leveraging existing initiatives, building synergies and strengthening services to SPREP Members. They advised that it would be important for SPREP to work with the numerous partners in the region on improving

climate science and services and to identify appropriate roles of the PCCC and establish organisation structures to help move this work forward.

85. The United States and Australia requested that information on the ongoing costs of running and maintenance of the centre be articulated by the next SPREP Meeting. United States recommended a cost-benefit analysis be undertaken.

86. The Secretariat advised that the PCCC would not have a separate governance structure but be part of the Secretariat work. It will work with partners and stakeholders on climate change to provide a consolidated approach to addressing climate change in the region. Operational and maintenance costs would depend on the size and nature of the building. As an example, the current maintenance costs of the Training and Education Centre was around USD12,000. The Secretariat further advised that the design would help lower the cost of maintaining the operation of the building.

87. The Meeting:

- ***noted*** the progress made with the development of the Pacific Climate Change Centre and the envisaged strengthened services from SPREP to its Pacific Member countries;
- ***noted with appreciation*** the support from the Government of Japan; and
- ***directed*** the Secretariat to report to the next SPREP Meeting on the status and on matters relating to programme of work, governance and maintenance costs.

Agenda Item 6.7: UNIDO/SIDS Dock Centre

88. The Secretariat presented WP.6.7, which detailed progress on the SIDS DOCK Pacific Office and efforts to secure hosting of the UNIDO Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) at the Secretariat. It noted that the SIDS DOCK is a SIDS to SIDS mechanism established to facilitate the development of a sustainable energy economy within the SIDS. The Secretariat also advised of a unified bid from the CROP agencies (SPREP, SPC, USP and PPA) to the panel of experts on the PCREEE office.

89. The Meeting:

- ***noted*** the progress made by SPREP to secure funding for Pacific renewable energy projects under SIDS Dock; and
- ***noted*** the unified bid by the CROP agencies on the establishment of the PCREEE Office.

Agenda Item 6.8: Framework for Pacific Regionalism

90. The Secretariat provided background on the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, which was adopted at the 2014 Forum Leaders' Meeting. The Secretariat advised on the process of development of the Framework and noted that it had provided feedback on the draft Framework, which had been integrated into the final paper. SPREP noted that it strongly supported regionalism within the Pacific and would continue to ensure that its work is linked and integrated with the new Framework.

91. Further general information on the Framework is outlined in WP.6.8 and its attachment. The Framework can be downloaded from: [http://www.forumsec.org.fj/resources/uploads/embeds/file/Framework%20for%20Pacific%20Regionalism\(1\).pdf](http://www.forumsec.org.fj/resources/uploads/embeds/file/Framework%20for%20Pacific%20Regionalism(1).pdf)
92. At the invitation of the Chair, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat provided further information on the Framework and outlined processes for strengthened regional priority setting. This includes empowering Ministerial meetings to make decisions related to their sectors to streamline the Leaders' meeting agenda.
93. Fiji noted that it was currently suspended from the Forum and requested that information on the Framework for Pacific Regionalism be communicated to their Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
94. New Caledonia advised that it supported the Framework, which is geared towards constructively guiding the other regional organisations and recommended that SPREP promote the Framework.
95. France noted that on several occasions New Caledonia had jointly and with the support of France, requested membership to the Pacific Islands Forum. France observed that exclusion of some Members from regional agencies was not conducive to Pacific regionalism.
96. The Meeting:
 - *noted* the update on the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

Agenda Item 7.1: Report on Members' Contributions

97. In accordance with Financial Regulation 14, the Secretariat submitted a report on Member contributions received in 2014 (up to 31st July) and provided an update on the status of contributions as at the end of 2013. A summary sheet was also provided as part of 25SM/Officials/WP.7.1/Att.1.
98. The Secretariat noted that despite considerable effort in 2013/2014 to encourage Members to pay their contributions, unpaid contributions currently totalled USD687,269.
99. A number of Members noted the importance of the issue and some Members submitted comments clarifying their outstanding fees. Nauru explained that, due to a current court case, their outstanding contribution will be made at a later date. Tuvalu and Niue noted their intention to pay the small arrears owing before the close of the meeting.
100. Australia expressed disappointment at the lack of analysis provided by the Secretariat in its report and urged the Secretariat to share a more detailed analysis of the issue that takes into account the individual circumstances of countries.
101. The United States noted their pledge to continue providing a voluntary contribution of USD200,000 per annum and queried whether such voluntary contributions could be used to pare down unpaid Member contributions.

102. New Zealand and New Caledonia commented that Membership contributions are important in that they express country ownership of the organisation and reflect a certain level of commitment.

103. Several Members noted that the issue of unpaid Membership contributions could be looked at by the recently formed Working Group on Membership Contributions.

104. The Meeting:

- *considered* the report and the problem of unpaid member contributions; and
- *committed* itself collectively and individually to paying current and outstanding contributions in full in 2014.

Agenda Item 7.2: SPREP Working Group on Memberships Contributions: Report of the Chair

105. The Chair of the SPREP Working Group on Membership Contributions presented its report on raising the level of membership contributions. Details are outlined in WP 7.2 and its attachment.

106. The report noted that core funding contributed to 17% of the 2013 SPREP budget and covers a wide range of corporate service costs. The budget was not sufficient to cover all the operational requirements and costs were reduced by deferring critical maintenance and reducing expenditures in some areas. It was further noted that membership contributions had remained the same

since 2003, resulting in a static core budget. However costs had increased significantly with greater demands placed on corporate services in order to provide services to Members. The Secretariat is committed to a balanced budget, and has allocated the reserve funds to balance the core budget. This was an unsustainable position. It was noted that other CROP agencies have received membership contribution increases, sometimes more than once.

107. The Working Group recognised the impact of inflation and proposed an amendment to the Financial Regulations to take into account the average annual rate of inflation (over the previous 36 months) in Samoa in determining membership contributions.

108. The Working Group proposed that the Secretariat undertake further analysis with a view to rationalising direct services to Members and taking into account the outcomes of the mid-term review of the Strategic Plan and the report of the Independent Corporate Review (ICR).

109. Australia supported the proposed change to regulations to keep membership fees in line with inflation and queried whether SPREP was taking on projects that did not meet the agreed overhead fees. Australia stated that this should not be done without membership approval and recommended that a Member-based committee be tasked to approve externally funded projects.

110. New Caledonia noted that Members were requesting the Secretariat for new projects to be funded by the core budget and stressed that if the core

budget could not be increased, it would be up to the Members to be more careful with their requests to SPREP. New Caledonia also asked whether donors had been approached to consider new management fees.

111. The United States and United Kingdom noted that they could not support inflationary increases but were looking for other ways to provide support and suggested looking at increasing management fees and other measures.

112. The Secretariat advised that the policy for management fees is 12% for non-members and 10% for Members. It would wait for Member direction before approaching donors for increases.

113. France noted the complexity of the issue and stated that an overall increase of 3% would pose a challenge for some Members. France proposed that the Working Group be granted an extended mandate to look into overdue membership fees and review other options, including increasing project management fees.

114. A Friends' of the Chair group consisting of New Zealand, French Polynesia, United Kingdom, Australia, Samoa, Tokelau, France, United States and Fiji was established to provide additional guidance.

115. The Meeting:

- **directed** the Secretariat to undertake further analysis with a view to rationalising direct services delivered to Members and report back no later than the 2015 SPREP Meeting;

- **requested that** the mandate of the Working Group for Membership Contributions be broadened to allow consideration of the different financial issues including unpaid membership contributions, management fees for projects, exchange rates, voluntary contributions; and

- **requested** the Working Group to provide analysis and recommendations to Members, no later than 31 March 2015.

Agenda Item 7.3: Business Plan

116. The Secretariat introduced the key elements of the draft SPREP Business Plan 2013 – 2015. The Plan will be reported regularly to Members and amended as necessary.

117. Cook Islands welcomed the dynamic nature of the document, noting that it could be amended to suit the changing needs of Members.

118. Australia, New Zealand and New Caledonia suggested endorsing the Plan as an interim document to allow strengthening of the document. Australia noted that this would provide opportunity to develop the Business Plan in conjunction with the development of the new Strategic Plan, with synergies available to both.

119. New Caledonia recommended improving partnerships, especially with non-governmental organisations and private sector, for the implementation of the Plan.

120. Tokelau raised concern that the SPREP Meeting appeared to contribute to delaying the Secretariat's efforts for progress and observed that the Secretariat had developed the Business Plan in line with directives by the previous SPREP Meetings. Tokelau stated that these efforts should be supported and endorsed.

121. The Meeting:

- **endorsed** the SPREP Business Plan 2013-2015 as an interim plan.

Agenda Item 8.1: Annual Market Data

122. The Secretariat advised on the recent market data review, noting that the annual review for internationally recruited staff was yet to be presented and discussed through the CROP process. The salary scale movement for locally recruited staff was implemented in 2014 at a cost of USD10,000. Details are outlined in WP.8.1.

123. Australia noted that it was encouraged by the Secretariat's use of market data for harmonisation between CROPs and requested clarification on the definition of "substantial" amount as per the reference in the Staff Regulations, which allow for "Director General's discretion".

124. The Secretariat advised that the SPREP Member Working Group had quantified a 'substantive salary increase' as USD15,000 and over and, as such, the Director General had approved the locally recruited staff salary increase under this discretion.

125. Tokelau acknowledged the Director General for taking leadership in implementing the Annual Market data for staff salary scales. Tokelau pointed out the need to be vigilant and that it was important that Members are firm in supporting their commitment to ensure that the Secretariat remains a robust organisation.

126. The Meeting:

- **noted** the first draft of the 2014 Annual Market Data report has been received by the Secretariat and a CROP position has yet to be determined;
- **noted** the Secretariat proposal that consideration of any movement to its salary scales for internationally recruited staff be deferred until the findings of the 2015 Triennial Review are available; and
- **noted** the movement in salary scale for locally recruited staff was implemented on 1 January 2014, in line with directions from the 24th SPREP Meeting.

Agenda Item 8.2: SPREP Director General's Performance Assessment

This was a closed session.

127. The Meeting:

- **noted** the review and evaluation of the Director General's Performance Development Plan for 2013-2014;
- **endorsed** the Director General's Performance Development Plan for 2014-2015; and

- *noted* the value of future Troikas meeting face-to-face well before the SPREP Meeting each year to ensure this process continues to be effectively and efficiently implemented.

Agenda Item 8.3: Process for the recruitment of the Director General

This was a closed session.

128. The Meeting:

- *considered* and *approved* the proposed Job Description of the Director General post, including amendments, as attached in Attachment 1 of WP.8.3;

- *considered* and *decided* on the Selection Advisory Committee for the recruitment and selection process of the Director General post as follows:
 - Republic of Marshall Islands as current Chair of SPREP Meeting will chair the process in line with the Rules of Procedure for Appointment of Director General
 - Members with representatives based in Samoa are welcomed to participate - interest confirmed from Australia, New Zealand, Samoa and Tokelau
 - Other Members to participate on a self-funded basis - interest confirmed from Papua New Guinea, Tonga and France with at least one Member from the French-speaking territories; and
- *noted* and *reconfirmed* the process as follows:

1	January 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The position of DG is advertised widely in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Appointment of Director General
2	March - May 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection process by the SAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre-screening ○ Shortlist ○ Interviews ○ Discussions ○ Report
3	June - July 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SAC report is finalised and circulated to SPREP members
4	September 2015 - 26 SM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SM considers the SAC's report and decide on the appointment of a new DG

Agenda Item 8.4: Appointment External Auditors

129. In accordance with Financial Regulation 29, the Secretariat updated the Meeting on the appointment of the external auditor noting that the current auditor's contract ends 31 October 2014. A tender process was used and all tenders had met the required criteria. Betham & Co was the selected

company and this would be their last term as external auditors as per SPREP Regulations.

130. The Meeting:

- *endorsed* the appointment of Betham & Co. as the External Auditor to audit SPREP's accounts for the financial years 2014 and 2015.

Agenda Item 8.5: Report by the DG on Staff Appointment Beyond 6 years

131. The Secretariat provided background on the reappointment of: Mr Clark Peteru to the position of Legal Adviser; Mr Anthony Talouli to the position of Pollution Adviser; Ms Alofa Tuuau to the position of Finance & Administration Adviser; and Mr Stuart Chape as Director, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Division for a further 3-year term, noting that this was in accordance with Staff Regulation 6 (m) on the Six Year Rule. Details of the process are outlined in WP 8.5.

132. Cook Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, France and Tokelau supported the recommendations by the Chair.

133. New Zealand asked what measures were in place to ensure the selection process would not be favourably biased towards the incumbent.

134. France and New Caledonia advised that consideration be given to encourage the recruitment of bilingual staff for future positions. France noted the importance of recruiting and retaining quality staff and requested that sufficient time be given for advertisement of positions so as to enable the possible recruitment of more French speaking applicants.

135. Nauru asked for clarification on whether the 6-year rule applied to the re-appointed staff.

136. The Secretariat advised that SPREP has a very rigorous recruitment process that seeks to recruit the best possible candidate. The selection criteria did not favour the incumbent but it was noted that, as in other organisations, the incumbent would have a better knowledge of the work. The Secretariat also noted that the 6-year rule applies and that the incumbent is welcome to apply.

137. The Meeting:

- *noted* the reappointment of Mr Clark Peteru to the position of Legal Adviser, for another three year term;
- *noted* the reappointment of Mr Anthony Talouli to the position of Pollution Adviser, for another three year term;
- *noted* the reappointment of Ms Alofa Tuuau to the position of Finance & Administration Adviser, for another three year term; and
- *noted* the reappointment of Mr Stuart Chape to the position of Director, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Division, for another three year term.

Agenda Item 9.1: Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Waigani Convention

138. Tonga presented the Report of the 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention that was held in Majuro, RMI prior to the SPREP Meeting.

139. The Meeting:

- *noted* the Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention.

Agenda Item 9.2: Report on the Twelfth ordinary meeting of the Noumea Convention

140. RMI presented the Report of the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Noumea Convention which was held in Majuro, RMI on 26 September.

141. The Meeting :

- *noted* the Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Noumea Convention.

Agenda Item 10.1: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Division - 2015 Overview

142. The Secretariat presented an overview of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Division work programme activities for 2015 to Members. These activities are outlined in WP.10.1 and discussed in the subsequent agenda items below.

Agenda Item 10.1.1: Outcomes of the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

143. The Secretariat presented on the outcomes of the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas including the

Laucala Conference Declaration (WP 10.1.1/Att 1); High Level 10 Key Actions (WP 10.1.1/Att 2); and the Launch of the Inaugural Pacific Islands Environment Leadership Awards (WP 10.1.1/Att 3).

144. The United Kingdom suggested the Darwin Initiative as a potential source of funding for the Secretariat's work in biodiversity.

145. The Meeting:

- *noted* the key outcomes of the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas; and
- *approved* an open and transparent process through a Call for Expression of Interests from SPREP PICT Members who wish to host the Tenth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.

Agenda Item 10.1.2: Framework on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014-2020

146. The Secretariat presented the new Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014-2020, which was adopted as one of the key outcomes of the 9th Pacific Islands Conference for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in December 2013 in Suva, Fiji. Copies of the Framework were circulated to Members.

147. The Meeting:

- *endorsed* the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Island region 2014-2020; and
- *encouraged* Members and partners to support the implementation of the Framework.

Agenda Item 10.1.3: Pacific preparations for CBD COP12, CMS COP11 and Ramsar COP12

148. The Secretariat updated Members on joint preparatory meeting activities including proposed plans by the Secretariat to harmonise preparations for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP12, Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) COP11 and Ramsar Convention on Wetlands COP12. Details of these activities are outlined in WP 10.1.3/Att 1.

149. New Zealand expressed appreciation to the Secretariat in convening these preparatory workshops and noted their high importance and effectiveness.

150. The United States requested a change to the wording in paragraph 27 of the WP 10.1.3/Att 1 to 'precautionary approach'.

151. The Meeting:

- *noted* progress towards harmonising and streamlining activities of the biodiversity multi-lateral environment agreements (MEAs) in the Pacific island region; and

- *endorsed* the outcomes of the joint preparatory meeting including planned activities in support of Pacific island delegations, and invited Members in a position to do so to provide technical or financial support.

Agenda Item 10.1.4: Conservation of Threatened and Migratory Marine Species

152. The Secretariat presented WP 10.1.4 to inform Members of recent initiatives related to the conservation of threatened and migratory marine species covered in SPREP's Marine Species Action Plan.

153. Australia and United States acknowledged the Secretariat and the International Whaling Commission for the informative and useful side event.

154. Australia, United States, Tonga and France pledged to support the 2016 Year of the Whale.

155. Australia, United States and Tonga indicated interest in joining the working group to develop a work programme for the Year of the Whale.

156. The United States acknowledged SPREP involvement in ocean science, issues and education, including its commitment to addressing Ocean Acidification and acquiring oceans data. United States highlighted the high level of expertise available through NOAA and further advised of the United States' support to the Pacific Island Global Ocean Observing System (PI-GOOS) position within the

Secretariat. The United States advised that it will work with the recently hired PI-GOOS Coordinator and the PI-GOOS Steering Committee to establish an updated work plan for PI-GOOS that reflects expanding requirements for understanding of the oceans that emerged from the SIDS conference and new capabilities of autonomous instrumentation to provide high-frequency observations of the Deep Ocean and observations of chemical species of significance to developing an understanding of ocean acidification.

157. Tonga highlighted the need for conservation efforts that were balanced with sustainable economic benefit, such as whale watching in Tonga.

158. New Caledonia highlighted activities of relevance, including the use of Ecosystem-based Adaptation in their Coral Sea Marine Park management plan and the listing of their first Ramsar site. Although it does not attend COPs, New Caledonia would like to participate in the preparatory meetings with a view to identifying solutions to its own issues. New Caledonia advised that their President had a keen interest in the negotiations training provided by SPREP to Pacific leaders. In the area of threatened and migratory marine species, New Caledonia was ready to share its technical expertise and highlighted work being done by a group of scientists and NGOs to develop a project to set up an IUCN Red List authority for threatened plant species in New Caledonia. The Red List Authority is expected to be operational by the end of 2014 when the first assessments will be carried out. New

Caledonia advised that training on the Red List will be organised in December 2014 and invited other interested experts from the Pacific to participate. Details can be provided on request. In the area of invasive species, New Caledonia requested to be included in the regional project to be submitted to GEF6 and added that the New Caledonia Invasive Species strategy would be adopted shortly. New Caledonia confirmed its involvement in PILN.

159. Palau supported the drafting of the regional shark action plan.

160. Samoa acknowledged the efforts by SPREP with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and advised the meeting that the Samoan Cabinet had approved the decision to sign the CMS Shark MOU at the Conference of Parties in Ecuador later this year.

161. France supported SPREP's activities on threatened and migratory species, which are very important for them, and also noted France's support for work in their Pacific territories on marine protected areas.

162. The Meeting, in reference to the four target marine species:

Dugongs

- **Noted** that the Global Environment Facility and the Convention on Migratory Species have recently launched a global initiative for the conservation of dugong and seagrass habitat, and congratulated the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu for their commitment to this initiative; and

- **Endorsed** SPREP's engagement with CMS in developing this programme in the SPREP region; and urged donors and supporters to facilitate a similar level of engagement for the other SPREP Range States for dugong.

Turtles

- **Noted** that marine turtles in the SPREP region appear to be declining in abundance, and that the most iconic species are classified as Endangered or Critically Endangered;
- **Noted** that a recently-published scientific paper asserts that the levels of legally-permitted take of turtles in SPREP member nations are amongst the highest in the world and may be a major threat to the continued occurrence of turtles in some areas; and
- **Agreed** that where the take of turtles is still permitted, Members should: provide to SPREP any reliable estimates that may be available on the level of permitted take, as called for in Action 3.4 of the SPREP Turtle Action Plan; consider prohibiting or more strictly regulating the take of turtles, particularly for major gatherings that involve the harvesting of large numbers of individual turtles; and prohibit the take of turtle eggs and nesters, in line with Action 3.5 of the SPREP Turtle Action Plan.

Whales and dolphins

- **Noted** that SPREP has implemented several important initiatives related to whales this year, including developing a collaboration with the International Whaling Commission;
- **Approved** the designation of 2016 as the Pacific Year of the Whale; and

- **Requested** SPREP to begin planning for the implementation of 2016 as the Pacific Year of the Whale; and invite members, supporters and potential collaborators, including the International Whaling Commission and the Convention on Migratory Species, to provide technical and financial assistance in the planning and implementation of 2016 - Pacific Year of the Whale.

Sharks

- **Noted** that many species of sharks in the SPREP region have declined significantly in abundance in recent years;
- **Welcomed** the steps taken by many SPREP Members and partners to protect sharks within their EEZs through a variety of conservation measures; and
- **Agreed** that, in association with other competent and interested parties, including SPC and FFA, SPREP draft a Shark Action Plan, to be incorporated into the next round of Marine Species Action Plans (2018-2023).

Agenda Item 10.2: Climate Change - Overview

163. The Secretariat provided an overview of the 2015 key activities of the Climate Change Division as outlined in WP.10.2.

Agenda Item 10.2.1: Pilot Program on Climate Resilience: Pacific Regional Program

164. The Secretariat reported on progress in implementation of the Pilot Program on Climate Resilience (PPCR), which

commenced in November 2013, and highlighted the launch of the Regional Technical Backstopping Mechanism (RTSM) and its associated Rapid Response Fund (RRF) in July 2014.

165. Cook Islands, France, Kiribati, RMI, Samoa, Tuvalu and the United Kingdom commended SPREP on the progress.

166. Kiribati expressed its gratitude to SPREP and the United States in assisting with the Abaiang Whole of Island support. Kiribati also noted with appreciation SPREP's assistance in other climate change integrated approaches and called for continuing support for their joint implementation plan.

167. United Kingdom noted preparations for the 2015 Paris Climate Change COP and commended the ongoing work by the United Kingdom Meteorology Office, SPREP and the New Zealand MetService on the maintenance of weather services in the region, noting a 5-year project of approximately USD250,000 per year.

168. RMI noted the recent New York Conference on Climate Change and observed that much needed to be done leading up to the 2015 Paris Climate Change COP. RMI also requested information from Members on progress of their Intended National Disaster Contributions (INDC). New Zealand advised the Meeting on the progress of their INDC submission and noted their willingness to exchange views among Pacific colleagues on the NDC process.

169. Cook Islands and Tuvalu noted with concern the conclusion of the PACC and PIGGAREP projects at the end of 2015, noting that both projects had provided model information to the region, such as the Cook Islands harbour infrastructure development project. They urged the Meeting to see how the programmes could be continued.

170. In response to a query from Cook Islands and Samoa on the Rapid Response Fund, the Secretariat clarified that the USD1.182M allocation is to respond to technical assistance requests linked to climate change and disaster risk reduction.

171. The Secretariat advised that it would continue to explore options to sustain the momentum created by PACC and PIGGAREP. The Secretariat also encouraged Members to voice their concern and seek support from donors to support SPREP in its climate change initiatives.

172. France noted the recent United Nations Climate Summit in New York where there were several interventions from Pacific islands and advised that France had pledged USD1 Billion towards the Green Climate Fund.

173. The Meeting:

- ***noted*** the progress made by SPREP to implement the Pilot Program on Climate Resilience (PPCR) -Pacific Regional Program; and

- *invited* Members to use and promote the Regional Technical Backstopping Mechanism and its associated financing facility (the Rapid Response Fund) and noted the current available funding of USD1.182 million.

Agenda Item 10.2.2: PIGGAREP AND PIGGAREP PLUS

174. The Secretariat reported on work done under the PIGGAREP and PIGGAREP Plus, details of which are available in WP.10.2.2.

175. The Meeting:

- *noted* the progress to date of the PIGGAREP and PIGGAREP+ activities and closing date;
- *noted* the Secretariat role and strategy for GHG mitigation; and
- *encouraged* the participating countries and Members to share the success stories, apply lessons learned to future mitigation projects and continue to mainstream and sustain these activities beyond the life of these projects.

Agenda Item 10.2.3: Climate Information and Meteorology

176. The Secretariat reported on progress in meteorology and climatology activities to build capacity of National Meteorological Services (NMS) in the region. Details are outlined in WP.10.2.3.

177. Australia, New Zealand and Niue noted the need for coordination in all aspects of these projects, commencing at project design, to avoid duplication with existing activities. Australia recognised the role of the Pacific Islands Climate Services (PICS) Panel in coordinating and harmonising these projects. Australia welcomed the significant increase in climate financing but expressed concern about the impact on the implementation capacity of regional organisations and Members. Australia proposed new recommendations.

178. The Meeting:

- *noted* the progress of the FINPAC Project;
- *noted* the valuable contribution from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), other participating scientists from Australia and from National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) to enable climate change projections and associated tools, such as climate futures, to be provided under the PACCSAP project;
- *noted* the valuable contribution from the COSPPac Project in developing the climate services capacity in the Pacific and its collaboration with FINPAC;
- *noted* the need to ensure coordination and harmonisation between these projects and related weather and climate projects being implemented in the region, including the Korea funded Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Services

project, and the proposed establishment of the Pacific Climate Centre with funding being considered by the government of Japan; and

- *noted* the important role of SPREP, through the Pacific Meteorological Partnership, to harmonise these activities and deliver a regionally coordinated effort to service SPREP Members' needs in the area of weather and climate services.

Agenda Item 10.2.4: Strategy for Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP)

179. The Secretariat provided an update on the draft Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP) noting the rigorous and participatory process in its development. The SRDP aims to improve coordination in all areas but most especially in cross cutting areas such as climate change and disaster risk reduction. The SRDP is a strategic approach and needs to be considered in line with other regional strategies and policies such as the meteorological strategy, water strategy and energy strategy. Details, including an outline of the strategy, are provided in WP.10.2.4.

180. Tuvalu, Samoa, New Caledonia, Australia, Tonga, United States and New Zealand acknowledged the significant work undertaken in developing the document.

181. Tuvalu requested whether loss and damage could be included in the SRDP and if not, suggested that the Secretariat has a clear mandate to work on the issue for the Pacific islands.

182. Samoa proposed a new recommendation that would direct the Secretariat to play a key role in implementation of the strategy.

183. New Caledonia welcomed the opportunity to benefit from SPREP's expertise in the areas of climate change adaptation strategy development and highlighted that this project, initiated under the Pacific Funds, could be extended thanks to EU 10th FED funding available through the Intégré Project, to another three European Pacific territories. New Caledonia acknowledged SPREP and SPC for the opportunity to participate in the Working Group on SDRP, which will prove very useful in defining the structure and the mandate of New Caledonia's new civil defence authority. New Caledonia is not a party to the Kyoto Protocol but is currently considering options to participate in the post-2015 arrangements and hoped to work closely SPREP on this.

184. Australia, United States and New Zealand reiterated their support for the development of the SRDP but noted the need for more work. This included development of indicators aligned with the Kyoto and Hyogo Frameworks, development of an implementation mechanism in relation to existing structures, including the Pacific Plan Review and PIFACC framework; and

short and long term resourcing expectations. United States expressed concern that comments provided by NOAA were not included in the latest draft.

185. Australia urged that the SRDP's focus must remain strategic and observed that both SPREP and SPC Members should support the SRDP and work together.

186. Tonga noted that the SRDP was in line with Tonga's joint national action plan (JNAP) and outlined the new institutional arrangements, which groups together ministries with related climate change activities. Tonga supported the role of SPREP in the SRDP noting the experience of SPREP in coordinating climate change activities from which countries have benefited.

187. The Secretariat noted that the intention of the SRDP is to mirror the Kyoto and Hyogo Frameworks, not replace them. The Secretariat also clarified that the SRDP would be reported back to the 2015 Forum Leaders Meeting and noted that the SRDP process was an example of collaborative effort by CROP Agencies. The Director General assured the Meeting that the SRDP seeks to build on existing structures and not create new ones.

188. Regarding the issue of loss and damage, the Secretariat advised that this was being discussed at negotiation level and was yet to be finalised. The decision by the Steering Committee has been not to include loss and damage until the negotiation process is completed. However, this would not

eliminate technical assistance and advice from SPREP and SPC as needed.

189. The Meeting:

- *noted* the features of the draft SRDP;
- *endorsed*, in principle, the draft SRDP and requested the Roadmap Steering Committee and Technical Working Group to address as necessary concerns raised by Members in an updated draft;
- *requested* that the Secretariat play an active role in supporting the SRDP and the Pacific Resilience Partnership; and
- *requested* that the manner in which the Pacific Resilience Partnership is supported by CROP Agencies be discussed at head of agency level by SPREP and SPC and that the matter should also, if possible, be discussed within CROP and resolved prior to the 2015 PIF.

Agenda Item 10.3: Waste Management and Pollution Control Division Overview 2015

190. The Secretariat provided an overview of major work programme activities for 2015 to improve management of solid and hazardous waste and marine pollution for the Region. These are outlined in WP.10.3.

191. The Meeting:

- *noted* the overview report of the work programme activities for 2015.

Agenda Item 10.3.1: Regional Healthcare Waste Management Intervention Recommendation Summary

192. The Secretariat updated the Meeting on regional recommendations for improved healthcare waste management. Details are outlined in WP.10.3.1.

193. The Meeting:

- *noted* the significant resources that are being allocated to improving the management of healthcare waste in the Pacific region over the next 3 years, as part of the PacWaste Project; and
- *noted* the recommendations for adoption and implementation of best practices in the region for disposal of healthcare waste.

Agenda Item 10.3.2: Improved Regional Management of Mercury

194. The Secretariat presented information on the hazards of mercury to human health and the environment and outlined steps being taken in the region to improve its management, including information on the global, legally binding treaty on mercury, the Minamata Convention. These are detailed in WP.10.3.2.

195. The Meeting:

- *noted* the regional importance of improved mercury management;
- *directed* the Secretariat to pursue a regional programme on the environmentally sound management of mercury and

mercury-containing products and wastes;

- *encouraged* Members to consider becoming signatories to the Minamata Convention; and
- *encouraged* Members to pursue national initiatives in the environmentally sound management of mercury and mercury-containing products and waste as part of their overall programmes for chemicals and hazardous waste management.

Agenda Item 10.3.3: Annual Waste Management Data Collation Summary

196. The Secretariat presented an annual summary of collated regional and national waste management related initiatives as part of efforts to coordinate waste management priorities and share best practice information in the region.

197. The United States and France noted they had not received the relevant documents on this and requested that these be made available online. The Secretariat undertook to address this.

198. New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Fiji, Samoa and France commented on aspects of their national activities which included capacity building and training (Fiji), completion of a major study on waste (French Polynesia); ban of imports of used tyres in a waste to energy programme (Samoa); and amendment of a waste monitoring policy to include banning of plastic bags (France).

199. Samoa noted the need to collect more data to inform policy and prevent importation of hazardous waste.

200. New Caledonia offered assistance in the recycling programme implementation including through the TRECODEC eco-organisation which specialises in waste processing and through health care waste management partners, private entities in charge of healthcare waste disposal and sorting of hospital waste. New Caledonia participates in the development of NATPLANS and waste management activities in port areas. New Caledonia added that through the Intégré Project, four Pacific OCTs will benefit from SPREP assistance in waste management.

201. The Meeting:

- ***noted*** the compiled regional and national summary of waste management activities for 2013-2014;
- ***directed*** the Secretariat to continue annual waste management information collation and reporting; and
- ***encouraged*** Members and relevant partners to actively participate in annual national waste management information collection and reporting.

Agenda Item 10.4: Environmental Monitoring and Governance Division Overview 2015

202. The Secretariat provided an overview of major 2015 work programme activities for the Environmental

Monitoring and Governance division as detailed in WP.10.4.

Agenda Item 10.4.1: GEF Support to Members

203. The Secretariat advised on GEF support services provided by SPREP to Members, noting that this support was coordinated and delivered through the GEF Support Adviser and the internal GEF Advisory Group. The issues and proposed approaches for the GEF 6 Cycle are outlined in WP.10.4.1.

204. The Secretariat also outlined possible options to continue funding the GEF Support Adviser position noting that it is currently funded until the end of 2015 through a dedicated allocation from Australia.

205. The United States, New Zealand, Fiji and Australia noted the support that this position is providing to the Members. However the United States questioned whether this role could be more adequately covered by the SPREP GEF Advisory Group. In light of the fact that funding for this position will end at the end of 2015, the United States proposed that it could be funding on a fee basis to implementing agencies or users.

206. New Zealand, Fiji and Australia supported the continuation of this position. Australia noted the need for Members to decide on how to continue funding beyond the Australian assistance and reiterated Australia's commitment to the process.

207. Fiji commented on the urgent need for initial capacity building to enable Pacific island participation in the GEF 6 Cycle.

208. The Secretariat reiterated that the GEF Support Adviser is a strategically important position that needs to be continued based on feedback from Members. The GEF Support Adviser provides critical backstopping for GEF national advisers and country focal points. This role cannot be covered by the SPREP GEF Advisory Group as it is an internal coordinating group made up of staff that have their own specific projects and are there for implementation of specific GEF projects. Without this position the Secretariat will be unable to meet the requirements and technical requests from countries regarding the GEF.

209. The Meeting:

- *noted* the services provided through the GEF Support Adviser for SPREP Members;
- *considered* whether there is a need to continue the position for GEF 6; and
- *recommended* modalities for continued funding of the position from 2016.

Agenda Item 10.4.2: Improving Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development Through Strengthening Planning, Monitoring and Reporting

210. The Secretariat provided an update on the Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development support

provided by the EMG Division to Members as outlined in WP 10.4.2

211. Tuvalu and Cook Islands thanked the Secretariat for the support provided by the EMG Division to their respective countries and pledged their support for the EU MEAs Phase 2 and the GEF Capacity building project that is under development, since good environmental governance for sustainable development was an important issue for small island developing states.

212. The Meeting:

- *noted and supported* the approach to strengthen environmental governance and sustainable development;
- *supported* the implementation of Phase 2 of the ACP MEAs Project; and
- *reiterated* its endorsement and support for the GEF Regional Project – “Building national and regional capacity to implement MEAs by strengthening planning, and state of environment assessment and reporting in the Pacific Islands.”

Agenda Item 10.5: Consideration and Approval of Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2015

213. The Secretariat presented its proposed annual work programme and budget for 2015, noting that it was presenting a balanced budget of USD20,072,378 as outlined in WP.10.5 and its attachment. Membership contributions represented 5.3% of the total budget

and a breakdown of assistance and support by countries was provided in the documents.

214. Tokelau requested that the Secretariat consider more on-ground involvement in helping Tokelau address its needs in environmental management. The Secretariat advised that it was looking at scheduling a joint visit to Tokelau in 2015.

215. New Caledonia noted the overall decrease in the budget but stressed that it was also important to consider the improvement in quality of service. New Caledonia noted that as programme activities increase, Members must consider how best to support continued quality of service delivery, given that the core budget is insufficient. New Caledonia acknowledged the increase in programme budget as well as the more equitable distribution of programme funding across divisions. The delegate noted the upcoming International Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change: From Strategies to Action, to be held from October 2014 in Guadeloupe. New Caledonia is part of the preparatory committee for this and hoped that funding would be made available to OCTs by regional organisations.

216. Australia, Cook Islands and FSM thanked the Secretariat and supported the recommendations.

217. The United States noted that its contributions are on a voluntary basis and as such the budget should only be regarded as indicative.

218. In response to a query from Australia, the Secretariat advised that while it has a maintenance plan for the upkeep of the Secretariat office facilities, funding to implement this was a challenge. Australia noted that the capital expenditure budget was only 0.4%.

219. The Secretariat advised, in response to New Zealand, that the increase in the executive management budget was due to the addition of the position of monitoring and evaluation adviser as well as the establishment of the sub-regional officers in compliance with Members' recommendations the previous year. The Secretariat also clarified that the communication and education budget had been shifted from programme funding to core funding due to the importance the Secretariat places on this area.

220. The Meeting:

- *considered* and *approved* the proposed Work Programme and Budget of USD20,072,378 for 2015.

Agenda Item 11.1: Items Proposed by Members: Ocean Acidification – Update on international efforts to address ocean acidification

221. The United States presented a paper to inform Members on global efforts to understand and monitor increasing ocean acidification and to mitigate and adapt to its impacts. The presentation offered an introduction to the challenges that ocean acidification presents and outlined opportunities for Member participation and involvement in

efforts to address those challenges. Details are provided in WP.11.1.

222. The Secretariat noted the success of the recent Ocean Acidification workshop organised by the United States, New Zealand and SPREP at the UN SIDS Conference, and advised on the development of a draft Ocean Acidification Policy at the Secretariat.
223. New Zealand, Cook Islands, United Kingdom, New Caledonia and France thanked the United States for the valuable presentation, noted the ongoing work in the area of ocean acidification, and expressed an interest in ongoing involvement on activities related to this issue.
224. New Caledonia and France discussed the work being conducted by the New Caledonia-based CRESICA and urged the Secretariat to increase engagement with CRESICA to further activities in this area.
225. The Meeting:
- *noted* the progress of the international community on raising awareness about ocean acidification;
 - *urged* SPREP and Member countries to support international ocean acidification monitoring networks; and
 - *encouraged* SPREP and Member countries to explore opportunities to pursue the recommendations and actions arising from the workshop on ocean acidification that took place as a parallel event to the September 2014 Small Island Developing States Conference in Samoa.

Agenda Item 11.2: Items Proposed by Members: Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction

226. Australia updated the Meeting on the United Nations process on the possible development of a new instrument on the management of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). A working group has been established and will meet again in January, 2015. States are requested to provide input to the WG by the end of October 2014, in which they should scope the parameters and feasibility of such an instrument.
227. New Zealand, Tuvalu, the United Kingdom welcomed the progress by the MSWG on this issue, noting the importance of the matter to the Pacific, and encouraged Members to actively engage in the process. Tuvalu encouraged the Secretariat to facilitate a workshop that would allow SPREP Members to be better informed on the issue.
228. The United States opposed the development of a new international instrument and believed progress could be made through existing agreements. United States proposed that the Secretariat provide only factual information on BBNJ to Members and noted that the Secretariat should not devote too many of its limited resources to the issue.
229. The Secretariat informed the Meeting that a BBNJ paper currently being drafted will be discussed at the next meeting of the MSWG on 26 November 2014 at SPREP. The Secretariat reaffirmed its commitment

to providing high quality, objective, factual and technical information to Members with a view to strive for efficiency on this matter.

230. The Meeting:

- *noted* the update on the UN led discussions on BBNJ and the forward process;
- *noted* the BBNJ brief being developed through the Marine Sector Working Group (MSWG); and
- *requested* the Secretariat to submit information relevant to BBNJ for incorporation in the MSWG brief.

Agenda Item 11.3: Oceania 21 Summit

231. New Caledonia presented a report on the 2nd Oceania 21 Conference ('Oceania 21'), which was organised by the Government of New Caledonia with the support of the Government of France, and hosted in Noumea from June 30 to 02 July 2014. Issues discussed focused on oceans, climate change and cultural values and included significant youth participation. The report is available at WP.11.3/Att 1.

232. France noted that this is one way that France works to support its territories.

233. The Meeting:

- *noted* the update on the Second Oceania 21 Conference; and
- *noted* the Nouméa Communiqué.

Agenda Item 12.1: The Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape and Pacific Ocean Alliance

234. The Secretariat provided a report on progress in implementation of the Pacific Oceanscape Framework and the establishment of the Pacific Ocean Alliance, being led by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) as host to the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner. The need for integrated approaches to ocean management was highlighted. Details are outlined in WP.12.1 and its attachment.

235. Australia noted their support for the Pacific Oceanscape Framework through a AUD3.6million commitment over 3 years, including a secondment to support the work of the Office of the Pacific Oceans Commissioner, and the implementation of the Framework. Australia stressed the need to avoid duplication of efforts with existing agencies.

236. Tokelau noted that as the current chair of FFC, they supported the recommendations and encouraged an approach that would look beyond the Pacific. Tokelau also noted their involvement in the Global Ocean Commission.

237. Cook Islands indicated interest in joining the Alliance.

238. The Meeting:

- *noted* the progress made by SPREP and other agencies in implementation of the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape;

- *noted* the launch of the Pacific Ocean Alliance at the 3rd International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia Samoa, from 1st to 4th September 2014; and
- *encouraged* SPREP members, observers and key development partners to join the Pacific Ocean Alliance, and assist in the maintenance of the register of ocean initiatives and relevant data and information under the Palau Declaration – The Ocean: Life and Future.

Agenda Item 12.2: CROP Executives Meeting Report

239. The Director General provided an update on the outcomes of the CROP Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Meetings in 2014, noting that this was a valuable mechanism for sharing information and developing ways of working together, and added that the CEOs try to use electronic means of communication as much as possible. Details are outlined in WP.12.2.

240. The Meeting:

- *noted* the verbal presentation of the SPREP Director General on CROP CEOs Meetings in 2014.

Agenda Item 13: Statements by Partners and Donors

241. The 25SM was attended by several observers, which included CROP agencies, non-governmental organisations and other conservation and environment groups. Observers

made statements outlining their areas of work and potential partnerships with Members and the Secretariat. The list of Observers and the observer statements are attached as Annex IV.

Agenda Item 14: Other Business

Biosafety

242. Tonga advised on the Biosafety Statement for the Protection and Conservation of Tonga's agriculture (including food, forestry and fisheries) based economy, which is essential to the livelihood of the Tongan people. Tonga further acknowledged the need to enforce the knowledge on and effectiveness of Tonga's Biosafety Act 2009 and on the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) mechanism. Tonga was aware that funding support for the Pacific region had been secured under GEF 6 through UNEP. Therefore, Tonga urged Member countries to recognise Biosafety as a regional priority in order to strengthen the region's efforts in implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety both at the Regional and National level.

243. The Meeting:

- *noted* the comments of Tonga on the need for regional prioritisation of the Biosafety work.

Blue Days

244. French Polynesia announced the planned "Journées Bleues" (Blue Days) conference to be held in late May 2015, which aims to promote the importance of sustainable economic development through blue ecotourism linked to marine species and the

protection of emblematic species in the Pacific region, and to help promote species conservation in the region. The government of French Polynesia, the French Pacific Funds, SPREP and other donors will collaborate on its implementation.

245. The Meeting:

- *noted* the invitation by French Polynesia for Pacific island Members to attend the Blue Days meeting.

Agenda Item 15: High Level Ministerial Segment

246. The High Level segment of the 25 SPREP Meeting was held on 3 October with Ministers and other high level officials attending. The Meeting was chaired by the Honourable Mr Tony de Brum, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Marshall Islands.

15.1: Opening and Prayer

247. Following an opening prayer, a special video presentation by the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, HE Christopher J. Loeak was shown. The presentation highlighted the reality of the impacts of climate change for the Marshall Islands and other small and vulnerable islands. The President noted that forced migration would mean giving up language, culture and identity. He stated that the climate crisis is forcing

countries to take matters into their own hands and highlighted the Forum Leaders' Majuro Declaration on Climate Leadership is "we are in the same boat together" – and added that the Paris Conference could not be another Copenhagen. A new deal capturing a vision for a carbon free world was essential if small islands such as RMI are to survive.

15.2: Climate Change Financing – from talk to action

248. Presentations were made by Hon. Tony de Brum, Minister from Republic of the Marshall Islands, Hon. Tiarite Kwong Minister from Kiribati, and Mr. Noel Lango, Representative from Vanuatu. All presentations are attached as Annex IV.

15.3: Ocean Conservation and Management

249. Presentations were made by Hon. Kiriau Turepu (Cook Islands), Ms Anne-Claire Gourant (New Caledonia) and Ms Christine Schweizer (Australia) on issues relating to ocean conservation and management. Presentations are attached as Annex IV.

15.4: The SIDS Conference – where to from here?

250. Presentations were made by Hon Faamoetaulao Lealaiauloto Taito Dr Faale Tumaalii (Samoa), HE Mr Paulson Panapa (Tuvalu) and Ms Kay Kumaras (Papua New Guinea). Presentations are attached as Annex IV.

15.5: Declaration

251. The High Level delegates agreed to a declaration, which is attached as Annex V.

Agenda Item 16: Date and Venue of Twenty-Sixth SPREP Meeting

252. The Meeting:

- *agreed* that the Twenty-Sixth SPREP Meeting would be held in Apia, Samoa from 21 to 25 September, 2015.

Agenda Item 17: Adoption of Report of the Twenty-Fifth SPREP Meeting

253. The Meeting

- *adopted* the report of the twenty fifth SPREP Meeting.

Agenda Item 18: Close

The Meeting was formally closed at 12noon on 3 October 2014.

Annex I: List of Participants

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Annex II: Recommendations by the Friends of the Chair:

- 1. SPREP Independent Corporate Review; and**
- 2. SPREP Strategic Plan MTR**

‘Friends of the Chair’ SPREP Independent Corporate Review recommendations response summary

ICR Recommendations			Requires action by:			Comments	
Category	No.	Recommendation	Secretariat	Member	Others	Secretariat	FoC
Already Implemented or being implemented	2.	The Secretariat respond further to the directives of previous SPREP Meetings for which the IRT considers the responses could have been more substantive or, perhaps, better documented, and provide a report to the 26th SPREP Meeting.	X			90-95% of SM directives are actioned	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation, and that Secretariat report at SM 26 on the issues identified in Annex 6 of the ICR
	10.	Strengthen the performance monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes in ways that will allow clarity in the reporting of the results achieved, including outcomes and impacts, as a consequence of SPREP assisting PICT Members to ensure their environment, including natural ecosystems, is of high quality and can sustain lives and livelihoods into the future.	X			Being implemented	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation.
	11.	Prepare and action a framework that guides implementation and facilitates reporting, whether it be in the form of (completing) the Business Plan, or another instrument such as an action plan that is based on consultations.	X	X	X	This is being implemented though will be strengthened further	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation, noting, and request the Secretariat to present the framework to Members for endorsement. It is noted that there may be some cost implications for members resulting from the their fulfilment of obligations under the framework

ICR Recommendations			Requires action by:			Comments	
Category	No.	Recommendation	Secretariat	Member	Others	Secretariat	FoC
	12.	Clearly identify assumptions and risks in each Annual Work Programme and Budget, to assist in developing an overall understanding of success factors and lessons learned in implementing projects and programmes.	X	X	X	Being done but can be improved	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation, noting that there may be some responsibility and/or associated cost with undertaking risk assessment or identification of assumptions in the country specific strategies.
	14.	Establish and implement a formal mechanism that encourages ongoing and inclusive professional discourse and other learning opportunities for Secretariat staff, including through the existing seminars.	X			Being implemented	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation, noting the Secretariat is to implement within existing resources.
	16.	Work Programmes should reflect the contributions supporting partners, such as the private sector and NGOs, will also be making to achieving environmental outcomes that help improve livelihoods and sustainable economic development, while performance monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes should include targets and indicators that can be used to demonstrate the resulting immediate and longer term contributions to social and economic development.	X		X	Being implemented	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation, noting that Members should also look to increase the identification of relevant partners through planning and management processes, including through the recommended integrated country programming process.
	17.	Members and the Secretariat should identify and implement measures that Increase the sustainability of outcomes beyond the duration of SPREP's investment, including, where needed and appropriate, ensuring ongoing support from sustainable national financing mechanisms.	X	X	X	This is being done in project implementation, which constitutes most of SPREP's programme implementation.	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation.

ICR Recommendations			Requires action by:			Comments	
Category	No.	Recommendation	Secretariat	Member	Others	Secretariat	FoC
	18.	The Secretariat, with the approval and support of Members, should do more in relation to delivering on its mandate concerning regional public goods related to the environment and marine ecosystem services, including knowledge management and sustainable financing.	X	X	X	Currently implementing a number of projects and programmes relating to environmental/ecosystem services, knowledge management, etc. E.g., marine spatial planning, EbA and EBM projects, TEEB (e.g. MACBIO project, BIOPAMA)	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation.
	23.	With the approval of Members, the Secretariat should implement relatively modest changes that will give greater clarity to the work of the technical Divisions, encourage more inter Divisional work, and achieve a more strategic approach by the Secretariat as a whole.	X	X		Agree with proposed changes to CCD and EMG, with reservations on deleting 'Monitoring' from Division title. Otherwise, inter-Divisional work is substantially increasing. Suggest Division name changes wait until development of next Strategic Plan.	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation, noting that the manner in which SPREP implements this may vary reflecting available resources, and internal processes already in train (such as the PRMG).
	26.	The Secretariat should, as a matter of urgency, undertake a cost-benefit analysis of the Pacific Climate Change Centre, and seek guidance from Members in light of the findings.	X		X	Strongly disagree. PCCC has been in negotiation for 3 years, is endorsed by Government of Samoa, and approved for funding by Government of Japan. Japan will undertake due diligence before finalising funding agreement. It will significantly expand SPREP's capacity to build capacity and strengthen knowledge management at national and regional levels.	Propose that the meeting note this recommendation, but that SM 25 under agenda item 6.6 directed the Secretariat to report to SM 26 on the status of the PCC proposal and on matters relating to programme of work, governance and maintenance costs.

ICR Recommendations			Requires action by:			Comments	
Category	No.	Recommendation	Secretariat	Member	Others	Secretariat	FoC
No-Cost Implication	3.	Given the wide range responsibilities involved in internal audit processes, and that there is only one staff member in the SPREP's Internal Audit Unit, the Secretariat should make a special effort to explore with other CROP agencies the possibility of sharing the expertise of personnel in a Joint Internal Audit Unit.	X		X	Impractical given that the IA role operates on a daily basis – how could this function be shared with other CROP agencies? Listed as 'no cost' but in fact would need to be costed	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation, noting that the Secretariat will report back at SM 26 on the potential alignment with the intent of the new Regional Framework.
	5.	Canvas further the issues raised by staff that remain unresolved, and address these in a consultative and timely manner.	X			Misleading – most issues addressed	Propose that the meeting refer this recommendation to the Secretariat for consideration and appropriate action.
	6.	The Secretariat to further examine, and justify, the assumption that reduced transaction costs for individual donors will make it possible to expand the number of donors for SPREP activities, including private sources, without creating an excessive burden on the Organisation.	X		X	Can be done, but up to donors	Propose that the meeting note this recommendation and that the Secretariat be requested to provide their analysis and advice on this issue at SM 26.
	7.	Undertake a more thorough and detailed assessment, including discussions with donors, to determine the feasibility of each Division including a pro-rated portion of the depreciation expenses and foreign exchange losses within project budgets, rather than having these costs covered by the Corporate Services budget.	X		X	Agree but recognise that donors consider that this is an internal issue	Propose that the meeting note that this recommendation reflects an important issue and that it be referred to the expanded Membership Contributions Working Group (see SM 25 agenda item recommendation 7.2) for consideration, and that the working group provide advice to the Secretariat on this issue.

ICR Recommendations			Requires action by:			Comments	
Category	No.	Recommendation	Secretariat	Member	Others	Secretariat	FoC
	8.	Advocate for, and achieve, a timely revision and updating the CROP Chief Executive Officers' Statement on Climate Change.	X		X	Agree	Propose that the meeting refer this matter to the SPREP Director General for follow up with relevant CROP agencies.
	9.	Identify and implement procedures that will ensure that future use of memoranda of understanding contributes to still further increases in the effectiveness and efficiency of the work of the Secretariat, and SPREP as a whole.	X		X	Agree	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation, and request that the Secretariat develop guiding principles to inform SPREPs consideration of future MoU proposals and that the Secretariat undertake an assessment of existing MoUs against this principles. The Secretariat should report at SM 27.
	15.	When developing Annual Work Programmes in the future, Members and the Secretariat should also be guided by the new Framework for Pacific Regionalism, and by the approved Sustainable Development Goals.	X	X		OK – but AWP's are guided by the Strategic Plan – that's where high level links need to be made.	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation in principle, noting that this recommendation should apply to the Strategic Plan as the means of insuring linkages to the Annual Plan
	21.	Assess the implications of the emerging Framework for Pacific Regionalism for the Organisation and, with the approval and support of Members, the Secretariat should ensure it is fully engaged in preparing relevant Policy Statements and in maintaining oversight of the preparatory work for the other Statements, in order to ensure that the enduring integrity of Pacific environments is never compromised.	X	X	X	Agree	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation and that the Secretariat provide updates to Members on activities undertaken in response to this recommendation at future meetings as appropriate

ICR Recommendations			Requires action by:			Comments	
Category	No.	Recommendation	Secretariat	Member	Others	Secretariat	FoC
	25.	Consistent with the monitoring and evaluation framework in the Strategic Plan, Members should undertake relevant monitoring, and report annually to the Secretariat on progress in implementing their components of SPREP's Work Programmes.	X	X		Agree – Members need to implement annual SoE updating and contribute data to databases being developed by the Secretariat; contribute to periodic SOC's, etc	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation noting that where Members have limited capacity implementation may require additional resourcing and support, beyond existing resources.
	28.	The Secretariat should prepare and implement a Business Plan that includes, amongst other considerations, provisions to manage the diversity of partnerships and funding sources, the predictability of funding, and guidance on new project funding as well as on the distribution of funding across the Divisions.	X			Agree – draft completed for SM endorsement.	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation, noting that the interim Business Plan endorsed at SM 25 will be further developed, and will be aligned with the iteration of the Strategic Plan.
Cost Implication	1.	Increase both the capacity of the Secretariat to interact with Francophone Members and partners and the French presence and visibility of SPREP on the Web, including mirroring the current English web site, where practical.	X	X		Agree but will require expenditure from Core budget. Current French annual interpretation and translation costs are more than Francophone membership contributions	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation, and request the Secretariat to fully cost its delivery and develop a staged implementation plan for consideration at SM 26. The cost of implementation will need to be considered within the available core budget.
	4.	Clarify the role of the Troika, including through a terms of reference, and ensure it has the capacity and support to perform the assigned roles, including undertaking the annual performance evaluation of the Director General, and providing advice and other support to the Director General and other		X		Agree	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation, noting that the Troika needs a defined Terms of Reference and that this should be provided to SM 26 for endorsement

ICR Recommendations			Requires action by:			Comments	
Category	No.	Recommendation	Secretariat	Member	Others	Secretariat	FoC
		members of the Senior Management Team.					
	13.	Further strengthen the public relations capacity of the Communications and Outreach unit of Corporate Services, and increase the use of visual and social media, other communications technologies, and French and other relevant languages to increase awareness in PICTs of the need for, and the benefits of, the assistance and other support provided by SPREP.	X			Major improvements have been made but recognise that C&O capacity should be strengthened, but this has cost implications	Propose the meeting accept this recommendation, and request the Secretariat develop an implementation plan with associated budget and timeline. The cost of implementation will need to be considered within the available core budget.
	19.	The Secretariat is encouraged to ensure that all cross-cutting issues are addressed in its work, particularly gender and human rights considerations, including the Secretariat having clear operating and programming policies that address the concerns, contributions and needs of people with disabilities, children, youth, the elderly, and vulnerable groups in general.	X	X	X	SPREP needs to focus on its mandate but will incorporate these concerns in its work where relevant and feasible (already doing focusing on gender in PACC project). Specific increased focus on human rights will require additional resources.	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation and request the Secretariat explore the possible adoption of relevant 'operational conditionalities'. In the first instance the Secretariat should consider other CROP agencies' adoption of 'operational conditionalities'.
	20.	Members may wish to consider making more resources available to the Secretariat so that identified and prioritised training and development needs can be addressed in a timely manner.	X	X		Endorse but would require increased core funding from Members.	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation.
	22.	Members may wish to establish a standing working group, as an active decision making body with a well-defined mandate; Membership could include a more functional Troika, as		X		Up to Members	Propose that the meeting note the recommendation. Until such a time as a clearly defined need for a standing working group is demonstrated ad hoc working

ICR Recommendations			Requires action by:			Comments	
Category	No.	Recommendation	Secretariat	Member	Others	Secretariat	FoC
		well as four representatives of Members from each of Micronesia, Melanesia, Polynesia, and metropolitan countries; the working group could be mandated to consider, and act and communicate with Members and the Secretariat on key matters that require out of session concurrence of Members.					groups should continue to be used.
	24.	Subject to the approval of Members, the Secretariat and Members should adopt and implement as a matter of high priority the proposed integrated approach that is designed to strengthen SPREP's strategic and operational planning and implementation.	X	X		This should be discussed at 25 th SM for clarification. SPREP agree in principle though may suggest refinements and adjustments. Agree with concept of Integrated Country Programming – will have additional cost implications.	Propose the meeting accept this recommendation in principle, noting that: there may be a need to be further refinement and adjustments to the integrated approach by the Secretariat; that cost neutral elements be implemented as soon as practicable; and that other elements, including the integrated country programmes are implemented in manner that allows them to be appropriately aligned with strategic, business and risk planning processes.
	27.	Before any further steps are taken to modify SPREP's sub-regional presence, with the assistance of the Secretariat and after a period of approximately 18 months to two years, Members should fully evaluate the decentralisation efforts already being undertaken.	X	X		Agree	Propose the meeting note this recommendation, and that SM 25 has already provided direction on this issues under Agenda Item 6.1

'Friends of the Chair' SPREP Strategic Plan MTR recommendations response summary

Mid Term Review of the Strategic Plan			Requires action by			Comments	
Category	No.	Recommendation Description	Secretariat	Member	Others	Secretariat	FoC
Already implemented or being implemented	1	The Secretariat should continue to enhance collaboration and strengthen cooperation with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and other agencies that work across the region on climate change and related areas.	X		X	Agree in principle.	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation.
	5	With support and advice from Members, the Secretariat should ensure that there are strong linkages between relevant strategic goals in the new Framework for Pacific Regionalism and SPREP's Strategic Priorities.	X	X		Agreed, noting that existing alignment already exists, and that further alignment will be achieved through the next Strategic Plan, which in turn inform Work Programmes	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation
	14	Members and the Secretariat should take account of wider policy and planning processes currently underway in the region, and internationally, and consider the opportunities these offer for aligning SPREP's work with wider sustainable development considerations. The Review Team recommends that, in particular, Members consider how best to align its next Strategic Plan, as well as annual Work Programmes and other action plans, with relevant aspects of the final version of the Sustainable Development Goals, with the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, and with relevant aspects of the Small Islands Developing States Conference outcome document ¹ . Members should instruct the Secretariat accordingly, including how future activities under each of SPREP's Strategic Priorities	X	X		Agreed.	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation

Mid Term Review of the Strategic Plan			Requires action by			Comments	
Category	No.	Recommendation Description	Secretariat	Member	Others	Secretariat	FoC
		need to contribute directly to outcomes that improve lives and livelihoods, and the sustainable economic development of the region.					
	2	The Secretariat should ensure that programme and project planning and implementation is more transparent, and consistent with the best practices of other development partners, including contributions by and disbursements to PICT Members being confirmed prior to final project approval, as well as being identified in the Work Programme and Budget.	X			Agree. SPREP has demonstrated its transparency in contribution and disbursement management, though will ensure arrangements are clarified prior to final project approval. The planned PRMG will also provide support on implementation of this recommendation	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation.
	8.	The Secretariat should prepare and implement a Business Plan that includes, amongst other considerations, provisions to manage the diversity of partnerships and funding sources, the predictability of funding, and guidance on new project funding as well as on the distribution of funding across the Divisions.	X			Agree, in principle. An interim Business Plan endorsed	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation, noting that the interim Business Plan endorsed at SM 25 will be further developed, and will be aligned with the next iteration of the Strategic Plan.
	11	With the approval of Members, the Secretariat should implement relatively modest changes that will give greater clarity to the work of the technical Divisions, encourage more inter Divisional work, and achieve a more strategic approach by the Secretariat as a whole.	X	X		Agree with proposed changes to CCD and EMG, with reservations on deleting 'Monitoring' from Division title. Otherwise, inter-Divisional work is substantially increasing. Suggest Division name changes wait until development of next Strategic Plan.	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation, noting that the manner in which SPREP implements this may vary reflecting available resources, and internal processes already in train (such as the PRMG).

Mid Term Review of the Strategic Plan			Requires action by			Comments	
Category	No.	Recommendation Description	Secretariat	Member	Others	Secretariat	FoC
No cost implications	3	Strengthen the performance monitoring, evaluation and reporting process in ways that will allow the Secretariat to report annually: (i) on progress towards achieving the planned outcomes and impacts achieved, and as well as their sustainability, as a result of activities it has undertaken, either individually or through partnerships; and (ii) by Division and for SPREP as a whole, on the efficiency and relevance of the activities undertaken by each Division, and by SPREP as a whole.	X	X		Agreed, the newly appointed M&E advisor will work to address these recommendations, in collaboration with members. Member input is crucial to enable better outcome reporting. SPREP provides enabling environments – the feasibility for SPREP to (alone) monitor and report on long term outcomes should be discussed. Implementation of some aspects may be dependent on availability of resources	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation, noting that outcome reporting will require a highly collaborative effort between the Secretariat and Members, and note that there may be some cost implications though that this will be undertaken within the existing budget
	4	The Secretariat should ensure that assumptions and risks are clearly identified In the Work Programme and Budget and in the performance monitoring and evaluation reports, to strengthen the overall analysis of progress and achievements in delivering the Strategic Plan.	X	X		Being done but can be improved	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation, noting that there may be some responsibility and/or associated cost with undertaking risk assessment or identification of assumptions in the country specific strategies.
	7	Consistent with the agreed monitoring and evaluation framework in the Strategic Plan, PICT Members should be more committed to monitoring and providing annual reports on their progress in implementing their components of SPREP's Work Programmes, including assessing the extent to which SPREP programming is supporting Member priorities as outlined in relevant policy and planning documents. In turn, the Secretariat	X	X		Strongly Agree – Members need to implement annual SoE updating and contribute data to databases being developed by the Secretariat; contribute to periodic SOC's, and assist with monitoring and reporting of longer term outcomes achieved through projects	Propose that the meeting agree with this recommendation, noting that where there is limited capacity implementation may require additional resourcing and support, beyond existing resources.

Mid Term Review of the Strategic Plan			Requires action by			Comments	
Category	No.	Recommendation Description	Secretariat	Member	Others	Secretariat	FoC
		should be more proactive in encouraging and supporting PICT Members to report in this way.					
	12	As part of preparing the next Strategic Plan, and to improve its focus on delivering and reporting on outcomes, the Secretariat should prepare an overall intervention logic which connects the intended higher-level environmental outcomes to the specific outputs of the various work streams of the Secretariat. A useful starting point would be a one page results diagram, which sets out the results chain or intervention logic, with this being supported by a more detailed monitoring and evaluation framework, with indicators, baselines and SMART targets across the different work programmes. Accountabilities for the Secretariat and PICT Members achieving targets would need to clearly laid out.	X	X		Agreed.	Proposed that the meeting accept this recommendation.
	6.	The Secretariat should begin a dialogue with Members as to how it might increase the flexibility of the Strategic Plan, and its associated Work Programmes, so as to better reflect new and emerging issues the Organisation should address in the immediate future.	X	X		Agreed in principle. SPREP is responsive and flexible with regard to new and emerging issues. SPREP is happy to establish a dialogue with Members and asks Members how they would like to progress this. This will also be taken in to account in the drafting of the next strategic plan.	Propose that the meeting accept this recommendation in principle, and note that as part of the next Strategic Planning process this issue be explored further.

Mid Term Review of the Strategic Plan			Requires action by			Comments	
Category	No.	Recommendation Description	Secretariat	Member	Others	Secretariat	FoC
	13	The next Strategic Plan should guide SPREP's activities for at least ten years, so the Organisation can work towards, deliver and document tangible environmental and related economic and social outcomes as well as somewhat longer-term impacts.	X	X		Agree The existing Strategic Plan will run until 2016. SPREP will develop a new Strategic Plan in collaboration with Members, reflecting the outcomes of the implementation of other recommendations.	Propose that the meeting note this recommendation but consider that the next Strategic Plan cover a 6 year period to allow alignment with the move, under the interim Business Plan, 3 year Work Programme and Budget planning.
Cost implications	9.	Further strengthen the public relations capacity of the Communications and Outreach unit of Corporate Services, and increase the use of visual and social media, other communications technologies, and French and other relevant languages to increase awareness in PICTs of the need for, and the benefits of, the assistance and other support provided by SPREP.				Major improvements have been made but recognise that C&O capacity should be strengthened, but this has cost implications	Propose the meeting accept this recommendation, and request the Secretariat develop an implementation plan with associated budget and timeline. The Secretariat is asked to explore sponsorship and other external sources of funding for this work.
	10	Subject to the approval of Members, the Secretariat and Members should adopt and implement as a matter of high priority the proposed integrated approach that is designed to strengthen SPREP's strategic and operational planning and implementation.	X	X		This should be discussed at 25 th SM for clarification. SPREP agree in principle though may suggest refinements and adjustments. Agree with concept of Integrated Country Programming – will have additional cost implications.	Propose the meeting accept this recommendation in principle, noting that: there may be a need to be further refinement and adjustments to the integrated approach by the Secretariat; that cost neutral elements be implemented as soon as practicable; and that other elements, including the integrated country programmes are implemented in manner that allows them to be appropriately aligned with strategic, business and risk planning processes.

Annex III: Pacific Environment Ministers' Declaration

The 25th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme was held from 30th September to 3rd October 2014 in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, with representation from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America and Vanuatu.

Environment Ministers, Ministerial Representatives and Heads of Delegations adopted the following Declaration on 3rd October, 2014:

We, the Ministers, Ministerial Representatives and Heads of Delegations of the Pacific region responsible for the environment:

1. **NOTE** that the environment is essential to the sustainable development of Pacific island countries and territories but that there are many challenges to our Pacific environment, including climate change, unsustainable use of natural resources including illegal wildlife trade, waste management and pollution control and invasive species that need integrated responses, including through Ecosystem-based Adaptation.
2. **RECOGNISE** the vital importance of the Pacific Ocean to the livelihoods and sustainable economic development of the people of the Pacific, including through providing sustenance, protecting marine biodiversity and in regulating weather and climate variability, but concerned with the growing threats including overuse of resources, marine debris and the growing threats of ocean warming and ocean acidification.
3. **ENCOURAGE** the global community, through the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, the Pacific Oceanscape Framework and other initiatives to enhance efforts in addressing global, regional and local pressures on ocean and island ecosystems.
4. **CONTINUE TO HIGHLIGHT** the growing threats posed by climate change and sea level rise and shorter time scale extreme weather and climate events, and the importance of implementing practical adaptation strategies, disaster preparedness measures and actions to build the resilience of Pacific island countries, territories and their peoples.
5. **RECOGNISE** the importance of accessing global climate finance for adaptation and mitigation actions by Pacific island countries and territories, but **NOTE** the challenges we face in securing these finances. Thus, **WE CALL** on the Secretariat to support us in capacity building and financial assessment to enable us to be accredited to global financial mechanisms.
6. **ACKNOWLEDGING that the** efforts of all countries to adapt to climate change impacts would not be achieved if global warming exceeds 2°C, **WE CALL** on all of SPREP Members to support the Paris 2015 commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
7. **CONGRATULATE** the Government and people of Samoa for their outstanding hosting and Presidency of the Third United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States, including the adoption of the *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA)* Pathway, and request the strong support and partnership of the international community in its implementation.
8. **UNDERLINE** the importance of durable and genuine partnerships to address the many challenges facing the environment and sustainable development of the Pacific region, noting

that these partnerships should include donors, development partners, private sector, civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations and faith-based organisations.

9. **RECALLING** the Majuro Declaration on Climate Leadership, which confirmed the responsibility of all to act urgently to reduce and phase down greenhouse gas pollution in order to avert a climate crisis for present and future generations, **COMMIT** to accelerating and strengthening our efforts to prepare for and adapt to the intensifying impacts of climate change.
10. **WELCOME** the commitments to the environment made by Leaders at the 45th Pacific Islands Forum and Post-Forum Dialogue in Palau and in particular, commitments to better conservation and management of the Pacific Ocean through the Palau Declaration *The Ocean: Life and Future - Charting a Course to Sustainability*, the continuing support for implementation of the *Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape* and the Pacific Ocean Alliance launched at the Third United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States¹.
11. **ENCOURAGED** by the Leaders' support for Pacific efforts to combat invasive species, their noting of efforts by some Pacific countries and territories to address invasive species, and their call to development partners to support Pacific initiatives to prevent, control and eradicate invasive species.
12. **COMMEND** the draft *Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific* (SRDP) to guide resilient development through the mainstreaming of integrated climate change and disaster risks into political, social, ecological and economic development of Pacific island countries and territories. Further, we **WELCOME** the intended support from the European Union (EU), World Bank and other donors for the implementation of the SRDP and the proposed Pacific Resilience Partnership, and encourage all efforts to ensure the early adoption and implementation of the SRDP in the Pacific.
13. **RECOGNISE** the work carried out by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to strengthen environmental management and governance in partnership with Pacific island countries and territories and encourage further collaboration through the EU funded ACP MEAs Phase 2 project, the proposed GEF MEA capacity building project, and other relevant initiatives.
14. **CALL** on SPREP Members and partners to ensure that the *Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014-2020*, is successfully implemented and note the outcomes of the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas convened in Fiji in December 2013, and look forward to the presentation of the Framework at the World Parks Congress in Sydney in November.
15. **RECOGNISE** the collective efforts to improve the management of solid and hazardous waste in the Pacific region and acknowledge that waste and pollution continues to be a major threat to the built and natural environment and to sustainable development and encourage all partners, including donors and development partners, civil society, the private sector, and governments to continue to support efforts to better manage waste and pollution.

We, the Ministers, Ministerial Representatives and Heads of Delegations of the Pacific region responsible for the environment sincerely thank the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands for the kind and outstanding hospitality extended to us during our stay in Majuro.

¹ Note: Fiji is suspended from the Pacific Islands Forum and not party to the Palau Declaration

Annex IV: Presentations by Honorable Ministers and Government Representatives

REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI

Statement on “Climate Change Financing – From talk to Action”

by *Honorable Tiarite George Kwong*
Minister of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development

Mr Chairman
Honourable Ministers
Director General for SPREP
Deputy Director General
Donors and Partners
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

I bring to you all very warm greetings from the people of Kiribati **“KAM NA BANE NI MAURI”**

I wish to take this opportunity to express my delegation's and my own, deep appreciation to our gracious host of this 25th SPREP Ministerial Meeting, the Government and people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands for the warm hospitality we all have been accorded since our arrival in your beautiful country and for the meticulous arrangements to ensure the successful conduct of our meeting here in Majuro. I also congratulate the SPREP Director General and Staff for the outstanding work in convening this meeting.

It is a great privilege and honour for me to address the meeting on this important theme of ‘Climate Change Financing – From Talk to Action’. I would attempt to discuss this topic at three levels – national, regional and international but would focus more on the opportunities and challenges in accessing Climate Change funds. There is

no doubt in my mind, that we share the common challenges in this area in our region.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

Since the announcement of the Copenhagen Accord at COP 15 in Copenhagen in 2009, and later reaffirmed in Cancun in 2010, there has been a high level of interest in gaining greater access to and seeing more transparent management of climate change financing pledges made. This includes commitments of USD\$30 billion in fast start finance (2010-2012) and up to USD\$100 billion per annum by 2020, with conditions for equal distribution between adaptation and mitigation. In response to the developments in Copenhagen (COP 15) and then Cancun (COP 16), and associated pledges by bilateral donor partners in the Pacific, Pacific Leaders, relevant Ministers and successive SPREP meetings have strongly called for ‘enhanced access’ to climate change resources to meet the critical climate change challenges in particular the adaptation needs faced by our region.

Climate Change Finance continues to be at the forefront of regional and international discussions. For the Pacific Islands region, the challenge of accessing finance sits in the context of the Global Funding Architecture. The pledges made in the international fora must be considered in this context. Part of the frustration of Pacific Island Countries in accessing climate funds stems from the apparent disconnection between the global pledges and the apparent limited amount of finance received at the country level to address climate concerns.

Mr Chairman,

Over the past few years, considerable efforts have been progressed, by a number of countries and development partners. There are increasing number of meetings, studies, workshops and different stakeholders' forums undertaken, that seek to address this critical issue in order to understand and support national challenges in accessing climate change financing. Coordinating and linking these efforts to date, have been also challenging.

However, I am also pleased to note the considerable progresses that have been made in better understanding the complexity associated with climate change finance and the need to focus efforts specifically at the country level, across the necessary dimensions involving climate change. To some extent, these progresses have positive contributions towards making informed and sustainable improvements in the way the Pacific Island Countries deal with the issue of Climate Change Financing. As Pacific Island Governments on the frontline with climate change impacts, we STILL need leveraged support to deal effectively with Climate Change Finance at all the appropriate levels.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

There are various pathways and channels through which funding for climate related activities flow through to countries. One important point to note, which can be easily lost in the discussion, is that quite substantial amount of climate funds are directed through bilateral Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) programs. While a lot of attention is placed on multilateral sources of finance, much climate finance filters down through these traditional bilateral programs with recipient

countries. Additionally, while a large portion of climate change funds are delivered as grants, other assistance are also delivered as loans, concessional loans and in other forms such as 'risk guarantees'.

Mr Chairman,

Access to climate change financing requires sound national systems, clear plans and policies, strong institutional systems, adequate resourcing and staffing of departments, regular reporting processes, and sound public financial management systems. Nevertheless, it is often observed in our region that many countries view planning and budgeting as separate activities. Hence, it is important to view these as a continuous integrated process with policies, plans and strategies linked to national budgets and forward estimates. I believe most of us are still struggling to become the national implementing entity? Please, join me in commending and congratulating SPREP for being accredited as a Regional Implementing Entity to the Adaptation Fund. As SPREP member countries, we shall continue to seek SPREP's assistance for Pacific Island Countries who are seeking the National Implementation Entity status.

Mr Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Pertinent for your information, please allow me to provide the following updates and status of the Global Climate Change Fund and the Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund. The Secretariat for the Global Climate Change Fund is now established in Incheon, Republic of Korea and key staff have been hired. The Operational guideline and procedures have been developed including guidance for "readiness support". Though funds have been pledged, they are yet to be delivered

whilst secured funding sources are yet to be established. It is important to highlight that Pacific Island Countries can be granted the direct access as under the Adaptation Fund.

The Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund is the only existing climate fund that details its sources. As most of you are aware, the collapse of the carbon market has diminished funding sources for this fund and donors have had to top up to make up the short falls.

Mr Chairman,

Let us now turn to the common challenges observed in our region in accessing climate change funds. First and foremost is the issue on 'Access to International Financing'. The rigorous standard policy and the structure of the global funding mechanism are both complex and require specialized knowledge and capacity to access. Secondly, is the issue on development effectiveness and donors' harmonisation. Donor fragmentation is high in the region. This presents significant difficulties for Pacific Island Countries to effectively plan, implement and strengthen their own national priorities, systems and capacity. Navigating the demands of many different donors engaged in the region, is complicated and requires significant dedicated human resources and institutional capacities.

At the national level, is the issue on adequate 'enabling environment' with regards to policy and institutional structures. There are differing levels of national capacities and strength of national systems in the Pacific region to deal with climate change. While all have made the commitment to effectively mainstream climate change into their national plans and budgets, for many, this has proven

considerably more complex in practice. Thus, ongoing national political support is still required. Though, some good practices are also emerging in the region supported by technical agencies and partners.

Furthermore, capacity issues facing Pacific Island Countries include internal capacity constraints, capacity constraints of the many bilateral donors and regional organisations engaged in the region as well as in the global funding architecture to accommodate better support for Small Island Development States. Capacity supplementation and shared technical capacity must be considered more seriously for Pacific Island Countries. Building and sustaining capacity can only be done with predictable resources and a good idea of the work that needs to be addressed. This requires a combination of predictable long term and flexible resources as well as clear understanding of the challenges ahead. These resources should be responsive to Pacific Island Countries' capacity constraints be they institutional, individual or systemic. As SPREP member countries, we call upon SPREP and our developed SPREP member countries to assist Pacific Island Countries to explore innovative ways and means including the necessary resources, to address these capacity constraints at the appropriate levels.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates,

I also want to point out that Pacific Island Countries are experiencing challenges in maximizing mitigation and adaptation efforts. Mitigation efforts and resources offer clear co-benefits in key development areas such as reduced fossil fuel dependency. Capturing the co-benefits from climate change mitigation and adaptation for existing Overseas Donor Agencies, national, and community programs can

present a low cost bonus. These can only be captured when a good knowledge of climate change is institutionalised across all the relevant sectors of government.

Mr Chairman,

To conclude, it is evident that climate change funding modalities are rigorous and complex. This is adding to the already various challenges the Pacific Island Countries are faced with in accessing climate change funds. It is only fitting therefore that this region calls on the international climate change donors to ease the access of climate change funds by simplifying international procedures. The other impeding challenge is the absence of 'environment enabling' mechanisms at the country level. I take this opportunity again, to call on the international donors to assist the national governments of this region to strengthen their environment enabling systems.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates,

I wish you well in your deliberation today and I look forward to its successful outcomes and moreover, on achieving our theme of Climate Change Financing, 'FROM TALK TO ACTION'.

Thank You for your attention.

VANUATU

Statement on "Climate Change Financing – From talk to Action"

by Mr Noel Lango

Ministry for Climate Change, Meteorology and Geohazard, Energy, Environment and Disaster Management

Firstly Chair, Vanuatu is grateful to make that intervention from the floor. On behalf of Hon James Bule, Hon Minister of Climate Change, I truly appreciate the presentations from the Hon Ministers of Kiribati and that of our Hosts for the 25th SPREP Meeting, the Republic of Marshall islands.

While we acknowledging the progress made by the UNFCCC Secretariat and Parties to develop financial mechanisms supporting Non Annex I countries, the Republic of Vanuatu in its submission last year to COP19 in Warsaw, Poland, still believe that there are certain important elements to be taken into account in developing guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention.

For countries like Pacific Islands including Vanuatu, we insisting on the critical importance of developing effective, operational and fair modalities in the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, in particular for the most vulnerable region of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), threatened in their integrity and survival as nations due to the negative impacts of climate change.

We have with dismay noticed the unsatisfactory level of fulfilment of the financial pledges and considering the fast pace of climate change induced impacts in the SIDS. We witnessed in previous COP18 & COP19 that Annex 1 parties use the opportunity of these COPs to announce the pledges to the commitments either to the Adaptation Fund, the LDCF Fund or their pledges. We needed that money, yesterday and not at the COP Meetings.

Noting with concern that only SPREP is now (2013/2014) and accredited National Implementing Entity (NIE) for Pacific Island Countries, thus reflecting the limitations of the Adaptation Fund in regards to Direct Access.

Vanuatu Considers the multiple benefits of direct finance, such as stronger ownership, better selection of national priorities, swifter implementation of projects and cost reduction, and due to the low use of Direct Finance by the Convention outside of the Adaptation Fund, the Republic of Vanuatu calls for more flexibility and broadened direct access amongst the operating entities of the UNFCCC Financial Mechanism.

More Flexibility in the Accreditation of NIEs under the Adaptation Fund

The fiduciary standards required for accreditation under the Adaptation Fund have been very strict and stringent. This has proven to be great challenge for most developing country parties under the Kyoto Protocol in achieving NIE accreditation that promotes direct access to climate change adaptation funding under the Adaptation Fund. The Republic of Vanuatu is concerned that within the Pacific region, where only one NIE was accredited under the Adaptation Fund, the number of NIE will be very low.

Working towards meeting its obligations under the Adaptation Fund fiduciary standards, the Republic of Vanuatu insists on the difference of capabilities between Multinational Implementing Entities (MIEs) and NIEs, and therefore recommends that developing country parties under the Kyoto Protocol, and in particular the most vulnerable Parties such as the Pacific SIDS, be allowed more flexibility in meeting those standards.

The Republic of Vanuatu suggests that the Parties consider adopting an approach of minimum principles to which potential NIEs must demonstrate equivalency¹. Under this proposal, the Republic of Vanuatu suggests that the Adaptation Fund and other UNFCCC financing avenues provide funding in degrees to Non Annex I NIEs based on the level of achievement in meeting those standards. A gradual approach could be adopted to ensure that NIEs are proposed minimum principles and given support to improve their eligibility while enabling the country to start taking ownership of the funding and implementation of climate change projects.

In this sense, Non Annex I NIEs could access smaller grants and work upwards until their capacity is built and the fiduciary standards fully met. The Republic of Vanuatu finally suggests that the processes and requirements now being addressed for the Adaptation Fund are not completely changed or redeveloped for other funding mechanisms, e.g. the Green Climate Fund, so that the Republic of Vanuatu, and other Non Annex I countries that are already working towards the accreditation of their NIE, are not required to start from scratch.

Noting the uncertain future of the Adaptation Fund due to the fall in the price of Certified Emissions Reductions (CERs),

the Republic of Vanuatu supports other submissions that urge the Adaptation Fund Board to progress the decisions of COP 18/CMP8 to diversify sources of funding to the Adaptation Fund, whilst simultaneously encourage developed country Parties to make voluntary contributions to the Fund.

2. Progressing towards Direct Finance amongst the Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention

Considering the lessons learned and successes displayed by Multilateral Funds using Direct Finance, e.g. the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) and Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (Global Fund), the Republic of Vanuatu suggests that Direct Finance be considered as a priority in the Financial Mechanisms of the Convention.

The Republic of Vanuatu finally recommends that more consideration be given to capacity building efforts of NIEs. Under this proposal, a system may be devised where an interim entity plays the role of the NIE if the national fiduciary requirements haven't been met yet, while simultaneously building the capacity of the NIE and ensuring that progress is made towards the NIE's accreditation leading to a swift handover to national institutions.

Within this note, the Republic of Vanuatu would like to bring the attention of SPREP member Countries on the challenges faced by SIDS Governments in their efforts to stand as qualifying institutions.

Due to small-sized governmental agencies and their inequality of capabilities, meeting the first fiduciary requirement of clear legal status and under one national umbrella seems unlikely in the SIDS.

Consequently, the Republic of Vanuatu calls the UNFCCC Financial Mechanism to acknowledge the limitations of the Adaptation Fund fiduciary standards and discuss alternative financing avenues and requirements to promote direct access in the Financial Mechanisms of the Convention.

It is necessary that the Financial Mechanisms of the Convention demonstrate further efforts in enabling Non Annex I countries, in particular the SIDS with small Governments and spread out capabilities, to take direct ownership and control of the funding and implementation of climate change projects. Thus, the Republic of Vanuatu hopes that the SPREP Member countries as Parties give time and effort to the modalities of Direct Finance, so our communities are better served through the availability of financial resources.

Lastly, Vanuatu has since 2013 created a new Ministry of Climate Change which houses 4 key departments: Meteorology, Disaster management, Energy and Environment. In 2011, it also established the National Advisory Board to replace and coordinate the work of the National Advisory Committee on Climate Change (NACCC) and also the National Disaster management Committee (NDC).

While striving to ensure that our communities are able to adapt to the impacts of climate change, we strongly believe that the time to talk is over. This week is the biggest Music Festival in Vanuatu, Fes Napuan, and yesterday was Fes Nalenga, which is the component of the Music Festival where local music bands (String Bands) are encouraged to showcase their talents and skills. The organizing Committee for the nalenga this year has decided that the theme for 2014 Fes

Nalenga will be: *Traditional Knowledge will save you from Climate Change!*

The night was a success with over 11 bands performing, all acknowledging that yes, we have what it takes to adapt to the impacts of climate change also, and that is our traditional knowledge, passed on from generation to generation and one that does not costs much to learnt, understand and practice. As Pacific Island Countries, it is what we have that will costs less to use for adaptation to climate change impacts and more importantly also have more impact in the lives of our populations that we serve.

On this note, Mr. Chair, I thank you!

COOK ISLANDS

Statement on “Ocean Conservation and Management”

by Honorable Kiriau Turepu

Minister of National Environment Services

Chairman,
Hon. Ministers and Representatives of Governments,
Heads and members of CROP Agencies,
Representative of our Donor partners, Non-Government Organisations,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Please allow me to bring you greetings and a warm Kia Orana from the Government and people of the Cook Islands.

Mr Chairman, let me also extend through you to your Government and people of the Republic of Marshall Islands, my warm thank you for the excellent hospitality that you have provided to me and my delegation to your beautiful country.

I and my delegation are very honoured to be here to represent the Cook Islands at this very important SPREP meeting.

This year at the forty fifth Pacific Islands Forum, the theme was “The Ocean: Life and Future.” The Palau Declaration highlights the Pacific Ocean as the “lifeblood of our economies and societies and is crucial to global climatic and environmental stability.”

Indeed, the countries of the Pacific are at the forefront of managing the greatest natural resource that binds us together. The Ocean gives us food security, economic development, cultural links and forms the foundation of our way of life.

Sustainably managing the ocean may seem an impossible task by some, but this responsibility sits comfortably on my shoulders as I believe that we all respect the ocean too much to leave it unprotected. I am confident that, as a region, we can rise to the challenges that face us in terms of Ocean conservation. We cannot under estimate the significance of the ocean to our very survival into the future.

However, I’m not here to go over the regional issues as I was invited to talk about the Cook Islands experience in conservation and management.

The Cook Islands is committed to ocean conservation and maintaining a balanced approach to sustainably managing the economic opportunities that are available. We are currently working on the establishment and legal designation of half our 2 million square kilometres of Exclusive Economic Zone as the Cook Islands Marine Park.

Our Marine Park has been given a traditional name, Te Marae Moana which is

more than an analogy to our belief systems but reflects the essence of the Marine Park to our very livelihoods.

The Marine Park provides the necessary framework to promote sustainable development by integrating biodiversity considerations with economic growth interests such as tourism, fishing, and deep sea mining.

In pursuit of our goals:

- We are **committing** to legislative changes in order to operationalize the Marine Park.
- We are **listening** to the overwhelming call from our communities to extend the existing 'no commercial fishing' zone from the current 12 miles around each island to 50 miles.

Political will is critical to implementing these commitments and we are fortunate that our Prime Minister is championing our Marine park development. Equally important, is the tremendous backing of our traditional leaders and our communities across the country. I would like to reinforce the necessity of having such support in place to help drive the work of the Marine Park.

We recognise that we cannot do this alone and that's why we have been privileged to establish genuine partnerships with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Conservation International, Oceans 5 Foundation, and Living Oceans Foundation. Their support has been instrumental in progressing the establishment and operationalization of the Marine Park.

Cook Islands are also aligning their support to countering the Ocean Acidification threat

to marine ecosystems surrounding the Pacific region.

We look forward to strengthening these partnerships and forming new ones going forward.

The Cook Islands are also working in partnership with the Government of Noumea in the areas of assisting each other to identify proper planning for the Cook Islands Marine Park and the Noumea Protected Areas.

The open ocean is only one aspect of our management approach and we are also looking at near shore options to manage the health of our lagoons and marine ecosystem. With our reliance on Tourism we must maintain a pristine ocean and lagoon environment that brings repeat visitors and friendly whales to our shores year after year.

Alongside the new we also use traditional approaches to management. We practice Raui which set up no take zones to assist in the replenishment of stressed marine life. The Cook Islands is also undergoing a multi-million dollar replacement programme to upgrade septic tanks to international standards so that we can avoid effluent seepage into the lagoon.

We run regular lagoon days, lagoon health checks and work closely with our local communities to make conservation everyone's business. I am heartened to see the younger generation coming through that are well aware of conservation issues such as our Marine Park, shark sanctuary, pollution issues and sustainable approaches to managing the oceans. It would be a lot easier if all world Leaders had the passion we see in the youth.

The Marine Park or Marae Moana is only a small part of 'Our Ocean. I am proud that the Cook Islands is taking positive action towards ocean conservation.

However these local actions will not have the desired outcome without global action. Managing, conserving and protecting our ocean will not only ensure the survival of our marine resources into the future, but would also build their resilience to combat the impacts of climate change.

Mr Chairman, the Cook Islands will continue to call for global collective action on our ocean.

Thank you and Kia Manuia.

SAMOA

Statement on "The SIDS Conference – where to from here?"

by Honorable Faamoetauloa Lealaiauloto Taito Dr. Faale Tumaalii

Minister of Natural Resources and Environment

Mr Chairman, Honourable Tony de Brum,
Honourable Ministers,
Head of Delegations
Heads and Representatives of CROP
Agencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It's been a month since the people and Government of Samoa hosted the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States with the overarching theme of sustainable development of SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships. It was quite a memorable conference with the number of registered partnerships totalling over 300 with UNEP and SPREP recording the most in order. The total

value of partnerships signed was estimated at over US\$2billion.

Mr Chairman,

The topic for this session "SIDS Conference – Where to from here? implies that there is an element of doubt whether these partnerships that were agreed and signed for during the SIDS Conference in Samoa will come to fruition or not? The element of doubt is the commitment by SIDS, their alliances and partners to move the commitments contained in the SAMOA Pathway, to the next level, which is implementation. It is only then that the success of the SIDS conference in Samoa will be fully realised.

More than 50 percent of all partnerships signed at the SIDS conference deals with developments aimed at addressing the root causes of climate change. Failure to implement projects to harvest energy from solar, hydro, wind, biomass, bioethanol, biofuel and biodiesel due to fund scarcity will only increase our dependence on fossil fuels as a source of energy but contributes 40 percent to total global greenhouse gas emissions.

Small island nations should stand together and work collaboratively through the UN so that their voice could be taken seriously by countries with big economies and major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. For SIDS it is a matter of survival. Our sovereignty, our identity and our inheritance, that is land and environment, are threatened by climate change related activities such as sea level rise and extreme intense weather events.

According to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, climate change is a defining issue of our era that determines our future. It is

more of the future of SIDS that is on the line here. Thus SIDS should never waver to fulfil its responsibility to protect the wellbeing and livelihoods of its people, even to the point when the last grain of sand erodes before our eyes. I sincerely hope it will not reach that stage.

SIDS will continue to work in partnerships at all levels, international, regional and national to bring about a change in attitude to address climate change for the benefits of all but not to the detriment of others. Genuine and durable partnerships globally, though green growth, will yield prosperity, safety and harmony. Thus Samoa will pursue SAMOA Pathway with its Development Partners:

1. To promote the use of non fossil fuels as our main source of energy;
2. To promote development in environment protection from ridge to reef, that is air pollution, land pollution, marine and river pollution;
3. To promote reforestation and food security through agro-forestation, but prevent burning of the forest, which contributes to 17 percent of total global greenhouse gas emissions; and
4. To develop framework for integrated Strategy for Climate Change and Disaster Resilient Development.

Mr Chairman,

The people and the Government of Samoa is continuing its efforts to market and advocate the SAMOA Pathway by taking the lead in pursuing some of the

partnerships that the Government of Samoa is a party to through existing bilateral and regional mechanisms; and review national frameworks to reflect the targets and commitments contained in the SAMOA Pathway. The message before, during and after the SIDS Conference in Samoa is very clear. Take action, with or without, as the many problems of SIDS will not and cannot be resolved over night, by one person, government, organisation or community.

Soifua.

TUVALU

Statement on “The SIDS Conference – where to from here?”

By HE Paulson Panapa

Tuvalu High Commissioner to Fiji

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen.

I am honoured and privileged to be here today on behalf of our Minister of Environment (who is unable to attend due to other commitments) to present what Tuvalu feels and expects to be pursued next following the 2014 SIDS conference in Samoa.

But before doing so I wish to first of all extend my sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks to our host the government and people of the Marshall Islands for having us in their beautiful islands for the 25th SPREP meeting. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the Director General of SPREP and staff as well as development partners who have been involved in ensuring the occurrence of this very important conference.

(On behalf of my Minister of Environment I present herewith what we think and believe should be further undertaken following the conclusion of the 2014 SIDS meeting in September in Samoa). However, at the outset I would like to commend and thank the work that have already been carried out or still ongoing by SPREP and respective regional and international bodies and donor partners to address adverse environmental impacts on Pacific Islands.

SIDS conference or meeting in Samoa

As we are all aware SIDS was setup during the 1992 Rio Summit as a 'Special Case' because of the countries' unique vulnerabilities.

The SIDS Outcome document – SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A) pathway entailed top priority threats and vulnerabilities that SIDS wishes to be addressed immediately and effectively. It was also a call and an appeal for a much stronger and sterner global attention and cooperation from particularly the developed world. The SAMOA Pathway was also a call and appeal for stronger partnerships to effectively resolve the top priority vulnerabilities.

The SIDS Conference – where to from here?

Outlined below are the most important issues that affect Tuvalu and we would like to see much more effective ways and strategies that should be devised to resolve these issues:

Climate Change and Sea-Level Rise

As advocated in numerous international and regional forums this stands the highest of concerns for Tuvalu because it threatens our very own survival as a sovereign nation and as a people. Saltwater intrusion contaminates the water lens which our food crops depend and more frequent and

severe weather and storm surges erode the coastline and adjacent lands which are already scarce. These and many others are being experienced because of the effects of climate change and sea-level rise. We surely need something to be done immediately to reverse this process.

Our Prime Minister has been very vocal during the SIDS meeting on this issue and has called on the developed world in particular to take heed and cut down their emissions as much as possible. His message was clear and concise (quote), “Save Tuvalu to save the world”. This call is echoed and reiterated here in this meeting.

I hope that new and more effective strategies could be devised before we reach the irreversible point. To start with, I think full use of renewable energy as an alternative to fossil fuel must be put into action now. Thus donor partners' efforts and finances must be focussed more on the improvement and effective usage of renewable energy.

Simultaneously however practical adaptation mechanisms and building the resilience of Pacific people should continue to be implemented because the problems are in fact being experienced right now. For example, coastal protection is extremely vital at this point and strong and reliable types of seawalls must be properly engineered to avoid being damaged again.

Disaster Risk Management

Although work already done on the Strategy on Climate Change and Disaster Resilient Development must be commended, it is most important that these are properly scrutinized to ensure that they are appropriately aligned and most effective on risks on island states like Tuvalu. For example, warnings on tsunami

are very effective and reliable right now but the safety mechanisms which are most worrying. In Tuvalu for instance during any tsunami warning people are encouraged to get to a double-storey house nearby or they could flock to the Government office which is the tallest with about only 4 floors. Therefore, there is no way that one can survive an extensive tsunami hitting the islands. There is no hill to run up to and the highest building is only 2 floors apart from the main island which have a 4 storey building. Thus we must consider and think outside the box in this particular case. We could either equip every household member with life jackets or maybe we consider availing lifeboats placed between houses for people to turn to in any devastating tsunami. I know this idea may seem strange and unwise yet I tell you this is the only thing that can save people from a devastating tsunami. I will be happy to hear feedback from such an idea.

Water

I wish to commend Australia and the European Union on support for a water tank each for every household throughout Tuvalu. It is hoped that further assistance as such can be obtained so a second round of water tanks is distributed to ensure availability of water even in severe droughts. I wish to take this opportunity to commend the government of the Marshall Islands for utilising the airfield as a rain catchment that will service the water reservoir. This is a great initiative that we should also think about.

Waste Management and Pollution Control

Work on the Regional Healthcare Waste Management Intervention Recommendation summary is highly welcomed. Dealing with medicinal waste is a serious issue for a small atoll nation like Tuvalu. Currently we use an incinerator

attached to our hospital to burn this waste. But this is a health hazard in itself. Low temperature incineration creates its own health hazards from the burning of plastics and other materials. It is unlikely that we would be able to afford a high temperature incinerator, so we should be looking at a regional facility. This should be at the highest quality to ensure proper incineration of these waste materials without toxic residues. We look forward to the work of SPREP on finding the best options for this region.

I wish also to mention the IWRM project carried out in Tuvalu which enabled and piloted the construction of a few compost toilets in an attempt to promote saving of the scarce rainwater. Hundreds of people have expressed interests in these compost toilets but funds have run out. Hope that funds could be identified so more compost toilets are constructed to reduce high dependence on rainwater.

Renewable Energy

Tuvalu has committed to 100% renewable energy by 2020 but there are still gaps to be filled in trying to achieve this target. I look forward to seeing appropriate assistance from donor partners and respective regional and international agencies to ensure fulfilment of this target. This is a classic example of Tuvalu's commitment to the reduction of emissions into the atmosphere. Thus Tuvalu is not only asking for cooperation from the developed world but is also involved in the same course.

Coastal Protection

This is mentioned briefly earlier but is indeed a very high priority in the Tuvalu government's list. Coastal erosion is evident in every island of Tuvalu and these have to be stopped with an effective coastal

protection design that will last and environmentally friendly.

Protection of Oceans, Seas and Biodiversity

Tuvalu noted that there are a lot of programmes and activities have been done in the region as well as individual Pacific islands to protect these resources. The establishment of marine conservation areas and better management of fishery resources are some of the actions already undertaken. However, technical and financial supports are still required to sustain management of these very important resources.

Tuvalu also welcomed and will continue to support actions already undertaken on ocean acidification.

Financing

Accessing Multilateral Financing Global Environment Facility and Adaptation Fund – We acknowledge the steps taken by SPREP to establish itself as a Regional Implementing Entity under the Adaptation Fund. Now that this has been done we ask that SPREP use its expertise and experience gained from this exercise to assist member countries establish National Implementing Entities. We have received assistance from UNEP in this regard but the lessons learnt from SPREP's experience should be passed on to its member countries.

Improving Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development Through Strengthening Planning, Monitoring and Reporting

We welcome key elements of the programme on Improving Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development. We had a visit from SPREP last year in August relating to this programme and we found it to be very useful in strengthening our partnership. For Tuvalu, we have a need to improve our capacity in

environmental impact assessment in which SPREP support is highly required.

Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction

We thank the Australian government for the briefing on this issue. Tuvalu believes that it is important and spoke at a side event organised by the Global Ocean Commission during the UN SIDS. We supported the development of an Implementing Agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. We hope that the UN General Assembly will agree on a resolution to commence negotiations of an Implementing Agreement. It is important that the region is active in developing this Agreement. We should encourage SPREP to facilitate workshops to help us engage in the development of this new agreement.

Conclusion

Hope these will help assist work needed following conclusion of the SIDS meeting in Samoa.

Thanks for your attention.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Statement on “The SIDS Conference - Where To From Here?”

By Ms Kay Kumaras

Deputy Secretary, Sustainable Environment Program, Department of Environment & Conservation

Hon. President of the republic of Marshall Islands

Hon. Tony de Brum, Minister from Republic of Marshall Islands,

Hon. Tiarite kwong, Minister from Kiribati,

Hon. Kiriau turepu, Minister from the Cook Islands,

Hon. Minister from Samoa,

Ambassadors and Heads of Missions,
Director General for SPREP
Heads of Delegations, and your
Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning.

Chair,
Thank you for allowing me to represent
Papua New Guinea at this High Level
Segment of the 25th SPREP meeting to make
this short statement as a follow on from
what my Prime Minister Hon. Peter O'Neil
stated at the 3rd SIDS conference recently.

A recollection of the SIDS conference;
Our Prime Minister Honorable Peter O'Neil
attended the SIDS conference with the
Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Trade, and
National Planning and Monitoring. They
were accompanied by H.E. Mr Robert G.
Aisi PNG's Permanent Representative to the
United Nations, Ms. Hera Kevau PNG
Acting High Commissioner to Fiji and senior
staff of relevant government departments
and agencies. Our Minister for Environment
and Conservation and Climate Change Hon
John Pundari was not part of the
delegation but in total 27 delegates from
PNG took part.

Papua New Guinea acknowledged the
attendance of 53 leaders and heads of
government of SIDS, United Nations (UN),
member countries and development
partners as well as the UN Secretary
General H.E. Ban Ki-Moon and UN General
Assembly President Ambassador John Ashe
at the SIDS conference.

We take this opportunity to commend the
government and people of Samoa for
successfully hosting the 3rd SIDS conference.

Chair,
Under the theme **“the sustainable
development of SIDS through genuine and
durable partnerships”** the conference
successfully endorsed the Small Island
Developing States Accelerated Modalities of
Action (S.A.M.O.A) Pathway, which PNG
fully supported.

This SIDS roadmap will serve as the
development blueprint for SIDS in the next
decade which pacific region is part of.

Chair,
PNG acknowledges that this roadmap
reaffirms past commitments, especially
under the Mauritius Strategy of
Implementation (MSI), Barbados Program
of Action (BPOA) and other internationally
agreed development frameworks such as
the June 2012 RIO-plus 20 outcome
document “The Future We want”, the
2000 Millennium Declaration on
Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),
the Johannesburg Programme of
Implementation (JPOI) on Sustainable
Development and the Beijing Platform of
Action on Gender Equality and
Empowerment.

Chair,
The S.A.M.O.A Pathway also reiterates that
SIDS remains a special case for sustainable
development, recognizing SIDS'S ownership
and leadership in overcoming these
challenges.

It acknowledges that SIDS progress in
attaining internationally agreed
development goals, including the MDG'S
that has been uneven and some SIDS have
regressed economically. Further
implementation also requires consideration
in the post-2015 development agenda.

The S.A.M.O.A Pathway spells out the roadmap for the next ten years for the sustainable development of SIDS. It proposes commitments and actions for implementation to achieve the sectoral areas contained in the pathway.

It identifies 19 key social economic and environmental areas, including education, health, environment, climate change, oceans and seas, sustainable fisheries, gender, youth and children. These are similar to Papua New Guinea's national development priorities.

PNG notes that the S.A.M.O.A Pathway is a non-legally binding framework that calls for all SIDS including PNG to take ownership of their national sustainable developments with support, where necessary, from the international community through improved cooperative and durable partnerships that are focused on SIDS needs.

The challenge from now onwards is for SIDS to effectively implement the S.A.M.O.A Pathway consistent with their national development plans and strategies.

To compliment this pathway, Papua New Guinea has already developed and endorsed "The Strategy for Responsible Sustainable Development" that will guide our implementation and this will be complemented by our vision 2050, long term and medium term development plans.

Chair,
Number of bilaterals took place during the duration of the SIDS conference by PNG and the notable one being with the Prime Minister for Samoa.

The discussions were a carry over and reaffirmation of issues discussed in Palau in the margins of the 45th Pacific Island Forum

including possible expansion of our bank of South Pacific Services to Apia, to increase trade, investment and tourism, tertiary education for Samoan students and labour mobility and employment opportunities in PNG.

Additionally the implementation strategy for the S.A.M.O.A Pathway was discussed and urged for practical and meaningful implementation by all SIDS.

Chair,
As part of the Prime Minister for Papua New Guinea's statement at the SIDS conference, he called for immediate direct action to assist island communities that are facing devastation as a consequence of climate change and proposed for a new approach to development planning that is more in keeping with pacific values.

In relation to the prospect of rising sea-levels causing the dislocation of island communities around the world, my Prime Minister drew the experiences of our own people from Catarat Islands in the autonomous region of Bougainville who are going through this as we speak.

He mentioned that our Catarat Islanders are the first climate change refugees and would not be the last as there are so many island communities around the pacific and globally facing the same prospect of climate-induced migration.

Papua New Guinea together with other Pacific island states called on the global community to act now to help our vulnerable communities who are facing these natural disasters and risks. He reiterated that these threats were not caused by the SIDS, so we needed support from those countries that are major causes of climate change to assist us adapt to them.

Papua New Guinea has a paradigm shift in its approach to development whereby it is moving away from the old mentality of allowing unrestricted growth to one of managed economic growth that would allow citizens to also participate.

Chair,

PNG has great mineral wealth including hydrocarbons, fisheries, forestry and agriculture but we owe these all to our future generations to manage in a sustainable manner so that they last and that the wealth is equally shared amongst stakeholders.

“We want to share the benefits of our economic prosperity. In this context, our government is undertaking a Pacific development assistance program aimed at assisting Pacific SIDS in critical areas of development. These areas include education, health, capacity building, climate change and reconstruction following natural disasters.”

“The outcome document “S.A.M.O.A Pathway” that reaffirms our commitments to the development aspirations of small island developing states, and highlights the priority of the development challenges that we face. The challenge before us all is that in this global economy, we must work together, we must work through ongoing consultation and support each other in achieving the objectives of this pathway.”

Chair,

As part of the session on sustainable development on genuine and durable partnerships which aimed at fostering strong dialogue and developing strategic alliances amongst SIDS and development partners, private sector and civil society.

PNG supported and reaffirmed the commitments of SIDS at UN conferences on

sustainable development given their “special case” status, the need to eradicate poverty through sustainable patterns of consumption and production, concerns of sea-level rise and climate change, strengthening of a system to coordinate and support the green and blue economy.

This further focused on enhancement of international cooperation, exchanges and investments in formal and non-formal training, creating enabling environments nationally and regionally to attract public and private investment, increasing financial service industries, fostering entrepreneurship, employment creation, enhancement of information communication technology, and promotion of clean energy.

Chair,

The S.A.M.O.A Pathway succeeds all other frameworks to deal with the multitude of special needs of SIDS ranging from political, economic, social and environmental issues including climate change and PNG totally supports it.

Various heads of government statements at the SIDS plenary, the message was very evident that much more effective implementation of the SIDS development roadmaps including the S.A.M.O.A Pathway is required.

This has to be done in partnership with various development partners however, the primary responsibility lies with SIDS members and for partners to play a complementary and supportive role consistent with SIDS national development priorities and plans.

Also noteworthy is the linkage of the SIDS sustainable development priorities such as on quality education, improved health

services and care, economic infrastructure development, gender equality and empowerment, oceans and seas, including fisheries management and cooperation that are consistent with our own national development priorities.

Moreover, the importance of the ongoing current global efforts to put into place the post-2015 development agenda that will address the next set of international Sustainable Development Goals (SDG'S) to succeed the MDGS on 01 January 2016 and imperative for SIDS to ensure that sustainable development priorities as captured in the S.A.M.O.A Pathway are incorporated in the next set of sustainable development goals must be encouraged.

Papua New Guinea has tasked the departments of national planning and monitoring and the foreign affairs and trade to coordinate and manage the implementation of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway.

Papua New Guinea is also making an important contribution to shaping the post-2015 development agenda, as co-facilitator for the upcoming Global Summit on the Sustainable Development Goals, next year in New York. We will use our experience in striving to attain the MDGS by 2015 to ensure that the post-2015 goals are realistic and attainable, and are truly relevant to developing nations.

Papua New Guinea therefore urges all of us here today to work in collaboration and with development partners to ensure our voices are still heard now and into the future.

Thank you Chair!

Annex V: Statements by Observers

Conservation International Pacific Islands Programme (CI)

Honorable Chair of the 25th SPREP Meeting,
Government Representatives from SPREP member countries
Representatives from CROP Agencies, IGOs and fellow NGOs
Director General of SPREP
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First off I would like to apologize on behalf of Sue Taei, CI Pacific Islands Executive Director who was unable to participate at this meeting due to other work commitments. I know she values our close collaboration with SPREP and was disappointed to not be able to attend this week.

Conservation International congratulates SPREP on another year of success noting from the words of the Director General's opening statements that SPREP has had significant growth with increasing budgets over the past 4 years reflecting the increasing confidence of financial partners to SPREP. We also gladly note the Director General's comments following this budget outline where SPREP is "not here to build an empire" and that despite this significant financial growth SPREP have decreased the percentage of budget spent on staff and with focus on helping build member country capacity.

We at Conservation International are proud of our partnership with SPREP having collaborated on many regional, and in-country projects, including partnering on biological diversity projects and surveys throughout the region over the years with

most recent examples including Samoa and Nauru.

We applaud SPREP for leading the regional environmental agenda for the Pacific Islands region and enhancing its engagement in the Leaders' Pacific Oceanscape Framework for effective focus on regional and national marine and terrestrial management efforts in an integrated approach. CI is a founding NGO partner to the Pacific Oceanscape and we are pleased that member countries have endorsed SPREP to continue to use the Pacific Oceanscape Framework as an overarching regional integrated management strategy. The momentum under the Oceanscape continues to build well with the development of the Pacific Oceanscape Alliance.

CI is also very heartened at the increasing number of country commitments to the Oceanscape, particularly in the form of large-scale ocean and island protected areas and we are pleased to work with these countries and SPREP to support these initiatives, including the Cook Islands Marine Park, New Caledonia Coral Sea MPA and the recently announced Palau marine sanctuary. We congratulate these countries on their vision, leadership, and commitment, and are heartened by the fact that Pacific Island states are leading innovation in EEZ spatial planning, a new era of integrated ocean management has begun. In this the potential of large-scale marine protected areas as a core business tool in EEZs management is being developed and importantly learning shared under the auspices of the Oceanscape and networks such as the Big Ocean. Quite simply in a common sense, Pacific-way

states are applying a ‘use some-save some’ approach. The exact formula of use and conservation naturally varies but the core rationale to manage what you own, your EEZ has firmly taken hold.

We are also happy to hear of other initiatives being mentioned this week such as the Micronesian Challenge, which are large ambitious sub-regional initiatives that CI is proud to support. While here in the beautiful Marshall Islands I have had the chance to evaluate their progress within the Micronesian Challenge GEF project context, and am very happy to report they are exceeding some of their goals and are moving quickly in other areas to capitalize on the sustainable financing mechanism being set up to support protected areas in Micronesia.

Finally, I would like to report that CI has successfully completed a restructure of our Pacific Islands programme. We have added a new office based at the University of Auckland in New Zealand in addition to our regional and Samoa programme office in Apia and country programmes offices in PNG, Fiji and New Caledonia. In common with SPREP we have endorsed and support the Leaders’ Pacific Oceanscape Framework and use this as key guidance for our investments in this region. We will continue to work with SPREP in areas where we can be useful and helpful to Pacific Island states and we will draw on our global network of expertise and fundraising to assist well. This close alignment and collaboration is strengthened with the signing and renewal our MOU at the SIDS conference early on this month.

On that note, I thank you Chair, Director General, and all SPREP members and our wonderful Marshall Island hosts and look

forward to when we next meet again at the 2015 SPREP meeting.

Iakwe, Soifua

Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific (EU)

Let me speak on behalf of the Head of the EU Delegation for the Pacific, Ambassador Jacobs who was unable to attend this meeting.

First of all, allow me to thank SPREP for the invitation to participate in this conference and to the Marshallese colleagues for hosting us in such a wonderful island.

On behalf of the EU, I am pleased to reiterate our commitment in working hand in hand with the Pacific countries and Territories, the regional organisations and the other development partners. The EU has long standing relations with the Pacific where it is engaged in addressing key challenges such as climate change, disaster risk management and the environmental issues discussed this week - sustainable use of marine resources, biodiversity, waste management and sustainable energy. Let me make a few remarks on these issues.

On the review and performance, we want to commend SPREP for the significant progress made in the last years. We are convinced that this process of positive transformation will serve the interests of the member countries in a better and more structured manner.

Our cooperation with SPREP has been strengthened over the years and has taken place through a number of EU funded

projects implemented, fully or partially, by them. Some of them to support the implementation of the Multilateral agreements in the Pacific Region (such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Basel convention or the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change). Amongst them, our flagship programme with SPREP is the "Pacific Hazardous Waste Management Programme" or PACWASTE (approx 8 mEUR) which has been the subject of presentations and fruitful discussions during the week. We can affirm that the programme is well on track. First results are promising and already demonstrate programme's relevance in the region, allowing for synergies with other initiatives, in particular the JICA -PRISM project.

On the future collaboration, SPREP is about to go through another "audit" process, the so called "7-pillar assessment". Obtaining positive conclusions from this audit is a pre-condition for the European Union to sign future contracts with SPREP to be implemented under the 11th European Development Funds.

On the recommendations, I would highlight the need to increase ownership of the different actions and projects by the Pacific partner countries. This is essential for sustaining the benefits achieved. Also, the need for SPREP to strengthen the coordination with other CROP agencies.

Last point on the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilience Development in the Pacific (SRDP), we see it as a unique initiative and again we confirm our intention to use it as the framework for future EU support on climate change and Disaster risk management provided that it is endorsed by the Pacific leaders. In Apia, during the SIDS Conference, the European Commissioner for Cooperation

and Development, Mr Andris Piebalgs, signed the National Indicative Programmes 2014-2020 under the 11th EDF with ten Pacific Countries. Moreover, the Regional Indicative Programme is being finalised, it has been sent for final consultation and, hereby I invite the countries to be actively involved and take the lead in this process and in the implementation of the programmes.

Thank you very much for your attention.

**Island Sustainability Alliance CIs Inc.
 ("ISACI") Cook Islands**

Thank you Mr Chairman

I am Imogen Ingram from ISACI, which is a Cook Islands national NGO that is a participating organisation of IPEN (International POPs Elimination Network). My comments focus on the human health impacts if there is ineffective waste management and pollution control, leading to degradation of natural resources.

As an overall comment, we suggest that standardized or generic legislation developed by SPREP would be useful to Pacific Island governments countries, enabling them to incorporate all MEAs covering chemicals and waste (including hazardous waste) into their national legislation. Similar approaches are needed for the safe management of persistent toxic substances and heavy metals, which in the Pacific mostly related to imported products that become hazardous waste. Annexes (including lists of substances and their sources) could be used to define the specific requirements of MEAs in the Chemicals & Waste Cluster MEAs such as Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Montreal Protocol

and the new Minamata Convention on Mercury.

With regard to healthcare waste incineration, an IPEN advisor has offered help in considering the tender for these which closes on 10th October 2014. He states that the request for tenders does not specify that the incinerator should meet any emission standards but instead just asks a supplier to show "demonstrated experience" in minimisation of dioxin emission. His second comment is that all these incinerators can be classified as small scale (5 - 50 kg/h, with one at 100 kg/h). In his experience, such incinerators in this capacity range are never equipped with advanced pollution control system, and so their emissions will not comply with recommended EU or Stockholm Convention emission standards for POPs and heavy metals. At best these burners have a secondary chamber for off-gases combustion. Thirdly, he was concerned that, contrary to best environmental practice, the project evaluation omits small scale autoclaves (without an internal shredder), awards better cost-effectiveness to a standard incinerator rather than an autoclave with a shredder, and gives a lower overall score to an autoclave than to any type of incinerator. We think it is important not to have double standards, and to focus on capacity-building and training for environmentally sound healthcare waste disposal.

With regard to the SPREP projects for waste to energy incineration, we urge caution especially with regard to burning municipal waste or waste oil in order to reduce dependence on fossil fuels for electricity generation, because you could replace one polluting technology with another. There are many scientific studies which that document the health impacts on nearby

communities of incinerators where poor segregation of waste and burning of articles containing POPs and mercury.

We would very much caution against the use of this type of Waste to Energy, which is not truly renewable energy. In June 2014, Achim Steiner of UNEP quoted at the UNEA#1 meeting that " 7 million people die before they need to because of poor air quality." From studies I have read, the U.S. military cautioned against burning lubricant or hydraulic oils because they take up impurities from the machines in which they were used, so that their emissions produced dioxins and furans, which cause serious health impacts on communities. And there are POPs in the smoke and ash from burning municipal waste, plastics or rubber tyres.

With regard to the new Mercury Convention, it should be noted that there are health impacts through eating predatory fish (such as barracuda or grouper) not just tuna. Hair samples were collected from Pacific volunteers at the Mercury International Negotiating Committee #1 in Sweden and the results showed higher than acceptable levels of methyl mercury, the organic form of mercury found in fish. Pacific Island countries can obtain more data on their own countries by using the funds designated for the Special Programme for to assist with institutional strengthening targeted at SIDS and LDCs that is available to countries which have indicated their intention to ratify the Mercury Convention i.e. non-parties may be eligible. Through the first Conference of the Parties, Pacific countries could also ask the WHO to undertake sampling of fish in order to fill the knowledge gaps about mercury and Pacific food security.

My last comments related to Public-Private Partnerships or PPPs. During the Third International SIDS Conference, CSOs cautioned that they experienced issues in the Caribbean region with regard to Public-Private Partnerships. They pointed out that robust and enforceable MoUs are needed to ensure that proper cost-savings are achieved – otherwise any over-expenditure on PPP activities had to be covered by governments i.e. the taxpayers.

They further noted that in waste management PPPs, the private sector “cherry-picked” i.e. sold the more profitable recyclables but left the intractable, hazardous waste for the government and taxpayers to fund. In my own country, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent on training private companies in proper waste collection, storage and management but in practice I have photos that show e-waste is still improperly stored. This makes it likely that heavy metals and POP to leach into the waterways and eventually into the fish we eat. So we need establish proper frameworks for PPPs and ensure Best Available Technology & Best Environment Practice are applied in Pacific Island countries. One obvious partnership would be to ask importers of products that will become hazardous waste to assist with collection of discarded items (including discarded computers and empty printer cartridges and TVs) as these contain POPs and/or heavy metals.

International Whaling Commission (IWC)

The International Whaling Commission is the inter-governmental organisation (IGO) charged with the conservation of whales

and the management of whaling. The IWC consists of 88 Contracting Governments who are signatories to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.

The work programme of the IWC continues to grow and diversify. Along with its on-going, globally respected Science, the IWC’s current, active work strands include whale watching, conservation management plans, entanglement, ship strikes and marine debris. Collaboration with other IGOs and regional organisations like SPREP is key to the success of these projects, and the IWC welcomes the leadership demonstrated by SPREP in advancing cetacean conservation in the Pacific Islands region.

Science

There are many areas of common scientific interest between SPREP and the IWC (e.g. scope and impact of bycatch, effects of noise, impacts of marine debris, ship strikes, whalewatching, abundance estimation, monitoring and population modelling....etc.) and the work of the IWC’s Scientific Committee can have a direct relevance to SPREP’s information needs for its whale and dolphin action plan. For instance, working with data, largely collected by scientists from the region, and global experts the IWC Scientific Committee recently concluded a comprehensive assessment of South Pacific humpback whales. This work provides SPREP and its member nations with the best analyses available concerning population structure and size, including historical and current abundance and trends.

Entanglement

The IWC is leading a global programme which aims to tackle whale entanglement on a number of levels. On a practical level,

a network of individuals from all over the world is receiving professional training in the tools and techniques needed to disentangle whales safely.

Since this work began, over 500 people from 20 countries have received training in disentanglement practices. Around the world over 1,000 rescues have been completed safely. Two expert workshops have been held, and the heads of all the world's national and regional whale entanglement response programmes have come together to share experience and develop consensus principles, guidelines and a curriculum for building capacity elsewhere. The number of requests for training and assistance continues to rise and, the IWC entanglement network is striving to meet demand. The past two years have seen trainings in cooperation with the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific in South America and UNEP-CEP-SPAW. This July an IWC training, in partnership with SPREP, was held in Vava'u, Tonga, with participation locally as well as from Tongatapu and Vanuatu.

Marine debris

In May (2013), the IWC brought together experts from around the world to better understand marine debris and its effect on cetaceans. Man-made ocean debris includes plastics, abandoned and lost fishing gear, glass and metal. Ingestion and entanglement can cause horrific suffering to marine mammals and the IWC is co-ordinating efforts to understand the nature and impact of marine debris on whales and small cetaceans with two workshops. A second workshop on mitigation and conservation was just completed in Honolulu Hawaii (August, 2014), with participation by SPREP staff.

Whalewatching

Whale watch operators, scientists, and government officials from over 20 countries gathered in Brisbane in May 2013 to discuss a 5 year Strategic Plan for Whale Watching and the development of a web-based 'Living' Handbook. Whale watching is a fast-growing sector with economic benefits for a diverse range of coastal communities. However, unless well-managed it has the potential to have a negative impact on whales and their habitat. The IWC 5 year plan aims to develop and convey best practice, and the Living Handbook will become an evolving repository for all aspects of advice including training, governance, capacity building and compliance.

Whale watching 5 year plan

<http://iwc.int/index.php?clD=3102&cType=document&download=1>

Ship strikes

The IWC has also been working to raise awareness and mitigation regarding collisions between vessels and whales. Ship strike poses a threat to both the whale and those on-board the vessel. The IWC has created an international database through which incidents can be reported and analysed, helping to inform work to reduce collisions. The IWC, in partnership with UNEP-CEP-SPAW, just completed a workshop of experts on this topic, and the resulting recommendations are being synthesized into a developing five year strategic plan.

Government of Japan

Good morning and lakwe aolep,

First of all, I must say personally, I am very glad to be able to observe your meeting. It helped me to deepen my understanding about the common issues and about strong connection among your member countries.

Japan recognizes the profound activities of SPREP, which acquired wide range of expertise in environmental issues and established quite firm international network particularly in the Pacific region.

Japan wishes to provide its assistance to Pacific island countries which share issues including Climate Change and need to make challenge against issues presumably caused by or relating to Climate Change.

In this respect, Japan would like to discuss those common issues of Pacific region with the representatives and leaders of Pacific countries at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) to be held in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture in March, 2015 and also at the Seventh Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM7) to be held in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture in May, 2015.

Finally, I also would like to add that Japan wishes to cooperate continually with SPREP and wishes to contribute to make sustainable development in this region.

Thank you and Komol tata

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)

Thank you to the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and its members for the opportunity to participate as observers at this meeting and for the opportunity to make a few remarks on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

Thank you also to the Government and people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands for their hospitality this week.

The discussions here in Majuro by Officials and Ministers are important for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in providing policy advice across a range of key development issues, and in coordinating, monitoring and evaluating implementation of Leaders' decisions. They are also vital to informing our work in supporting our Secretary General, both in his role as Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum and as the Pacific Ocean Commissioner.

2014 is a pivotal year for the Pacific region.

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, was a rare opportunity for the global community to articulate its support for the diverse needs and special case of SIDS and for the Pacific region to showcase the efforts being made. Our region is well positioned to implement the SAMOA Pathway, and Pacific Island Countries and Territories have been closely involved in the global debate on sustainable development in the context of SIDS.

The endorsement of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism by Pacific Leaders' at their meeting in Palau reinvigorates the agenda for regional integration and

cooperation. The Framework replaces the Pacific Plan and articulates, among other things, the vision, values and objectives for Pacific regionalism. The importance of our natural resources and sustainable development is clearly reflected in these.

Invasive species, the environmental impacts of extractive industries and fisheries conservation, for example, featured in the discussions at this year's meeting of Pacific Leaders.

As the permanent Chair of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific, the Forum Secretariat is working with our technical agencies, including SPREP, to implement the region's priority actions. This includes through mechanisms such as the Sustainable Development Working Group, Marine Sector Working Group and Working Arm on Climate and Disaster Resilient Development.

The SIDS Conference was also important in raising awareness of the central role of the Ocean to the Pacific. In this region, the role of the Ocean in driving sustainable economic growth, or the blue economy, is not new. It has been a reality for hundreds of years. We must unlock the economic potential of the Ocean to support development of our people while ensuring good ocean governance, and its sustainable development, management and conservation.

At their meeting this year, Pacific Leaders endorsed the Palau Declaration on "The Ocean: Life and Future" – reaffirming their high level political commitment to protecting our most precious resource.

Strengthened coordination and collaboration, across and between the various sectors of ocean development by

the range of many, different stakeholders, is also critical and, as the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, the Forum Secretariat had the honour of launching the Pacific Ocean Alliance at the SIDS Conference. This open and inclusive partnership will provide a space for the diversity of stakeholders with ocean interests.

We thank SPREP for their support in being a co-organiser of the Pacific Ocean Alliance side event we held at the SIDS Conference, along with SPC and Conservation International, and for giving us the opportunity to host a side event on the Alliance at this meeting. We welcome everyone here to participate in this important partnership.

Through the linkage to the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting and other regional efforts on climate change financing, including the development of the Pacific Climate Change Finance Assessment Framework, the Forum Secretariat will continue to collaborate with SPREP and partners to assist countries to effectively access and manage international climate change financing. We will also continue to actively work to support the successful joint approach in development of the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development (SRDP).

Chair, this meeting must build on the momentum generated through the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and the SAMOA Pathway, and we look forward to working with SPREP and other regional and international partners in implementing the decisions made here in Majuro.

Thank you

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Chair,

Allow me to join with others in congratulating you on your appointment as the Chair of the 2014 SPREP Meeting and to thank the Republic of the Marshall Islands for its kindness and generosity in taking care of us all during our stay in Majuro.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community is grateful to SPREP for the opportunity to attend this meeting. I would like to convey the apologies of the SPC Director General, Dr. Colin Tukuitonga, who is unable to attend but who extends his best wishes for very fruitful discussions on the matters before the Meeting.

SPC places great value on its long term relationship with its sister organisation SPREP. In recent years we have significantly expanded our partnership activities in a range of areas which are of strategic importance to the countries and territories in the region. In particular our recent collaboration on the development of the new Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific which will succeed the existing Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change and the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action, which both expire in 2015. The collaboration between our agencies was highlighted recently at the 3rd International Conference of Small Island Developing States, which took place last month, as a successful partnership and we are committed to ensure that it endures into the future.

Our collaborative work is enabling the delivery of a more integrated package of

services to member countries and territories. We are working together in several countries to develop integrated whole of island climate change adaptation approaches, including the Choiseul province integrated adaptation project, in the Solomon Islands, and a similar approach being adopted in Abaiang, Kiribati. These whole of island approaches provide a mechanism for pooling the skills and resources of several organizations and development partners across multiple sectors to address climate related risks. SPC has several major development partner supported climate change programmes being implemented across the region to support member countries (including SPC/GIZ CCCPIR project, SPC-EU Global Climate Change Alliance project, USAID and Australian programmes). These programmes work closely with, and in some cases provide direct support to, SPREP to assist them deliver their programmes. SPC, SPREP and the Forum Secretariat are also working collaboratively on climate change finance issues and the Pilot Program on Climate Resilience.

We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the joint SPC-SPREP regional workshop held in Nadi in December 2013 on Deep Sea Minerals. The workshop was an opportunity for 80 participants from 17 Pacific Islands to address the environmental management challenges associated with the emerging regional deep sea minerals industry. The joint workshop highlighted capacity gaps and future action points, including the drafting of a series of regional deep-sea environmental management guidelines and related training initiatives. The SPC looks forward to progressing this important work over the coming months, and is pleased that SPREP will be collaborating with us on this project.

As has become clear during the discussions SPREP has expanded its assistance to member countries, and demonstrated a commitment to continuous improvement, and we applaud your efforts. Like SPREP we are also committed to on-going change and improvement and to strengthening cross-programmatic collaboration to assist countries and territories to realise their development outcomes. For example, SPC is adopting a new programming approach that will, for example, result in the more prominent integration of climate change and disaster risk considerations into the work of all our divisions.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our commitment to working collaboratively with SPREP and other development partners to support the sustainable development priorities of our Pacific island countries and territories, and extend our best wishes for a successful outcome to this meeting and the Ministerial meeting to follow.

The University of the South Pacific (USP)

I am pleased to be representing the University at this important SPREP Meeting of the Officials and thank SPREP for the invitation.

USP as member of the CROP organisation works very closely with SPREP and other members. Although USP is an academic institution providing higher education to the region, it is also a regional integration organisation. In its dual role, USP therefore not only provides tertiary education and capacity building but also takes active part in pursuing regional mandates of our leaders for the sustainable development of the Pacific region

SPREP is an important regional technical agency in environment and climate change and related areas. USP in collaboration with SPREP and other CROP agencies works in areas such as environment, climate changes, sustainable energy among others. It is important that we all work together in ensuring that the maximum benefits in these key areas of concerns and opportunity are delivered to our member countries in a most effective manner. Our work on climate change, our collective resolve on renewable energy, biodiversity and marine environment are good examples of this collaboration

Based on the recent leaders' decision on the Framework for Regionalism and other mandates on climate change and environment, it is more than ever necessary to build capacity and training programmes for our people. Within our normal University programmes we do have courses that address these needs. We hope to discuss further our collaborative efforts during the meetings of CROP agencies on how best we can assist member countries.

The other important event for the region was SIDS Conference held successfully in Samoa, we had collaborated with SPREP in two Side Events, one on 'ICT for Sustainable Development' where we had a presentation on the Climate Change Portal and also highlighted the importance of how ICT can be applied in the region to address pressing regional issues. The other was SIDS DOCK partnership for sustainable energy where we discussed the myriad of capacity building that USP offers at all levels- from vocational to PhD.

We are also working with SPC and SPREP towards the establishment of the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE).

We hope to again work with the CROP agencies in pursuing some of the outcomes related to our area of competence as outlined in the S.A.M.O.A Pathway.

Finally, there is also an opportunity for us to work collaboratively on the EDF11 programming and USP will work with relevant CROP agencies and member countries on this.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of USP.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Thank you Mr Chair for this opportunity to present a WMO Statement to the Secretariat and the members of SPREP. On behalf of the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Mr Michel Jarraud, I would like to congratulate SPREP and its members for a successful 25th meeting.

WMO mandates are in weather, climate and water. WMO occupies a unique position within the international system. We are about measurement and prediction. We are about getting what has been measured and analyzed, using the best science available, and make it available to those who need the information to make decisions. In this region SPREP is one of WMO's most important partners on weather and climate information and services. WMO has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SPREP for further strengthening of cooperation. Furthermore WMO signed an agreement with SPREP reflecting WMO's support for the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP). The Pacific Meteorological Desk

Partnership (PMDP) serves as the regional weather and climate services coordination mechanism to deliver a regionally coordinated effort to service SPREP members' needs.

Mr Chair, I would like to highlight a few initiatives that WMO through the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP) have worked with SPREP and its members, development and technical partners to assist SPREP members' National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs).

Firstly, with respect to weather services for safety and economic operation of aviation - capacity development through various regional workshops for Pacific National Meteorological Services (NMSs) in quality management assurance, to meet the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) requirements in the provision of weather services to the aviation industry, and these are conformity with the International Organization of Standardization – ISO 9001 series of quality assurance standards. Establishment of a “pool” of experts from the Pacific Islands with international recognized as Quality Management Internal Auditor of the Australian Standards and New Zealand Standards International Organization of Standardization - ISO 9001 Quality Management Standards, to help Pacific National Meteorological Services (NMSs) achieving accreditation to International Organization of Standardization - ISO 9001 standards. Some of these experts undertook their first mission to Niue last month to help Niue Meteorological Service with its quality management standards.

Secondly, relating to climate services, and it is very important to develop a coordinated and collaborative structure to applying

scientific advances in seasonal to inter-annual time-scales climate predictions, to a wide variety of sectors including agriculture and food security, forestry, energy, water, health, urban and rural settlements, infrastructure, tourism, wildlife, trade and transport. While focusing on seasonal and inter-annual climate predictions, it is important to recognize that multi-decadal prediction is built on the signals seen in the shorter time scales and are dependent on the data collected every day. WMO and SPREP organized the regional consultation on climate services for Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in April 2014 and one of the outcomes is the establishment of the Pacific Island Climate Services Panel, to provide guidance and advice on the implementation of the Global Framework on Climate Services (GFCs) in the Pacific region.

Continuous capacity development in term of human resources for the Fiji Meteorological Service, that is also designated as a Regional Specialized Meteorological Center – specialized in tropical cyclones, to provides weather forecasts and information, and warnings for the general public, and the aviation and marine industries all year round on a 24/7 basis to meet national needs of Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Tokelau, Tonga and Tuvalu. Fiji Meteorological Service is also an International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) designated Tropical Cyclone Advisory Centre (TCAC) within the Pacific islands region and a Meteorological Watch Office (MWO), providing Area Weather Forecast for low-level flights in Kiribati, Northern and Southern Cooks, Samoa and Tonga;

providing Route Weather Forecast within the Nadi Flight Information Region; and providing Terminal Aerodrome/Airport Forecasts for international airports in Rarotonga and Aitutaki (Cook Islands), Tarawa and Kiritimati Island (Kiribati), Nauru, Niue, Faleolo (Samoa) and Fuamotu, Hapai and Vava'u (Tonga).

There is a high need for education and training in the areas of meteorology, climatology, hydrology and oceanography. 10 Pacific Islanders graduated with certificates, diploma, postgraduate and master degrees in these fields in 2013; and 3 more to complete their studies at the end of 2014. Furthermore, 6 are starting their studies in the Philippines next month.

Mr Chair, Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) are integral part of national and regional infrastructure for sustainable development in the region. And improving weather and climate services including early warning systems are also integral part of climate change adaptation and disaster risk resilient. To this end, WMO will continue to work with SPREP, SPC, USP, WMO and SPREP Members and development partners in the region to further strengthen the weather, climate and water services of the region.

In concluding, I would like once again to thank the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General of SPREP and the SPREP staff for their support during the past years and to congratulate SPREP and its members for the achievements so well presented at this meeting.

Thank you.