

PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa

E: sprep@sprep.org

T: +685 21929

F: +685 20231

W: www.sprep.org



The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Record of the Sixth Meeting of the Waigani Convention

Noumea 31st August 2012

Introduction

- The Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and the Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention) was held on the 31st August 2012, in Noumea, New Caledonia.
- Representatives of the following Parties attended (including parties present at the endorsement meeting held on the 3rd September, 2012): Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa and Tuvalu (Annex 1).

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Conference

- 3. The Meeting was opened by the representative of Samoa, the current Chair. He welcomed representatives and thanked Parties for their involvement in the past two vears and encouraged maintenance of the momentum that has been gained in implementation of the Convention. He welcomed the observers and acknowledged their support of the work of the Parties. He thanked the Secretariat for its support of the work in the past 12 months and noted with appreciation the work of the Government of New Caledonia in hosting the meeting.
- 4. The Deputy Director General of SPREP welcomed representatives and observers. He highlighted the substantial progress made by the Secretariat in terms of the waste management, in particular, the establishment of the Waste Management and Pollution Control Division under the new structure. The Deputy Director General also highlighted the Secretariat's success in securing over \$US 20M in additional funding for hazardous waste management in the region. The Deputy

- Director General's address is attached as Annex 2.
- 5. The Deputy Director General welcomed Professor Li Jinhui, the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Asia and Pacific Region (Tsinghua University, China) and noted that the presence of the Executive Secretary was an opportunity to address the potential synergies and additional capacity that the Chinese Centre may bring to the Pacific.

Agenda Item 2: Organisation of the Meeting

- 6. In accordance with Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Waigani Convention, the meeting elected a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson and a Rapporteur by a simple majority vote. The rapporteuring function has traditionally been provided by the Secretariat.
- Australia was elected as Chair, Fiji as vice-Chair and Kiribati as Rapporteur. The representative of Australia took the Chair and thanked the meeting for its confidence in his election.
- 8. There are 13 Parties to the Convention: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.
- 9. At the commencement of the meeting, the required quorum of nine was not met and it was proposed that an informal meeting be held while awaiting the arrival of the other Parties and to reconvene later to ratify agreements from the meeting when the quorum is achieved.
- 10. Cook Islands, Fiji, New Zealand, Samoa and Tuvalu supported the proposal to continue with the informal meeting.

- 11. Samoa stated that while it was in agreement with running the meeting in an informal manner, this should not become the norm. The representative strongly encouraged all Parties to commit to attending these meetings of the COP.
- 12. In response to a query from Tuvalu, the Chair advised that all items would be discussed in the informal session and that the resolutions would be ratified at the reconvened meeting.
- 13. Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Samoa and Tuvalu attended the informal meeting on the 31st August 2012.

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the Agenda

14. The meeting adopted the agenda which is attached as Annex 3.

Agenda Item 4: Presentation of Reports by the Secretariat of work undertaken since COP5

- 15. The Secretariat advised that the 4th Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC4) and the 3rd Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre (SCPRC) did not take place and hence no reports for these were available. However, it reported on overall work conducted since the COP5.
- 16. Kiribati commended the Secretariat on the early dissemination of documents and availability of the documentation on the website for the SPREP meetings. The representative requested that papers continue to be made available at an early stage, particularly to assist those countries with slower internet connections. She acknowledged the Secretariat's work on asbestos and e-waste and thanked SPREP for the respective strategies that will enable regional work in these areas. The representative made specific requests for technical assistance from the Secretariat as follows
 - (i) assistance with waste oil export to Fiji;

- (ii) disposal and management of stockpiled laboratory chemicals;
- (iii) developing projects to deal with asbestos in particular removal and disposal of asbestos;
- (iv) in-country training on reporting under the Waigani and Basel Conventions; and
- (v) technical support to prepare for chemical and waste cluster MEAs negotiations, including those related to mercury;
- (vi) assistance on tracking instances of illegal trafficking;
- (vii) in-country training related to contaminated site assessment – a prioritised national issue; and
- (viii) technical assistance in developing a national chemical and hazardous waste implementation plan.
- 17. Kiribati also sought an update of the UNEP/GEFPAS Pacific POPs Release Reduction Project, and emphasised the need for another regional POPs project to remove non-POPs toxic chemicals off island for sound disposal abroad. The representative noted that this has been raised previously at past SPREP meetings. Kiribati further stressed that coordinating assistance with development partners is increasingly necessary in the face of emerging chemical issues such as mercury management.
- 18. Fiji stated that there had been significant on-ground progress in the region in waste management and expressed great satisfaction regarding the progress in the establishment of a waste oil collection scheme.

The Meeting:

noted work undertaken since the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Agenda Item 5: Competent Authorities and Focal Points

- 19. The Secretariat advised that the Second Meeting of the Parties (2004) agreed that Parties should inform the Secretariat in writing through the National Focal Point for the Convention of designated Competent Authorities and Focal Points, or changes to these positions.
- Australia and Kiribati advised that there were changes which had been communicated to the Secretariat.

The Meeting:

agreed to review the list and, if there are changes, to inform the Secretariat in accordance with the agreed mode.

Agenda Item 6: Reporting and Transmission of Information and Illegal Traffic

- 21. Article 7.3 of the Waigani Convention requires Parties, consistent with their national laws and regulations, to set up information, collection and dissemination mechanisms on hazardous wastes to enable the Secretariat to fulfil its obligations under articles 9.6 and 14. The Secretariat advised that the forms can be downloaded from the SPREP website. http://www.sprep.org/legal/regional.htm
- 22. In response to a query from New Zealand, the Secretariat advised that reports can be submitted in either the Basel or Waigani format as they are essentially the same. The Secretariat also noted that past reporting from Parties would be helpful as it will help build a database of movement of hazardous substances across the region.
- 23. Samoa reported that it is exporting hazardous waste to Australia through Tonga and this has been cleared under the Basel Convention. The Secretariat is kept updated on this.
- 24. Kiribati highlighted the need for national reporting under the Conventions as well as on illegal trafficking but added that these

- are areas requiring technical assistance from the Secretariat. The representative suggested that there may be benefit from sharing lessons and experiences from those Parties that are successfully carrying out this reporting.
- 25. Fiji informed of an occasion in which the Government of Korea had refused to accept export of waste on the grounds that Fiji was not a signatory to the Basel Convention. The representative requested Secretariat assistance in addressing this issue. Fiji stressed that Parties need to notify Fiji when exporting batteries or used oil to Fiji.
- 26. Tuvalu also requested technical assistance in regard to reporting on transmission of information and illegal traffic. The Secretariat advised that under the GEF-PAS funds, training could be run for this, noting earlier training had been conducted in this area.

Agenda Item 7: Financial Statements for 2010 and 2011

- 27. The Secretariat tabled the following financial documents:
 - the Report of the Auditors for 2010 that was tabled at the 22nd SPREP Meeting (WP.7.2)
 - the Income and Expenditure Statement for 2010 (WP.7.3)
 - the Report of the Auditors for 2011 that will be tabled at the 23rd SPREP Meeting (WP.7.4)
 - the Income and Expenditure Statement for 2011 (WP.7.5)
 - the Income and Expenditure Statement for 2012 (WP.7.6)
- 28. The 2012 income and expenditure statement was provided for information.
- 29. In reference to queries from Samoa that only a summary of the financial report had been provided, the Secretariat advised that the auditors report for 2010 for the Waigani Convention was based on the overall financial statements for the whole

- organisation, including the Conventions and other programme funding. The Secretariat would provide, to interested Parties, the missing note referred to in the auditor's report as "Note 2".
- 30. The Secretariat clarified that in the list of member contributions, the funds received were for the 2011-2012 biennium. This will be clarified in the statement of income and expenditure. The Secretariat also advised that there were additional sources of funding which enable the implementation of activities under the Basel Convention and these would be discussed under a separate agenda item. It further stated that membership contributions are used to fund the meetings of the two committees (STAC and SCPRC) and the COP.

The Meeting:

adopted the relevant parts of the audited Financial Statements for 2010 and 2011.

Agenda Item 8: Future Arrangements for the SCPRC and the STAC

- 31. The Secretariat advised that there were two key committees established under the Convention the STAC and the SCPRC. The SPRC is responsible for developing a Business Plan for the Centre to guide its activities. A quorum has been unable to be obtained for either the STAC or the SCPRC since 2008.
- 32. Noting that this issue needed to be resolved, the Secretariat outlined three possible options to address the situation:
 - i). that Parties reaffirm their full support for the STAC and SCPRC and ensure that all their duties and obligations under these arrangements are fully discharged in the future; or
 - ii). that Parties reaffirm their support for the STAC and SCPRC, but to support organisation of business through electronic communication only. A lack of response on any issue by Parties

- will be regarded as acceptance of the majority view; or
- iii). to rely on the WMPC Division of SPREP to take over these roles as part of its annual work programme.
- 33. The Secretariat advised that while Option 3 was not an ideal solution, this is what had been in place for the past four years. It also noted that there would be budgetary implications and sought guidance on next steps. In response to queries from the Parties, the Secretariat provided a number of clarifications.
- 34. The Secretariat clarified the following issues:
 - i). that it was not proposing a change to the Convention, rather the issue is on how to reactivate the Committees;
 - ii). the Committees are fully resourced and paid for by the Secretariat. The issue is how to get members to attend the two committee meetings. The suggestion by Fiji for re-education to reactivate interest is useful;
 - iii). there will be no increase in member contributions;
 - iv). potential increases in staff numbers and funds may mean lower cost implications under Option 3; and
 - v). holding the STAC and SCPRC on the margins of other meetings was not feasible due to the specific membership of the two committees.
- 35. New Zealand advised that it had a preference for either Option 2 or 3.
- 36. Samoa noted that this was a serious matter as it would pave the way for future work in this area. The representative stated that he believed Parties were still very committed

- to this Convention but that the issue of resourcing financial and human continued to be a challenge. He urged both the Secretariat and Parties to consider ways in which these issues could be addressed to ensure more effective participation.
- 37. Fiji observed that there was a need to reenergise the Convention and activate increased Party enthusiasm and involvement. The representative stated that there had been several changes in governments and understanding on the Convention had probably decreased over time. This could be rectified through sharing more information on what the Convention is doing and achieving. Fiji added that it supported the continued existence of the two committees and requested the Secretariat to assist with the proposed communication and education on the Convention.
- 38. Cook Islands also raised the issue of staffing in the agencies, noting that at times a single individual was responsible for several roles. Cook Islands supported maintaining the two committees (Option 1).
- 39. New Zealand stated that Option 2 might not be a viable option for IT-challenged countries, and acknowledged the view of Cook Islands with respect to human resource challenges. The representative suggested exploring further use of technology such as a virtual conference option and sought views of other Parties.
- 40. Kiribati was supportive of the proposal to maintain the two committees (Option 1) but requested that the Secretariat continue to provide technical assistance and input to national activities. The representative further stressed that lack of response did not necessarily reflect lack of interest. She requested Secretariat feedback on the e-forum on waste, noting that Option 2 may still be a challenge for Kiribati and that the lessons from the eforum may help guide thinking. The representative also requested that an

- evaluation report be provided by the Secretariat on the effectiveness of the two committees over the long term.
- 41. NZ noted that taking a decision on the matter at hand could pre-empt the outcomes or recommendations of a proposed review. After some discussion Parties agreed to the recommendations which could include the proposed review.
- 42. Samoa stated that it supported Option 1 with amendments (as reflected in the recommendation in para 42) and reiterated earlier points that Parties continue their support to the work of the Committees.
- 43. The Chair noted that it appeared that the key issue was the need to re-energise participation in the meetings.
- 44. Secretariat confirmed that resources were available to support in-country awareness raising activities on the importance of the Convention and its committees.

The Meeting:

- agreed that Members will continue to support the STAC and SCPRC to help guide the implementation of the Waigani and Basel Conventions in the region; and
- directed SPREP to seek and act on advice from Member countries on how best to maximise involvement in the Technical and Steering Committees associated with the Waigani Convention and Basel Regional Centre.

Agenda Item 9: Consideration of Adoption of Core Budget 2013-2014

9.1. Core Budget Option A and Option B

45. The Secretariat presented the Core Budget for the Biennium 2013-2014 for consideration and adoption.

The Meeting

> approved the budget Option A.

9.2. Status of Contributions

- 46. The Secretariat provided an update on the status of member contributions and encouraged Members to commit to meet all outstanding contributions.
- 47. New Zealand and Kiribati indicated that the balance of their Convention contributions would be paid within a week.

Agenda Item 10: Consideration and Adoption of the Business Plan for the PRC

- 48. The Secretariat presented the Business Plan for the Pacific Regional Centre for consideration and approval.
- 49. SPREP committed to update the Waigani Convention website, provide further advice on insurance options for transportation of hazardous wastes, and provide technical assistance particularly for revision of Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans. Projects to be implemented with secured funding include assessment of e-waste stockpiles in 7 countries, completion of regional used oil recycling strategy, regional assessment of asbestos with possible interventions in 3 countries, regional management of non-**POPs** wastes including laboratory chemicals and healthcare wastes, training to Parties on implementation of Basel and Waigani Conventions obligations, and management of medical wastes.

50. The Meeting

Approved the Business Plan for the Pacific Regional Centre.

Agenda Item 11: Other Business, BCRC (Beijing) Cooperative Arrangements

51. Professor Li Jinhui, accompanied by Ms Nana Zhao, introduced the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Asia

- and the Pacific (BCRC China), and proposed the details of future co-operative arrangements between BCRC China and SPREP and the Pacific region.
- 52. Ms Zhao introduced detailed information concerning the BCRC China, which is hosted by Tsinghua University with technical support from the Ministry of Environmental Protection in China. The BCRC China has over 50 full-time and part-time staff, and operates four units, the MEA Coordinating unit in charge of communication and information gathering, the Programme Support Unit responsible for organizing and implementing major projects, the Capacity Building Unit in charge of technical training, and the Regional Initiative Unit in charge of the regional information network.
- 53. The representative from BCRC China also advised that the Centre has expertise in hazardous waste management, e-waste management and technology, transboundary movement of hazardous waste, POPs inventory survey methodology practice, BAT/BEP for reduction and control, and strategy and action planning for eliminating POPs. Sample projects implemented include participation in the design of a hazardous waste landfill, various studies on recycling and import/export management of ewaste, and capacity strengthening for PCBs management. She also indicated that BCRC China has organized more than 60 meetings with over 3000 participants representing over 50 countries. National delegates from 8 Pacific Island Countries have attended past regional workshops organized by BCRC China from 1999-2010 covering hazardous wastes, PCBs, and related issues.
- 54. BCRC China expressed interest in supporting training, workshops and other collaborative activities carried out by SPREP and related to the Basel and Waigani Conventions, invited SPREP to contribute to its newsletter, invited organizations in the Pacific islands to participate in internships, and invited

- 55. SPREP and delegates from PICs to attend the International Conference on Waste Management and Technology.
- 56. In response to queries from Fiji and Kiribati, Professor Li further advised that they are able to support up to four attachments each of 2-month duration, that they can provide technical resource persons to facilitate national or regional training programmes, and that they can also facilitate completion of applications from Pacific Islanders for study at the Tsinghua University.
- 57. Kiribati also recommended that consideration be given to facilitating short term training programmes through the Centre. She added that it would be helpful for the Centre to work closely with the SPREP Secretariat on this. This was noted by the Executive Secretary.
- 58. SPREP committed to providing progress reports to Parties on development of a MOU between BCRC China and SPREP for the realization and delivery of the cooperative arrangements suggested by the BCRC China.

Agenda Item 12: Adoption of the Meeting Record

59. A quorum being present, the record of the Proceedings of the Conference was adopted on Monday 3rd September 2012.

Agenda Item 14: Closure of the Meeting

- 60. In closing the meeting, the Chair thanked the participants for their cooperation and collaboration in addressing the key issues discussed. He thanked the Government of New Caledonia for hosting the meeting and SPC for its excellent venue. The Chair acknowledged the work of the Secretariat in providing quality documents, which helped the meeting run well.
- 61. The Deputy Director General of SPREP thanked the representatives for their participation and contribution and acknowledged the excellent guidance of the Chair through some difficult issues through the day.

Annex 1: COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND FOCAL POINTS TO THE WAIGANI CONVENTION

PARTY

Australia

Signed: 16 Sept 1995 Ratified: 17 August 1998 In Force: 21 Oct 2001

Cook Islands

Signed: 17 Sept 1995 Ratified: 30 October 2000 In Force: 21 Oct 2001

Federated States of Micronesia Signed: 17 Sept 1995 Ratified: 26 January 1996 In Force: 21 Oct 2001

Fiii

Signed: 16 Sept 1995 Ratified: 18 April 1996 In Force: 21 Oct 2001

Kiribati

Signed: 16 Sept 1995 Ratified: 28 June 2001 In Force: 21 Oct 2001

New Zealand

Signed: 16 Sept 1995 Ratified: 30 November 2000 In Force: 21 Oct 2001

Niue

Signed: 16 Sept 1995 Ratified: 22 July 2003 In Force: 21 Aug 2003

Papua New Guinea

Signed: 16 Sept 1995 Ratified: 11 Dec. 1995 In Force: 21 Oct 2001

COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Assistant Secretary Chemicals and the Environment Branch Environment Quality Division Environment Australia GPO Box 787 Canberra, ACT 2601 Australia Tel: (6126) 250 02 70 Fax: (6126) 250 03 87 Email: hwa@environment.gov.au

Mr Vaitoti Tupa Director National Environment Service PO Box 371 Rarotonga Cook Islands Tel: (682) 21256 Fax: (682) 22256 Email: vaitoti@oyster.net.ck

Hon. Dr. Eliueli K. Pretrick Secretary Department of Health, Education and Social Services PO Box PS 70 Pohnpei Federated States of Micronesia 96941 Telephone: (691) 320 2872 Fax: (691) 320 5263 Email: fsmhealth@mail.fm

Jope Davetanivalu Director of Environment Ministry of Local Government Housing and Environment PO Box 2131 Government Buildings SUVA, Fiji Telephone: (679) 311 699 Fax: (679) 312 879 Email: jdavetanivalu@govnet.gov.fj

Mr. Manikaoti Timeon Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development PO Box 234 Bikenibeu, Tarawa Kiribati Telephone: (686) 28234 Fax: (686) 28211 Email: manikaotitimeon@gmail.com information@environment.gov.ki

Hazardous Substances Environmental Protection Authority PO Box 1473 Wellington 6140 NEW ZEALAND Telephone: (644) 916 2426 Fax: (644) 914 0433 Email: importesport@epa.govt.nz

Public Health Division Niue Health Department PO Box 33 Alofi Niue Telephone: (683) 4100 Fax: (683) 4265 Fmail:

Dr. Wari lamo Secretary Department of Environment and Conservation Level 7 Somare Foundation PO Box 6601 Boroko, NCD PAPUA NEW GUINEA Telephone: (675) 325 0180 Fax: (675) 325 0182

FOCAL POINT

Assistant Secretary Chemicals and the Environment Branch Environment Quality Division Environment Australia GPO Box 787 Canberra, ACT 2601 Australia Tel: (6126) 250 02 70 Fax: (6126) 250 03 87 Email: hwweenvironment.gov.au

Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Immigration PO Box 105 Rarotonga Cook Islands Tel: (682) 29347 Fax: (682) 21247 Email: secfa@foraffairs.gov.ck

Hon leske K lehsi Secretary Department of Foreign Affairs PO Box PS 123 Palikir, Pohnpei Federated States of Micronesia 96941 Telephone: (691)320 2613/2544/2641 Fax: (691) 320 2933 Email: foreignaffairs@mail.fm

Jope Davetanivalu Director of Environment Ministry of Local Government Housing and Environment PO Box 2131 Government Buildings SUVA, Fiji Telephone: (679) 311 699 Fax: (679) 312 879 Email: jdavetanivalu@govnet.gov.fj

Mr. Manikaoti Timeon Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development PO Box 234 Bikenibeu, Tarawa Kiribati Telephone: (686) 28234 Fax: (686) 28211 Email: manikaotitimeon@gmail.com information@environment.gov.ki

Mr. Penny Race Waigani Convention Focal Point International Climate and Environment Ministry for the Environment PO Box 10362 Wellington NEW ZEALAND Telephone: (644) 439 7400 Fax: (644) 439 7700 Email: waigani@mfe.govt.nz

Office for External Affairs Premier's Department PO Box 40 Alofi Niue Telephone: (683) 4200 Fax: (683) 4206/4232 Email: christine.external@mail.gov.nu

Dr. Wari lamo Secretary Department of Environment and Conservation Level 7 Somare Foundation PO Box 6601 Boroko, NCD PAPUA NEW GUINEA Telephone: (675) 325 0180 Fax: (675) 325 0182

Samoa

Signed: 16 Sept 1995 Ratified: 23 May

2001 In Force: 21 Oct. 2001

CEO, Min. Of Natural Resources & Environment. Private Mail Bag APIA, Samoa Telephone: (685) 23800 Fax: (685) 23176 Email:

taulealea.malua@mnre.gov.ws

Solomon Islands Signed: 16 Sept 1995 Ratified: 7 October 1998 In Force: 21

Oct 2001

and Conservation Division Ministry of Forests, Environment & Conservation P O Box G24

Mr. Joe Horokou Director Environment

Email: horokoujoe@gmail.com **HONIARA**, Solomon Islands

Tonga Asipeli Palaki Director Ministry of

> Environment & Climate Change PO Box 917 Nuku'alofa Tonga Telephone: (676) 23611, 23216 Fax: (676 25051) Email: apalaki@gmail.com

Tuvalu

Vanuatu Signed: Ratified: 2008 In

Force: 2008

TBA

NON -PARTIES but Basel Convention Parties

Marshall Islands General Manager

> **Environmental Protection** Authority P O Box 1322 MAJURO, Marshall Islands

96960

Nauru Signed: 16 Sept 1995 Secretary Department of

> **Economic Development Government Offices Yaren**

District Nauru

The Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs PO Box L1859 APIA, Samoa Telephone: (685) 63333 Fax: (685) 21504 Email:

mfa@mfa.gov.ws

Mr. Joe Horokou Director Environment and Conservation Division Ministry of Forests, Environment & Conservation P

O Box G24

Email: horokoujoe@gmail.com **HONIARA**, Solomon Islands

Asipeli Palaki Director Ministry of **Environment & Climate Change PO** Box 917 Nuku'alofa Tonga Telephone: (676) 23611, 23216 Fax: (676 25051)

Email: apalaki@gmail.com

Pepe Tua Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Environment, Energy and Tourism Private Mail Bag Vaiaku, Funafuti Tuvalu Telephone: (688) 20171 Fax: (688) 20826 Email:

enviro@tuvalu.tv or pklaupepe@yahoo.com ; pepetua@gmail.com

TBA

Annex 2: Opening Statement by the SPREP Deputy Director General

6th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention 31st August 2012, Noumea, New Caledonia



Chairperson of the Waigani Convention
Distinguished Representatives of Contracting Parties to the Waigani Convention
Distinguished Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to welcome you all to this, the 6th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention.

Our region is slowly embracing the concepts of integrated waste management and the user-pays principal to fund improved waste management. However, the region is still collectively coping with the legacy of a history of poor management of wastes and hazardous chemicals, and with current major capacity shortfalls to address these issues.

In response to these issues, SPREP's waste management team has been elevated within SPREP to a Division in its own right in acknowledgement of the regional importance of waste and chemical issues. Since the last COP in 2010, the Waste Management and Pollution Control Division has worked hard to capture over \$US 20M in additional funding for hazardous waste management in the region.

I regret that insufficient interest by Members resulted in the cancellation of the 2012 STAC (Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee) meeting as well as the 2012 meeting of the SCPRC (Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre) this year. As a consequence, the COP will be called on to make some important decisions this year concerning the future management arrangements of the Pacific Centre and the Waigani Convention. Our view is that the best way forward is to completely integrate the work of the Centre and Convention within the workplan of the SPREP Waste Management and Pollution Control Division.

As a component of this integration, I am delighted to welcome Mr. Jinhui Li, the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Asia and Pacific Region (Tsinghua University, China), to address this meeting on the potential synergies and additional capacity that the Chinese Centre may bring to the Pacific.

I am also pleased to be able to report that the Secretariats of the 3 chemical conventions (the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions) have rationalized resources without reducing the current level of environmental protection afforded by these Conventions, and our partner agency UNEP is currently exploring ways to better assist countries revise their National Implementation Plans for Stockholm chemicals. SPREP has invited Mr Don Cooper (UNEP) to present progress on this important joint SPREP/UNEP initiative at a side-event on Monday.

You have my sincere best wishes on your endeavours over this important meeting.

Kosi Latu
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

Annex 3: Agenda

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

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Agenda Item 10: Consideration and adoption of the Business Plan for the PRC

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Agenda Item 13: Adoption of the Meeting Record

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Annex 4: Core Budget 2013-2014 (Option A)

WAIGANI CONVENTION BUDGET

2013 & 2014

| EXPENDITURE (USD) | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 7th Conference of the | e Parties, 2014 | | |
| Per diem - participants - Cook Islands - Kiribati - Niue - Tuvalu | (Small Island States) 2 days 2 days 2 days 2 days 2 days | 420 420 420 420 | 1,680 |
| Resource person x 2 | | | 1,800 |
| Other Meeting Costs - Secretariat Support - Communications - Photocopying and s - Catering (Morning/A - Other costs (venue, | fternoon teas) | 4,358 500 500 150 2,000 | 7,508 \$ 10,988 |
| 2 Technical Advisory Services and Support to Parties, 2013-2014 \$ 8,000 3 4th STAC (STAC4) and the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting (SCPRC3) | | | |
| | | | \$ 40,000 \$ 58,988 |

| Australia | 39.98% | 23,583 | |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--|
| Cook Islands | 1.82% | 1,075 | |
| Federated States of Micronesia | 1.82% | 1,075 | |
| Fiji | 1.82% | 1,075 | |
| Kiribati | 1.82% | 1,075 | |
| New Zealand | 39.98% | 23,583 | |
| Niue | 1.82% | 1,075 | |
| Papua New Guinea | 1.82% | 1,075 | |
| Samoa | 1.82% | 1,075 | |
| Solomon Islands | 1.82% | 1,075 | |
| Tonga | 1.82% | 1,075 | |
| Tuvalu | 1.82% | 1,075 | |
| Vanuatu | 1.82% | 1,075 | |

Annex 5: Business Plan for the Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions

The Pacific Regional Centre
for
Training and Technology Transfer
for the
Joint Implementation
of the
Basel and Waigani Conventions

Business Plan 2012-2013

Secretariat of the Pacific
Regional Environment Programme
(SPREP)
PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
Ph +685 21929





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- E Partnership activities

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IV - Proposed activities

- A Maintenance of the Centre and staff training activities
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V - Financial information

- A Main partner institutions
- B Proposed budget for activities (2012-2013)

VI Annex

I – List of focal points and endorsement

Executive Summary of the Business Plan 2012-2013 for the Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the joint implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions

This Business Plan prepared for the period 2012-2013 aims to continue the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Basel Convention to 2013, taking into account the realities and needs of developing countries in the Pacific. The activities and projects proposed uphold the lines of the previous Business Plan and build on the experience acquired while embracing the vision of the Centre, as "the leading institution for the countries of the Pacific in the process of capacity building, strengthening and specialization toward minimizing health and environmental risks by means of integrated hazardous waste and substances management, within a framework of sustainable development".

The plan is formulated contemplating the need to conceptualise the projects, programmes and activities of an integrated hazardous waste and substances management scenario, paying attention to the life cycle of substances and products, hence, its execution is expected to contribute to facilitation of the implementation of the Basel, Waigani, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions as an integrated activity.

The Coordinating Centre sees itself as a strategic actor, facilitating the processes of regional and national capacity building and strengthening through training of the key national actors in environmentally sound hazardous waste and substances management, as well as the preparation and dissemination of specialized information. The execution of regional and national projects is thought to be a basic strategy for the transference of technology and successful experiences.

It is in this sense that for this period we have identified the following strategic lines of action:

- Strengthening the relationship of the Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology
 Transfer for the joint implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions (SPREP) with the
 Regional Centre with the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Asia and the Pacific
 (Tsinghua University, China) to facilitate the improved control and environmentally sound
 management of hazardous substances and wastes in the Pacific region;
- Development and strengthening awareness programs and outreach in the field of hazardous waste by integrating the areas covered by the Convention;
- Completing on-ground programmes to minimize the risk to Pacific islanders of exposure to hazardous wastes;
- Strengthening national capacities of countries in the region to implement the obligations of the Convention through training and transfer of technology for minimizing waste generation; and
- Prompt the environmentally sound management of hazardous substances and wastes, minimizing health and the environment risks and supporting synergy in the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

The budget for 2012-2013 consists of USD\$ 56,988, corresponding to the Coordinating Centre's essential activities, and USD\$ 1,860,288, corresponding to the activities and projects whose execution during the term is considered possible.

<u>Information on the Centre</u>

A - Vision

Pacific island people depend on their natural environment for their sustenance and livelihoods. Vital resources and ecosystems are under ever-increasing pressure as our islands strive to address their economic aspirations and meet the needs of their growing populations. In particular, pollution and the growing volumes of solid and hazardous wastes are major threats to the environments and sustainable development of the Pacific islands. Globalisation is accelerating the transition of Pacific communities towards consumer economies, with increasing urbanisation, migration, and participation in international trade. This is resulting in an escalation in the generation of solid and liquid wastes, and these increase the risk of coastal and marine pollution. The lack of controls on imported chemicals, and the lack of capacity for managing pollutants threaten to undermine the quality and health of vulnerable ecosystems on which Pacific islanders depend.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has been charged by the governments and administrations of the Pacific region with the protection and sustainable development of the region's environment. Management of hazardous wastes is seen by Member States as a critical component of this work, and SPREP is mandated to take action on waste management and the control of pollution. SPREP's members are American Samoa, Australia, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna.

The Secretariat's focus is to improve Members' technical capacity to manage pollution, solid wastes and hazardous chemicals through provision of training, technical advice and support. SPREP also encourages the development of national and regional waste management infrastructure and innovative funding measures, and the sharing of best practices across the region in order to support environmentally sound and sustainable waste management and reduce pollution. SPREP also supports renewed efforts in educating communities through national and other targeted awareness campaigns. With the support of bilateral and multilateral partnerships, the goal is for all members to have national waste management and pollution control policies, strategies, plans and practices in place to minimize terrestrial, atmospheric and marine pollution, hazardous waste, solid waste and other land-based sources of pollution.

B - Background

The Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the joint implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions for the countries in the Pacific region, established within the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), is located at Apia, Samoa. Just as the Waigani Convention was developed within the framework of Article 11 of the Basel Convention and thus shares common and overlapping objectives with it, the establishment of the Pacific Regional Centre is not only seen as a mechanism to improve SPREP's work as the Secretariat of the Waigani Convention in assisting the Parties in the region, but also as an opportunity to foster better cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention in the implementation of both Conventions' objectives. The establishment of the Centre is also seen as an opportunity to extend this cooperation to other secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including the Stockholm, Rotterdam, SAICM and IMO Conventions.

The Centre provides services for the implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions to the Parties to the Basel or Waigani Conventions consenting to be served. These includes the provision of services through capacity building activities and initiatives, specific projects and the transfer of appropriate technologies for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, to achieve the fulfillment of the objectives of the Conventions. Any other non-Party States to the Basel or Waigani Conventions from the Pacific region may at any time express their consent to be served by the Centre through a written communication to the Centre, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and SPREP.

The Centre services the following countries: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu (See Annex I).

Recent activities undertaken by the Centre include development of a Regional asbestos management strategy (2011); development of a Regional E-waste strategy (2011); securing SAICM quick-start funding for better E-waste management in 3 Pacific island countries (2012-2013); securing AFD financing for integrated regional waste oil management (2011-2014); securing AFD financing for development of regional hazardous waste management training (2011-2014); and completion of regional Waigani Convention training for Members (2011). Currently the Centre is endeavouring to secure over \$US20M in funding for the better management of hazardous wastes and uPOPs prevention through the GEF-PAS (Global Environment Facility Pacific Alliance for Sustainability) and European Union EDF10 programmes.

C – **Governance**

The governance of the Centre through the Conference of the Parties and the Steering Committee automatically ensures direct control of the Countries party to both the Basel and Waigani Conventions over the related activities of the Centre. The agreement establishing the Centre was officially signed between the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and SPREP on the 18th December 2003, in Geneva. It is operated under the joint authority of the Parties to the Basel and Waigani Conventions in the Pacific region.

The Pacific Regional Centre operates under the Directorship of the Director General of SPREP and has a number of core staff that dedicate part of their time attending to the Centre's activities which assists SPREP to perform its role as the Secretariat of the Waigani and Basel Conventions. The staffing of the regional Centre is governed by the SPREP staff regulations. The activities of the Centre are carried out under the general guidance and supervision of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and SPREP who also coordinate the activities of the Centre with the relevant activities of other Basel Convention Regional Centres or of the Parties to the Basel and Waigani Conventions, as well as with international organisations, programmes and other global and regional conventions.

Subject to the agreement of the Regional Centre's Steering Committee any non-Party State to the Basel and Waigani Conventions outside the Pacific region, non-governmental organisation, entity, private sector organisation, academic institution, or other organisation may participate in the activities of the Centre. The Centre implements activities in accordance with the relevant decisions of

the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Waigani Conventions and the Business Plan that is developed by the Regional Centre Steering Committee. The overall monitoring of the Center's activities against the Business Plan is the function of the Regional Centre Steering Committee. The Steering Committee advises on the development and implementation of the activities of the Centre and to enhance national support to its work from countries served by the Centre. It is also charged with the responsibility of developing the Business Plan of the Centre and overseeing its implementation.

The Steering Committee is composed of five (5) members nominated by the countries to be served by the Centre through a process of consultation, for a period of four (4) years with the members being experts of recognized standing and with experience in the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes. The representative of SBC, SPREP and the Director of the Centre will participate in the meetings of the Committee *ex officio*. The members of the Committee elect by consensus the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee from among its members for a period of four (4) years. The Chairperson, in consultation with SBC, SPREP and the Director of the Centre, convene the ordinary meetings of the Committee at least every two years. Extraordinary meetings may be convened by the Chairperson, when required, in consultation with SBC and SPREP.

The current members of the Steering Committee are: Chair: Australia; New Zealand, PNG (representing the Melanesian sub-region), FSM (representing the Micronesian sub-region) and Samoa (representing the Polynesian sub-region).

The funding of the basic activities of the Centre are primarily through mechanisms set up by the Waigani financial regulations and financial mechanisms under the Basel Convention. The voluntary funding envisaged under the Basel Convention and the Waigani Convention' Financial Regulations affect the stability needed for a smooth operation of the Centre according to a longer-term workplan.

D - Contact information

The Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the joint implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions key contact is:

Dr David Haynes
Director
Waste Management and Pollution Control Division
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
PO Box 240
Apia, Samoa
davidh@sprep.org or wasteteam@sprep.org

Tel +685 21929 Fax +685 20231

II – The Centre and the Basel Convention

A - Performance of the core functions

The Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the joint implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions work in cooperation with the countries in the region to effect the core functions of the Basel Convention Regional Centres established in decision VI/3 of the Conference of the Parties.

Although the impact of the Centre has never been formally assessed, it is estimated that the current level of support of the countries served by the Centre indicates that the activities coordinated by the Centre are having a positive impact in the region. Among the main achievements of the Centre is the acquisition of significant funding to support improved hazardous waste management in the Pacific region; completion of on-ground projects to reduce potential impacts of hazardous waste, preparation of workshops concerning different hazardous wastes topics; and provision of hazardous waste management advice on request. The Centre also has served as a facilitator for technology transfer within the region, specifically through the preparation of technical guidelines and regional Action Plans for waste management streams such as asbestos and E-waste.

B – Opportunities for improvement

Challenges faced by the region are complex and immense, and often implementation of the Conventions by Parties of the region is often either non-existent or only partial. Essential improvements are needed across the region in terms of human resources; improved expertise and knowledge, including legal expertise; increased financial support; increased capacity to conduct trainings ('train the trainers'); improved judicial capacity; improved awareness within relevant National authorities (Ministries and their specialized department/agencies, customs officers, etc); and increased political willingness, from the relevant national authorities, to prioritise the Chemicals and Waste agenda, and therefore the Conventions implementation. In addition, a mechanism needs to be developed to sustainably co-finance the activities of the Centre including a Waigani Trust fund, a Basel Trust Fund and Basel technical Trust Fund. This will need to be formalized in project documents signed by Secretariat of the Basel Convention (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Waigani Convention (SPREP).

C - Cooperation with the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

The Waigani, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions are key international agreements that regulate the use and trans-boundary movement of hazardous chemicals and wastes in the Pacific. Countries signed to these conventions have undertaken to manage or track the importation and movement of hazardous chemicals and wastes in the region to ensure that they are disposed of properly and not dumped in the region. However, country officials are often untrained in these procedures, which place the Pacific region at risk. To improve this situation, SPREP coordinated a 5 day training workshop in Fiji in 2011 that provided 30 participants from 15 member countries with an improved capacity to fulfil their national obligations under the conventions. The Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and EU generously made funding and training resources available to enable Pacific island participants to attend the 5 day workshop.

D - Joint activities

Ozone depleting substances (ODS) and refrigerants contained in air conditioner and refrigerator gases are highly destructive to the earth's ozone layer which protects us from harmful radiation from the sun. Pacific island countries are progressively working towards better regulation or banning of these types of gases. In 2011, SPREP in association with UNEP, assisted Fiji to reform national

legislation to provide a modern and comprehensive administrative and regulatory framework to control ODS and refrigerants in accordance with the international Montreal Convention that regulates these pollutants. This model legislation has been provided to all interested Pacific island countries as a guide to better ODS and refrigerant management. The ultimate phase-out of ODS will also result in a significant reduction in country greenhouse gas emissions.

Agriculture is an important component of Pacific island economies as well as a critical source of local foods. Unfortunately, modern farming techniques have resulted in the use of a range of pesticides to increase production, including the use of persistent pesticides such as DDT and dieldrin. Unused stocks were often buried when these pesticides were banned for use in the 1980s. SPREP in partnership with FAO have completed surveys of suspected contaminated burial sites in Fiji, Niue, Samoa and Tonga during 2011. These surveys have indicated that residual pesticides such as DDT and dieldrin are often present, and sites in Niue, Samoa and Tonga have been prioritised for cleaned-up over the next 2 years using funding provided by FAO and GEFPAS.

III - Regional Needs Assessment

Waste and pollution have significant impacts on the region's environment, as well as on public health, drinking water quality, fisheries, agriculture, and tourism and on the quality of life in general. Poor waste management and pollution are also major threats to sustainable development in Pacific Island Countries and Territories. Building a better regional skills base and technical capacity, and increasing awareness of waste management and pollution control issues are central to the Centre's and SPREPs role in assisting Pacific island countries and territories to manage waste and pollution to protect public health while at the same time protecting the environment and encouraging economic growth. However, economic sustainability is often perceived as the first priority, usually at the cost of the environment and social structures. While most Pacific island countries have made significant steps towards protecting the environment, much remains to be done. There are also a number of legacies of the past that are to be addressed, and one of those legacies is the result of mismanagement of chemicals and hazardous wastes.

In recent times, a significant amount of work in the area of waste management has been undertaken in the region. The following regional plans have been put in place to address the various components of the waste stream and are now being implemented. These include:

- The Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL); 2010-2014
- The Pacific Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy; 2010-2015
- Regional Asbestos Management Plan (2011)
- Regional E-waste Management Plan (2012)
- National Solid Waste Management Strategies

There is currently no regional plan for dealing with hazardous waste at both the regional and national levels but there are many activities that are being undertaken to manage hazardous waste. These projects have often highlighted the barriers and priorities of issues that were pertinent to the management of these types of wastes. These include:

- A. Barriers to improved management of chemicals and hazardous wastes:
- Lack of knowledge of chemicals and hazardous wastes issues
- Lack of targeted and user-friendly information on chemicals and hazardous wastes issues

- Lack of adequately trained personnel and the need for much more institutional strengthening
- Lack of in country trainers
- Lack of coverage of new emerging issues in existing educational curricula
- Poor systems in countries for chemical handling, storage and use, and information management
- Lack of data on fate and transportation of chemicals and hazardous wastes in the region
- Lack of appropriate legislation in some countries
- Lack of knowledge on alternatives to certain toxic chemicals
- Lack of established control systems for managing chemicals and hazardous wastes including import information
- An absence of appropriate disposal facilities and is expensive to move them to another country for disposal purposes
- PICs still learning about the requirements of regional and international MEAs such as Waigani,
 Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions and the procedures therein
- B. Priority needs and issues for chemical and hazardous waste management
- Education, Training, Community Awareness and Participation
- Chemical management systems, Technology, Information and Research
- Adequate funding and improved cooperate funding arrangements
- Appropriate legislation development and drafting training
- Compilation of expertise list in the region
- Relevant capacity building activities through need specific training
- Activities to support the reduced used of hazardous and toxic chemicals in the Pacific including the promotion of cleaner production and integrated pest management

Due to its infancy, many of the countries are only now beginning to put in place Action Plans to address many of these barriers and issues. The countries have also recognised the benefits of taking a synergistic approach to chemical and hazardous waste management by integrating the relevant MEAs and frameworks such as Waigani, Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions.

IV - Proposed activities

The Pacific Regional Centre Business Plan for 2012/2013 will concentrate on the following Strategic Focus Areas:

A – Maintenance of the Centre and staff training activities

<u>Website updates</u>. SPREP will update the website Notification and Movement Forms as well as the annual reporting forms so that PICs can complete them on line.

<u>Insurance Options for Waigani Movements.</u> SPREP to develop a list of potential insurance brokers for the transportation of E-waste as well as other forms of hazardous wastes.

B – Activities for the implementation of the Strategic Framework and other COP-10 decisions

<u>Attendance to COPs</u>. Recognising the need to have a voice in the conventions, PICs will address this issue. Most PICs are eligible for funding from the Secretariats to attend convention COPs. This is

essential that PICs are attending the COPs to adequately ensure that PICs issues are adequately addressed.

<u>Technical Assistance</u>. Noting the assistance available to PICs by the Secretariats, PICs will address this issue and make a conscious effort to request for technical assistance from SPREP and UNEP.

<u>National Development Plans.</u> Recognising the available bilateral funding opportunities directed at country priorities, PICs will ensure the inclusion of hazardous chemicals and waste in their National Development Plans.

Funding on-ground improvements.

Project: Assessment of E-waste stockpiles and generation rates in the Pacific

Countries: 7 Pacific island countries Time frame: 12 months (2012-2013)

Project: Regional used oil recycling

Countries: Region wide

Time frame: 3 years (2012-2015)

Project: Regional Assessment of asbestos in the Pacific

Countries: 3 Pacific island countries Time frame: 12 months (2012-2013)

Project: Management of non-POPs wastes including laboratory chemicals and healthcare waste

(expired pharmaceuticals)

Countries: Region wide

Time frame: 5 years (2012-2016)

Project: Training of focal points, competent authorities and relevant staff and other

stakeholders on various aspects of the implementation of the Basel and Waigani

Conventions

Countries: Region wide

Time frame: 2 years (2012-2014)

Project: Management of medical wastes in the Pacific

Countries: Region wide

Time frame: 4 years (2012-2016)

C – Synergies activities (optional)

<u>Funding Opportunities.</u> Noting the various funding opportunities available for PICs for implementation of these conventions, PICs will address this issue. The potential funding opportunities are: SAICM (\$250K), GEF Stockholm (\$400K), NIP Updates (\$250K), GEF 5 Chemical window (recommend proposals less than \$1M), and bilateral funding opportunities. The Secretariats will assist wherever possible with country proposals upon request.

D – Other capacity building activities (optional)

<u>Capacity Building – Train the trainer.</u> Noting one of the objective of the training workshop – "**To** improve knowledge of International and Regional conventions dealing with hazardous chemicals and wastes and their impact on pollution minimization and management" PICs will address capacity building at the national level through train-the-trainer program with technical assistance from the Secretariats.

<u>Legislation Development.</u> Recognising that most PICs do not have appropriate legislation that addresses hazardous chemicals and waste, PICs request SPREP & UNEP to assist them in domesticating Tonga and Samoa legislations. This will ensure adequate border control through the customs authority and port state control mechanisms. None of the PICs currently have this PSC and border control mechanism in place.

V – Financial information

A - Main sources of funding

European Union (unconfirmed)
Global Environment Facility (unconfirmed)
AFD (confirmed)
SAICM (confirmed)
FAO (unconfirmed)

B – Key partners and stakeholders

FAO

UNEP

Parties in the region

Secretariat of the Basel Convention

Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention

Regional training institutions such as the University of the South Pacific

C – Proposed budget for activities (2012-2013)

BCRC estimate budget for the year 2012-2013:

| ESTIMATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2012/2013 | | | |
|--|---------|-----------|-----------|
| INCOMES (ESTIMATE) | 2012 | 2013 | Total |
| Partner funds (countries) | 53,988 | 0 | 53,988 |
| From Basel Convention (Technical Cooperation Trust Fund) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| From other MEAs | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| From donors | 615,000 | 1,151,300 | 1,766,300 |
| SPREP | 20,000 | 20,000 | 40,000 |
| Total Incomes | 688,988 | 1,171,300 | 1,860,288 |
| EXPENDITURES (ESTIMATE) | | | |
| CORE | | | |
| Personnel | | | |
| Subcontracts | | | |
| Travel and Subsistence | 53,988 | 0 | 53,988 |
| Training/Learning | | | |
| Equipment, supplies and premises | | | |
| General operating expenses (telephone, internet, electricity, etc) | | | |
| PROJECTS | | | |
| Regional E-waste Management | 52,500 | 163,300 | 215,500 |
| Regional Asbestos Management | 0 | 114,000 | 114,000 |
| Regional Medical Waste Management | 0 | 141,000 | 141,000 |
| Regional Waste Oil Management | 63,000 | 94,000 | 157,000 |
| Used Pesticide Container Management | 250,000 | 250,000 | 500,000 |
| Contaminated Site Remediation | 250,000 | 250,000 | 500,000 |
| WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Regional Convention Training | 0 | 107,000 | 107,000 |
| Regional Laboratory Chemicals Training | 0 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Regional Chemical Strategy Training | 0 | 12,000 | 12,000 |
| | | | |
| Total Expenditures | 688,988 | 1,171,300 | 1,860,288 |

Annex I

List of focal points and endorsement

| Country | Focal Point | Competent Authority |
|--------------|--|--|
| Australia | Director, Hazardous Waste Section | Assistant Secretary Chemicals and the |
| | Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the | Environment Branch Environment |
| | Arts | Quality Division Environment |
| | GPO Box 787 | Australia |
| | Canberra ACT 2601 | GPO Box 787 Canberra, ACT 2601 |
| | Australia | T: (612) 62500270 |
| | phone: (61 2) 62 74 14 11 | F: (612) 62500387 |
| | fax: (61 2) 62 74 11 64 | E: hwa@environment.gov.au |
| | email: hwa@environment.gov.au | |
| Cook Islands | Director | Mr. Vaitoti Tupa |
| | National Environment Service | Director National Environment |
| | Government of the Cook Islands | Service |
| | PO Box 371 Rarotonga | PO Box 371 |
| | Cook Islands | Rarotonga, Cook Islands |
| | phone: +682 21 256 | T: (682) 21256 |
| | fax: +682 22 256 | F: (682) 22256 |
| | email: vaitoti@oyster.net.ck | E: vaitoti@oyster.net.ck |
| | | |
| FSM | The Secretary | Hon. Dr. Eliueli K. Pretrick |
| | Department of External Affairs | Secretary Department of Health, |
| | P.S. 123 | Education and Social Services |
| | Palikir, Pohnpei 96941 | PO Box PS 70 |
| | Federated States of Micronesia | Pohnpei, FSM |
| | phone: (691) 320 26 41/13 | T: (691) 3202872 |
| | fax: (691) 320 29 33 | F: (691) 3205263 |
| | email: fsmhealth@mail.fm | E: fsmhealth@mail.fm |
| | | |
| | Mr. Andrew Yatilman | |
| | Director | |
| | Office of Environment and Emergency | |
| | Management | |
| | (691) 320 8814/5 | |
| | | |
| Г::: | andrewy@mail.com.fm | Mr. Jone Dayetaniyalı |
| Fiji | Mr. Jope Davetanivalu | Mr. Jope Davetanivalu |
| | Director | Director of Environment Ministry of |
| | Department of Environment | Local Government Housing and Environment |
| | (679) 3311 699 | PO Box 2131 |
| | | |
| | <u>Jdavetanivalu@environment.gov.fj</u> | Suva, Fiji T: (679) 311699 |
| | | |
| | | F: (679) 312879 E: jdavetanivalu@govnet.gov.fj |
| Kiribati | Mar Minibi Tooms | Mr. Manikaoti Timeon |
| MIDGU | Mrs. Wiriki Tooma | Secretary |
| | Secretary | Ministry of Environment, Lands and |
| | Ministry of Environment | Agriculture Development |
| | (686) 21342 | PO Box 234 |
| | wirikitooma@gmail.com | Bikenibeu, Tarawa, Kiribati |
| | withteoma@gman.com | |

| | | T: (686) 28234 |
|-------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | | F: (686) 28211 |
| | | E: manikaotitimeon@gmail.com; |
| | | information@environment.gov.ki |
| Marshall | Ms. Yumiko Crisostomo | |
| Islands | Director | |
| | | |
| | Office of Envt Planning Policy | |
| | (692) 625 7944 | |
| | yumiko.crisostomo@gmail.com | |
| Nauru | Nr. Russ Kum | |
| | Secretary for Commerce, Industry&Envt | |
| | (674) 5573133/557/3040 | |
| | | |
| | mike.aroi@gmail.com | |
| New Zealand | Basel Convention Focal Point | Hazardous Substances |
| | Ministry for the Environment | Environmental Protection Authority |
| | P.O. Box 10362 | PO Box 1473 |
| | Wellington New Zealand | Wellington 6140 New Zealand |
| | phone: (64 4) 917 74 00 | T: (644) 9162426 F: (644) 9140433 |
| | fax: (64 4) 917 75 23 | E: importesport@epa.govt.nz |
| | email: basel@mfe.govt.nz | L. <u>Importesport@epa.govt.nz</u> |
| Niue | | Public Health Division |
| Mac | Mr Sauni Tongatule | Niue Health Department |
| | Director for Environment | PO Box 33 |
| | Department of Environment | Alofi, Niue |
| | (683) 4021 | T: (683) 4100 |
| | sauni.tongatule@mail.gov.nu | F: (683) 4265 |
| PNG | The Secretary | Dr. Wari lamo |
| | Department of Environment and Conservation | Secretary Department of Environment |
| | Level 7 Somare Foundation | and Conservation |
| | P.O. Box 6601 | Level 7 Somare Foundation |
| | Boroko, National Capital District | PO Box 6601 |
| | Papua New Guinea | Boroko, NCD PNG |
| | phone: (675) 325 01 80 | T: (675) 3250180 |
| | fax: (675) 325 01 82 | F: (675) 3250182 |
| | email: dougal@daltron.com.pg | |
| | Dr. Wari lamo | |
| | Secretary | |
| | Department of Envt&Conservation | |
| | (675) 325 0180 | |
| | wiamo@dec.gov.pg | |
| | officesec@dec.gov.pg | |
| Samoa | Chief Executive Officer | Chief Executive Officer |
| | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade | Ministry of Natural Resources&Envt |
| | P.O. Box L1859 | Private Mail Bag |
| | Apia | Apia, Samoa |
| | Samoa | T: (685) 23800 |
| | phone: +685 21171 | F: (685) 23176 |
| | fax: +685 21504 / +685 25929 | E: taulealea.malua@mnre.gov.ws |
| | email: mfat@mfat.gov.ws | |
| | | |

| | T | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| | Taule'ale'ausumai Laavasa Malua Chief Executive Officer | |
| | MNRF | |
| | | |
| | (685) 25019/23800 | |
| Calamas | mfat@mfat.gov.ws | Nan Jac Harakay |
| Solomon Islands | Mr. Joe Horokou | Mr. Joe Horokou Director Environment and |
| ISIATIUS | Director Environment and Conservation | Conservation |
| | Division Ministry of Forests Environment & | Division Ministry of Forests |
| | Conservation | Environment & Conservation |
| | PO Box G24 | PO Box G24 |
| | Honiara, Solomon | Honiara, Solomon |
| | | E: horokoujoe@gmail.com |
| Tonga | Mr. Asipeli Palaki | Mr. Asipeli Palaki |
| | Director | Director |
| | | Ministry of Environment & Climate |
| | Ministry of Envt & Climate Change | Change |
| | (676) 23611/23210 | PO Box 917 |
| | a palaki@yahoo.com | Nukualofa, Tonga |
| | | T: (676) 23611/23216 |
| | | F: (676) 25051 E: a_palaki@yahoo.com |
| Tuvalu | | Pepetua Latasi |
| Tuvalu | Mataio Tekinene | Permanent Secretary |
| | Director | Ministry of Environment&Energy and |
| | Department of Environment | Tourism |
| | (688) 20104/20117 | Private mail Bag Vaiaku, Funafuti |
| | mtekinene@gov.tv | Tuvalu |
| | tekinenemataio@yahoo.com.au | T: (688) 20171 |
| | <u>tenineriemataiote yanooteoninaa</u> | F: (688) 20826 |
| | | E: enviro@tuvalu.tv; |
| | | pklaupepe@yahoo.com; |
| ,, | | pepetua@gmail.com |
| Vanuatu | Mr. Albert Williams | TBA |
| | Director | |
| | Environment and Conservation | |
| | (678) 25302 | |
| | awiiliams@vanuatu.gov.vu | |
| | | |