



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

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

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Seventh 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)

Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands
25 & 29 September 2014

Introduction

1. The Seventh 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 25th September 2014, and concluded on the 29th September 2014, in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands.
2. Representatives of the following Parties attended: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu (Annex 1).

Agenda Item 1: Opening of Meeting

3. The meeting was opened by the Chair of the 6th COP, Mr Paul Kesby, of Australia. The Chair welcomed the Party representatives and acknowledged Nauru, RMI and JICA as observers. The Chair noted that much had been done since the last meeting and thanked delegates for making the time to attend and participate in the COP.
4. The Deputy Director General of SPREP welcomed delegates and observers and noted that the first COP of the Waigani Convention was held in RMI in 2002. He observed that the Waigani Convention has helped bring the issue of improved management of hazardous waste and chemical to the fore in terms of national development goals and planning. However a lot more work is needed in the area. He encouraged delegates to make use of funds available under new programmes and to synergise meeting their obligations under the Convention with these programmes.

Agenda Item 2: Organisation of the Meeting

5. In accordance with Rule 19 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 rapporteur function has traditionally been provided by the Secretariat.

6. Tonga was elected as Chair, Tuvalu as vice-Chair and Cook Islands as Rapporteur.
7. It was noted that 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. At the commencement of the meeting, only seven Parties were present. Since the required quorum of nine was not met, it was agreed 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. The Meeting reconvened on the 29th September with a quorum.

The Meeting:

- **Elected** Ms. Mafile’o Masi (Tonga) as President, Mr Mataio Tekinene (Tuvalu) as Vice President and Mr Vaitoti Tupa (Cook Islands) as Rapporteur to oversee the proceedings of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of Agenda

8. The Meeting adopted the Agenda which is attached as Annex 2.

Agenda item 4: Presentation of Reports by the Secretariat of work undertaken since COP-6

9. The Chair of the STAC-4 presented the report of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the Waigani Convention (STAC 4) held in 2014, noting that this was the first STAC since 2010 and that a quorum had been met. She outlined various issues in which there had been limited progress and noted that despite Parties raising a number of priorities, none had followed up on any of these. The report noted progress on the GEF-PAS u-POPs, PacWaste and AFD Used Oil projects as well as the development of an MOU between the SCPRC and the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (China).
10. Australia and Cook Islands commended the report and noted that it highlighted some of the challenges that would be highlighted during the meeting.
11. The Secretariat presented the report of the third meeting of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre (SCPRC-3), which met in Apia, Samoa, June 2014. It was noted that the SCPRC did not have a quorum.

The Meeting:

- **noted** the work undertaken since the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- **endorsed** and **approved** the STAC-4 Report (WC COP-7/WP.5.1).
- **endorsed** the SCPRC-3 Report (WC COP-7/WP5.2).

Agenda item 5: Effectiveness of STAC and SCPRC

12. The Chair of the STAC-4 presented an Evaluation Report on the performance of the Waigani Convention Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre (SCPRC) and noted that the Report was accurate in its assessment of the ineffectiveness of the two bodies. In particular, the Chair highlighted the need for proper guidance by the Waigani COP and more active participation of the Chairs of the two subsidiary bodies.
13. The Chair requested the COP meeting's guidance on how the two bodies may function better and manage the affairs of the implementation of the Waigani Convention as per their TOR. The Chair stressed the need for fuller engagement of the Parties in this area and pledged to commit to this as Chair of the Waigani COP.
14. The Secretariat underscored the need to ensure that the COP meetings of the Waigani Convention and the subsidiary bodies can work in such a way that Members can see outcomes. It was noted that the establishment of a "troika" (previous, current and incoming Chairs of the SPREP Meeting) has helped ensure regular and active engagement between the Members and Secretariat through emails, phone and face to face meetings.
15. Kiribati and Tuvalu agreed with the Report and endorsed the Chair's comments.
16. Kiribati noted that when the issues were raised at the past COP, it was expected that the subsidiary bodies would be sufficient to mobilize activity. However, Kiribati noted that the need for ongoing engagement and addressing limited capacity was essential.
17. Tuvalu suggested that there was need to develop some sort of mechanism through which the two bodies can work together and with countries to help identify what the issues are and help progress them.
18. Cook Islands, Kiribati and Niue noted that there are other challenges (eg. aligning meetings with the Basel Convention schedules) that need to be addressed before new recommendations are addressed. Cook Islands, Kiribati and Niue added that not every country would have the capacity to complete the annual reports, which are important as awareness raising for government.
19. Australia suggested that a lot of the work happens inter-sessionally and not just at the subsidiary meetings. Australia also suggested that given the period of time that has passed since their development, the Terms of Reference may need to be restructured to enable the subsidiary bodies to work more effectively.
20. The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) observed that additional capacity is needed and suggested that reminders may be helpful in terms of reporting dates. FSM also noted the value of a portal dedicated to the Waigani Convention (the Secretariat advised this exists on the SPREP website but requires updating).

21. Kiribati suggested that there are lessons to be learned from other Convention Secretariats (eg. the CBD) and that these may be helpful to SPREP as Secretariat of the Waigani Convention.

The Meeting:

- **noted** the value of the content of the Evaluation Report presented by the Chairperson of the STAC and the Secretariat.

Agenda Item 6: Timing of STAC-5, SCPRC-4 and COP-8

22. The Secretariat advised that the Meetings of the Conference of Parties to the Waigani Convention take place on a biennial basis. However, the timing of the Waigani Convention COP does not fall in the same year as that of the Basel Convention COP. This has created administrative difficulties between the two Conventions, including timely approval of Regional Centre Business Plans.
23. The Secretariat proposed to convene the Waigani Convention STAC-5, SCPRC-4 and Waigani Convention COP-8 meetings in 2015 to align with the timing of the Basel Convention COP meeting. This would allow for the timely transmission of the approved Meeting Reports, including the draft 2016-2017 Business Plan to the Secretariat of the Basel Convention for inclusion in the Agenda of COP-12 in May 2015.
24. Cook Islands stated that the Secretariat should action this immediately and before the next Basel Convention COP.

The Meeting:

- **endorsed** the recommendation of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre to hold COP 8 in 2015 (in Apia) and biennially thereafter;
- **directed** the Secretariat to commence preparations for the convening of the STAC-5 and SCPRC-4 to be held no later than the middle of March 2015 in Apia; and
- **encouraged** members to respond promptly to the preparations of the STAC-5 and SCPRC-4 Meetings.

Agenda item 7: Focal Points and Competent Authorities

25. The Secretariat stressed the need to maintain updated personnel and contact details of designated or established Focal Points and Competent Authorities for each Party, as this would ensure that all important information relating to the implementation of the Convention are sent to the designated or established Focal Points and Competent Authorities at their correct addresses.
26. Niue advised that it is undergoing a Government transformation process and will transmit the required information as soon as is practical.

27. The most recent list of Competent Authorities and Focal Points is attached as WC COP-7/WP.7.1.

The Meeting:

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

Agenda Item 8: Reporting and Transmission of Information and Illegal Traffic Purpose

28. The Secretariat noted that Article 7.3 of the Waigani Convention requires Parties to set up information, collection and dissemination mechanisms on hazardous wastes to enable the Secretariat to fulfill its obligations under articles 9.6 and 14. Reports are required to be completed and templates have been made available. The forms can be downloaded at: <http://www.sprep.org/legal/regional.htm>.
29. To date, with the exception of Australia, no reports had been received by the Secretariat nor instances of illegal traffic reported for 2011, 2012 or 2013 from any other Party.
30. Kiribati raised the issue of lack of capacity of many Pacific island Parties to complete the Waigani Convention Country Reports and noted the need for assistance in this area.
31. The Secretariat advised that the GEF-PAS u-POPs project has a component dedicated to increasing capacity to fulfill Party obligations under the Waigani and Basel Conventions. This will include technical support and assistance on completion of the Annual Reports. The Secretariat requested that Parties mobilise all those involved in the reporting process at the time of this training component which will be conducted nationally.

The Meeting:

- **urged** Parties that had not yet done so, to transmit to the Secretariat their completed forms on the transmission of information for 2013 and for previous years, as soon as possible and in electronic form, using the reporting forms adopted by the Conference of Parties at its second meeting.

Agenda Item 9: Financial statements for 2012 and 2013

32. The Secretariat presented the following reports:

- 9.1 Director's Statement
- 9.2 Auditor's Report 2012
- 9.3 Income & Expenditure 2012
- 9.4 Auditor's Report 2013
- 9.5 Income & Expenditure Report 2013
- 9.6 Income & Expenditure Report 2014

The Meeting:

- **adopted** the relevant parts of the audited Financial Statements for 2012 and 2013.

Agenda Item 10: Consideration and adoption of core budget for the biennium 2014-2015

10.1 Core Budget

33. The Secretariat presented the core budget for consideration, noting that this was prepared when there was no final indication of how the GEF-PAS and PacWaste funds would be used. However this has progressed with time and there is now more accurate information available on how these two projects will be financed and implemented.

10.2 Status of Contributions

34. The Secretariat provided an update on the status of Member contributions. Tonga advised that they would follow up on their contributions. Cook Islands advised that fees will be paid as soon as the budget is confirmed. Tuvalu suggested a reminder note be sent to prompt payment.

The Meeting

- **noted** the Report and Parties undertook to pay all their contributions.

Agenda Item 11: Consideration and adoption of the Business Plan for the Pacific Regional Centre (PRC)

35. The Secretariat presented the Business Plan for the Pacific Regional Centre for consideration and approval. Core areas of work, including key funding opportunities (GEF, EDF 11) were highlighted. It was suggested that fund-raising may be an area for the Technical Advisory body to focus on in the next 6 months.
36. In response to a query from Australia, the Secretariat advised that “non-project funding” (noted as “nil” in the budget) refers to in-kind support from SPREP in terms of the time commitment of Technical Officers. It had been hoped that funds would be made available from the Basel Convention for this.
37. Cook Islands observed that there are limited funds under the Waigani Convention and that Parties should work with the Secretariat to identify funding opportunities through the Basel Convention, and through Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Cook Islands acknowledged the assistance of Australia in earlier waste management initiatives.

38. Tuvalu suggested that the Chair (Tonga) and Vice Chair (Tuvalu) of the Waigani COP could work together on the issue of fund raising with the Secretariat and commended the Secretariat on the work it has already been doing. Tuvalu also added that other waste issues need to be addressed, for example, scrap metal, which is a priority waste issue for many countries.
39. The Secretariat advised that scrap metal would be the primary focus of a funding proposal to the French government next year.
40. The Chair advised Parties that they need to make sure that their priorities are highlighted to the Secretariat if they want interventions to occur in a particular area.
41. In response to a request from Kiribati on how the funding the Secretariat is allocated among the Member countries, the Secretariat advised that for PacWaste funds, this is based on the findings of the Consultant surveys, which have helped inform where the priority work is needed to protect human health and the environment.
42. Kiribati advised that the PacWaste healthcare waste report by the Consultants had not been received by Kiribati and that this is a serious concern. Kiribati also raised that fact that the visit by the Consultants was not widely publicised to all the relevant Agencies.
43. The Secretariat clarified that the healthcare waste survey was conducted over 3 months in 11 countries and was timebound. SPREP Focal Points were advised, as well as Focal Points for healthcare waste. It was generally expected that this advice would then be relayed to relevant Agencies at national level by the Focal Point.
44. The Secretariat raised the possibility of using available funds to help Members attend the subsidiary body meetings and the Waigani COP. This would involve Secretariat Officers visiting the countries and providing capacity training.
45. Cook Islands, Samoa and Tuvalu supported this proposal.
46. Federated States of Micronesia recommended that consideration be given to projects that support innovative and creative activities such as those seen through the 3Rs work. This was considered to be as important as securing additional funding support.

The Meeting

- **approved** the Business Plan for the Pacific Regional Centre; and
- **agreed** to the use the remaining funds for Secretariat support to Countries participating in the STAC, SCPRC and WCOP, national capacity support and for participation at the Basel COP by relevant SPREP Officers in line with the proposed budget (Annex 3).

Agenda item 12: Other Business

- 47. Australia presented a brief update on the key outcomes from the Basel Convention Open Ended Working Group. Australia advised that progress has been made on several technical guidelines including POPs waste, mercury and E-waste to be presented at the COP; revised and simplified format for technical reporting; development of inventories; and a proposal to develop factsheets on specific wastes for countries.

- 48. Tuvalu thanked the former Chair to the Convention for the good work done and acknowledged the work of the Secretariat in this area.

Agenda item 13: Date and venue of the next Meeting

STAC March 2015, Apia, Samoa
SCPRC March 2015, Apia, Samoa
COP, Apia Samoa, September 2015 (to be confirmed following the SPREP Meeting)

Agenda item 14: Adoption of the Meeting Record

The Meeting record was duly endorsed. Proposed by Australia, seconded by Fiji.

Agenda item 15: Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX 1: List of Participants

Country/Parties	Details of nominee(s)
Australia	<p>Mr. Paul Kesby Director, Hazardous Waste Section Department of the Environment Australian Government Tel: +61 2 6274 1411 Mob: +61 2 423 085 472 E-mail: paul.kesby@environment.gov.au</p>
Cook Islands	<p>Mr. Vaitoti Tupa Director Cook Islands National Environment Service PO Box 371, RAROTONGA Cook Islands Tel: +682 21256 Mob: +682 Fax: +682 22256 E-mail: vaitoti.tupa@cookislands.gov.ck</p>
Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)	<p>Ms. Patti Pedrus Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM) FSM Government Pohnpei, FSM 96941 E-mail: pattiwarm@gmail.com</p>
Fiji	<p>Mr. Aminiasi Qareqare Principle Environment Officer Department of Environment 19 Macgregor Road, Magan Road, PO Box 2109 Government Buildings SUVA, Fiji Tel: +679 3311699 Fax: +679 3312879 E-mail: aminiasi.qareqare@govnet.gov.fj</p>
Kiribati	<p>Ms. Turang Teuea Environment Inspector Environment and Conservation Division Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development (MELAD) PO Box 234 Tarawa, Kiribati Tel: +686 28425/28000 Fax: +686 28334 E-mail: turangf@environment.gov.ki</p>
New Zealand	<p>Ms. Judith Hanna Foreign Policy Officer New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade 195 Lambton Quay, Wellington New Zealand Tel: +64 4 439 7193 Email: judith.hanna@mfat.govt.nz</p>

Niue	Dr Josie M M M Tamate Director-General Ministry of Natural Resources Government of Niue Niue Public Service Building Alofi NIUE ISLAND Email: Josie.Tamate@mail.gov.nu
Papua New Guinea (PNG)	Absent
Samoa	Ms. Rona Meleisea- Ah Liki Principal Foreign Services Officer Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade Government of Samoa Apia, Samoa Tel: +685 23800 Fax: +685 23175 Email: rona@mfat.gov.ws
Solomon Islands	Absent
Tonga	Ms. Mafile'o Masi Senior Environmentalist E-mail: mafileo.masi@gmail.com Ministry of Environment, Energy, Climate Change, Disaster Management, Meteorology, Information and Communication (MEECCDMMIC) PO Box 917 Vuna Rd, Nuku'alofa TONGA Tel: (676) 28170 Fax: (676) 24861 E-mail: mafileo.masi@gmail.com
Tuvalu	Mr. Mataio Tekinene Director Environment Government of Tuvalu Funafuti, Tuvalu E-mail: tekinenemataio@gmail.com
Vanuatu	Absent

Annex 2: Agenda

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

Agenda item 2: Organisation of the Meeting

- Rules of Procedure
- Election of Officers
- Organisation of Work

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda item 4: Presentation of Reports by the Secretariat of work undertaken since COP6

- 4.1 STAC-4
- 4.2 SCPRC-3

Agenda item 5: Evaluation of the effectiveness of the STAC and the SC-PRC

Agenda item 6: Timing of the STAC-5, SCPRC-4 and COP-8

Agenda item 7: Competent Authorities and Focal Points

- 7.1 Competent Authorities and Focal Points

Agenda item 8: Reporting and Transmission of Information and Illegal Traffic

Agenda item 9: Financial statements for 2012 and 2013

- 9.1 Director's statement
- 9.2 Auditor's report 2012
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- 9.6 Income & Expenditure 2014

Agenda item 10: Consideration and adoption of core budget for the biennium 2014-2015

- 10.1 Core Budget
- 10.2 Status of Contributions

Agenda item 11: Consideration and adoption of the Business Plan for the PRC

- 11.1 Consideration and adoption of the Business Plan for the PRC

Agenda item 12: Other business

Agenda item 13: Date and venue of the next Meeting

Agenda item 14: Adoption of the Meeting Record

Agenda item 15: Closure of the Meeting

Annex 3: Endorsed budget

Waigani Convention Related Activity	Amount (US\$)	Timing	Venue
STAC-5/SC-PRC-4/COP-8	55,000	March & September 2015	Apia
Basel Convention COP (including SPREP support)	12,000	May 2015	Geneva
Country support (national reporting)	50,000	November 2014 and onwards	National
Total	117,000		