

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Annual Report

2014



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



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

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is the regional coordinating organisation for the protection and sustainable development of the Pacific island environment.

SPREP was established by its member governments in 1992 to support cooperation and coordination across the region. The agreement establishing SPREP came into force in 1993, officially making the organisation an autonomous body.

With headquarters located in Apia, Samoa, SPREP works closely with its 26 Member countries and territories – along with partners, donors and local communities – to deliver on environmental management and sustainable development in the region in four priority areas:



BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT



CLIMATE CHANGE



WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL



ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE

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SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
+685 21929
sprep@sprep.org
www.sprep.org

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



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CONTENTS

FOREWORD A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR	2
INTRODUCTION A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL	4
OUR MEMBERS WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO ACHIEVE SHARED GOALS	6
SPREP AT THE UN SIDS CONFERENCE	14
OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:	
 BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT	20
 CLIMATE CHANGE	28
 WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL	38
 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE	46
CORPORATE SERVICES	52
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	58
AUDITOR'S REPORTS	60
SPREP PUBLICATIONS	62
STAFF LIST	65
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	68
OUR REGION	69

Foreword

A message from the Chair



It is my great pleasure to write to you on behalf of my fellow SPREP Members, and as Chair of SPREP, with some opening remarks for the 2014 SPREP Annual Report. There can be no doubt that 2014 has proven to be yet another year of outstanding growth for the Secretariat, with ever increasing, positive and tangible outcomes for our Pacific island countries and territories and for the shared environment of our island region.

A major body of work in 2014 was a joint Independent Corporate Review of SPREP and Mid-term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan. The aim of the review was to assess SPREP's performance over the last five years, and to assess progress with implementation of the current SPREP Strategic Plan.

The Independent Corporate Review Team delivered a very positive report card on SPREP's organisational capacity and overall performance. The review highlighted the tremendous improvements that have taken place since 2010 and produced a series of recommendations to further improve SPREP's effectiveness and efficiency.

This process was an enormous undertaking and, on behalf of the Independent Review Team, I'd like to congratulate all staff, stakeholders and Members who contributed their time, energy and insight to the consultation process.



The review also noted the relevance of SPREP's work to the major environmental and sustainable development challenges in our region. The President of my country, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, along with other Pacific leaders has noted that climate change is the most important issue facing our Pacific island countries and territories. As Chair I would like to commend the work of SPREP in supporting climate change efforts at all levels, over the last 25 years. SPREP's activities in this area from on ground adaptation in Pacific countries to support for our countries in international climate negotiations.

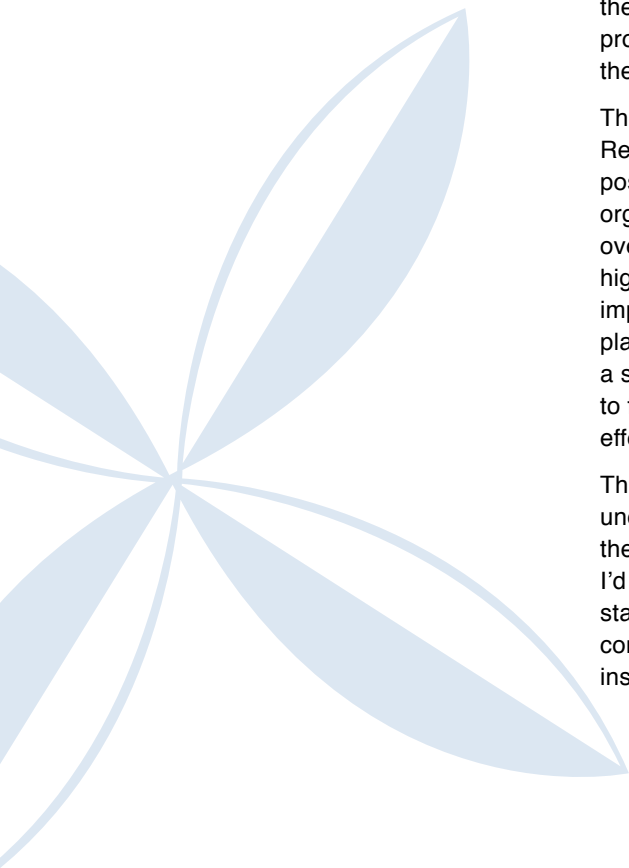




Photo: © Stuart Chape

This Annual Report also notes the major achievements of SPREP in supporting Pacific island countries and territories to address issues relating to: biodiversity and ecosystem management; waste management and pollution; and environmental monitoring and governance.

As Chair, I am pleased that SPREP has significantly improved all aspects of its governance – this means better service and support for Pacific island Members of SPREP. I am pleased in particular to note improved reporting processes which focus on outcomes and impacts as well as efficiency and relevance, including through establishing a

Project Review and Monitoring Group (PRMG). The PRMG will have a project appraisal and review function to support the development of SPREP’s project management capacity, and ensure the continued delivery of high quality projects.

All of the outcomes and recommendations stemming from the review were adopted at the 25th SPREP Meeting in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands. The annual meeting brought together delegates from 21 SPREP Members and included a High Level Segment which I had the pleasure of Chairing.

At the Meeting I was impressed with the manner in which so many

Members came together to support and constructively guide the work of SPREP. We must all continue to work collectively, with a sense of urgency and purpose, to address the environmental challenges faced by our region and support all island countries and territories to become more resilient.

As Chair, I congratulate the Secretariat for its hard work and achievements in 2014. The Republic of the Marshall Islands was honoured to host the 25th SPREP Meeting and we look forward to continued engagement with SPREP, and our fellow Members, over the coming years.

The Hon. Tony de Brum

On behalf of the Republic of the Marshall Islands

Chair of the 25th SPREP Meeting

Introduction

A message from the Director General



I'm very pleased to introduce the SPREP Annual Report for 2014. It's been another extremely successful year of implementation and results in support of Pacific island countries and territories, as this Report clearly demonstrates.

I am pleased that, since 2010, our direct financial support to our Pacific island Members has increased from around USD 2.5 million to over USD 8 million in 2014, which is over and above the significant technical and capacity building support provided by SPREP to our Pacific island Members.

This growth in support reflects our focus on supporting Pacific countries and territories to address their many and varied environmental and development challenges. These include: climate change – identified by Pacific Leaders as the major challenge

facing our region; biodiversity loss, with rates of loss among some of the highest in the world for some groups of species; and ever increasing levels of solid and hazardous waste in Pacific countries and territories.

These challenges require urgent and concerted action. This Annual Report outlines how SPREP has been helping our Pacific island Members to address these challenges, from the community to the international level.

For example, the FINPAC Project, supported by the Government of Finland, has strengthened the knowledge and capacity of Pacific island communities to apply meteorological data to assist day to day decisions such as the best times to plant food crops.

The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) programme has provided practical support and advice to Pacific countries and communities in the vital areas of water and food security, as well as more effective management of the coastal zone.

SPREP's emphasis on Ecosystem-based Adaptation – better management and protection of important ecosystems and ecosystem services to provide key front line tools to adapt to a changing climate – accelerated during the year through a major new programme in a number of Pacific countries, with support from the Government of Germany.

The more effective management of waste significantly increased during the year through the PacWaste, project, supported by the European Union, which will make a major contribution to the improved management of hazardous waste across the Pacific region. In 2014, PacWaste conducted emergency asbestos clean-ups in Fiji and Nauru as a result of region wide hazardous waste surveys. Similar regional inventories for healthcare waste and E-waste promise to yield further benefits to the health of both the Pacific environment and communities.

These are some of the many projects and activities through which SPREP has supported Pacific island countries and territories to address their pressing environment and development issues. I invite you to read more about our support in the following pages.

A major highlight of 2014 was the third United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States (UN SIDS) held in Apia, Samoa. The conference was an outstanding success for Samoa and, indeed, for all of our 21 Pacific Members. SPREP played a central role in this landmark event, including through involvement in more than 50 partnerships arising from the conference.

The theme of the conference was 'The sustainable development of Small Island Developing States through genuine and



Photo: © Stuart Chape

enduring partnerships'. One such partnership, that we were delighted to formally announce during the course of the conference, was that our already close relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) would be strengthened even further through the establishment of a new UNEP sub-regional office for the Pacific to be based at SPREP.

Our work in the area of biodiversity and ecosystem management was significantly strengthened in 2014 with the finalisation and launch of the historic *Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014–2020*. This milestone document provides guidance on priorities for biodiversity conservation for the next six years and makes us the first (and only) region in the world to have developed a strategic framework to bridge the gap between national initiatives and global instruments.

The growing needs of our Members have seen our work in environmental monitoring and governance growing. Notably, in 2014, we continued our work in the development of State of the Environment (SOE) reports and National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS) for our Pacific Members.

A major, five yearly, Independent Corporate Review was undertaken of SPREP in 2014. This review noted the significant improvement in SPREP's governance since

2008 and that Members view SPREP as an effective and efficient organisation delivering tangible outcomes for Pacific island countries and territories.

The strength of our governance was further underlined by SPREP becoming accredited as an Implementing Entity under the Adaptation Fund in 2013 and progressing strongly towards accreditation under the Green Climate Fund, anticipated in 2015. We intend to use these decisions to assist Pacific countries better access climate and other environmental funding.

The development of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Medium Sized Project (MSP) will support SPREP in seeking accreditation as a Project Agency of the GEF. When that happens we will be even better placed to assist our Members to access resources on environmental programmes across the six focal areas of the GEF.

The continued increase in our operating budget and staffing has improved our capacity in core areas of finance and administration, human resources, information technology, knowledge management and communications, which in turn has enabled increased technical and project delivery support to our Members.

Our Corporate Services Division have overseen the development of new, paperless systems to improve our productivity and efficiency while ensuring a 'greener' SPREP.

Many new staff joined us in 2014, including our first ever out-posted SPREP Officers in the Republic of Marshall Islands and the Solomon Islands.

In 2015 our in-country presence will be further expanded through the appointment of an out-posted SPREP Officer in the Federated States of Micronesia along with seven new project positions based in Fiji, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands through the five-year Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change project which is being funded by the Government of Germany.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy this Annual Report and that you share my appreciation of the staff at SPREP who have demonstrated passion, hard work and expertise to generate such fantastic results.

Of course, none of these achievements would have been possible without the support of our Members who continue to provide important feedback and expert knowledge.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners and donors for their support, particularly the Governments of Australia and New Zealand whose multi-year funding affords us with the security to continue core activities – all of which support our efforts to preserve and conserve the Pacific environment.

David Sheppard

Director General, SPREP

Our Members

Working in partnership to achieve shared goals



SPREP is committed to working with Members to deliver on environmental management and sustainable development in the region. Our work is driven by strategic priorities which are developed in close consultation with all our Pacific island Members and other stakeholders.



Photo: © Stuart Chape

American Samoa successfully targets invasive trees

The fight against the invasive tamaligi tree (*Falcataria moluccana*) is yielding positive results for the native flora and fauna of American Samoa. Like many other invasive trees, the tamaligi grows rapidly and towers over slow growing native species, contributing to their decline and degradation of the environment. Representatives from the American Samoa National Park have rallied the support of local communities to manually remove as many of the invasive trees as possible. This back-breaking work has paid off, with SPREP invasive species experts observing, first-hand, the proliferation of native trees in locations where the tamaligi had previously dominated the forests.



Photo: P.Skelton/SPREP

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands helps to guide the future direction of SPREP

In May, a representative from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, took part in the Regional Consultation Workshop to discuss the joint Independent Corporate Review of SPREP and the Mid-term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan. This major undertaking involved an assessment of the Secretariat's current performance and levels of engagement. As well as identifying areas in which organisational capacity could be improved, the outcomes of the review informed the development of the next Strategic Plan.



Photo: Abasaa Wikimedia Commons

Cook Islands showcases adaptation initiatives through film

At the third UN SIDS conference the Cook Islands launched 'Vital Harbours' – a short film created as part of the 'Vital' series under the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) programme. The film captures some of the work that was carried out, through PACC, to construct a new, climate-proof harbour for the island of Mangaia. A team of engineers worked with climate scientists to ensure the strength and durability of the harbour's structure. The new harbour also allows boats and canoes to safely sail in and out, even in rough conditions.



*Vital Harbour:
PACC Cook Islands'
Video Launch*

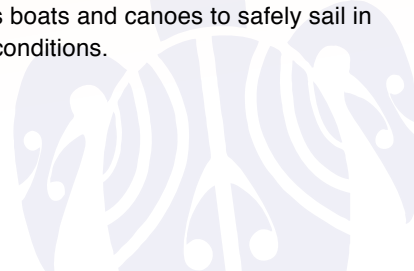




Photo: PACC/SPREP

Federated States of Micronesia launches new climate-proof road

The Federated States of Micronesia celebrated a major achievement in May 2014 with the official opening of a climate-proof road on the island of Kosrae. The improved coastal road is designed to withstand high tides and heavy rainfall, with worsening conditions over the next decades factored into the engineering. As well as delivering a much-needed all-weather transport route for the people of Tafunsak municipality, the project serves as a regional demonstration of how coastal infrastructure can be climate-proofed. The seven kilometre stretch of climate-proof road was funded by the PACC programme.



Photo: © Daniel Fernando/Manta Trust

Fiji kindles rays of hope

In July 2014, Fiji spearheaded the move to submit nine species of manta and devil rays to be protected under the UN Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). This was the first time that any of the four CMS Parties in the Pacific islands region had put forward a listing proposal. At the November meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties in Ecuador, all nine species were accepted for inclusion in Appendices I and II. This major achievement now means that all 120 parties to CMS agree not to target or trade in these species and to take all practicable steps for their conservation. This victory for our endangered rays came about through the hard work and foresight of staff at the Fiji Department of Fisheries.



Photo: M.Donoghue/SPREP

French Polynesia drives eco-tourism through emblematic species

In 2014, the Government of French Polynesia commenced work on an exciting new project known as Blue Days (*Les Journées Bleues*) which focuses on the use of iconic species – such as whales and dolphins, turtles, sharks, rays and dugong – to build the eco-tourism industry in Pacific countries and territories. Through the project, SPREP is assisting with the organisation of a 2015 conference to review existing eco-tourism operations in the Pacific islands region, exchange lessons learned, develop best practice guidelines, and set out a ten year roadmap for the development of sustainable eco-tourism in the region. Additional support for the initiative is being provided by Fonds Pacifique.

Guam reaffirms ongoing participation in the Pacific environment community

In August 2014, The Governor of Guam reaffirmed the country's commitment to participate as an active Member of SPREP. Noting the great work and benefits associated with SPREP membership, the Governor announced that the President of the University of Guam, Dr Robert Underwood, would be Guam's designated representative for all matters relating to SPREP.



Photo: SPREP archive

Kiribati ramps up support for the protection of threatened sea turtles

In 2014, for the first time ever, community turtle monitoring training was held in Abakoro Village in North Tarawa. Representatives from communities on Tarawa and Abemama joined staff from the Fisheries Division and the Environment and Conservation Division to learn about the conservation and sustainable management of marine turtles. At the training session, 20 participants learnt about turtle identification, migration and conservation. The training was part of the four-year Turtle Monitoring and Eco-tourism Development Project, funded by the New Zealand Aid Programme and managed by the New Zealand Department of Conservation in partnership with SPREP.



Photo: C.Siota/SPREP

Republic of the Marshall Islands paves the way for sustainable atoll waste management

An important assessment of integrated solid waste management options for Majuro atoll was completed in 2014. Majuro has been selected as the site for the USD 1 million pilot project to be developed as a sustainable model for integrated solid waste management in atoll environments. Now that the assessment phase is complete, the groundwork has been established for work to commence in early 2015 on providing new waste management infrastructure, specialised equipment and improved processes. This activity is part of the European Union-funded PacWaste project.



Photo: D.Haynes/SPREP



Photo: E.Richards/SPREP

Nauru commits to up-skilling waste workers for more sustainable outcomes

In 2014, representatives from Nauru attended training for waste workers on solid and hazardous waste management. Through the course, waste management workers from across the region learned about landfill operations, organic waste management, and how to minimise the unintentional release of Persistent Organic Pollutants. They also learned vital presentation and communication skills so they can pass on useful information and skills to their colleagues. The training was hosted by the Fiji National University with assistance from Griffith University in Australia and support from the French Development Agency (AFD), UNEP and the GEF.



Photo: © Isabella Chowra

New Caledonia creates marine park of international significance

In April 2014, New Caledonia created a new Marine Protected Area (MPA) of international significance known as *le parc naturel de la mer de Corail*. This MPA encompasses the entire Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of New Caledonia, as well as the territorial waters and islands under its management. Through Fonds Pacifique, technical cooperation has been facilitated between the MPA in New Caledonia and the similarly-sized Marine Park in the southern Cook Islands, promoting technical exchanges and capacity-building in both countries through a 'sister-site' agreement.



Photo: SPREP archive

Niue builds stronger relations between media and National Meteorological Services

In July 2014, the Niue Meteorological Service worked with SPREP to develop guidelines for translating complex meteorological terms into concepts that can be easily understood by national media agencies and local communities. A comprehensive Media Plan was also developed to ensure the regular relaying of weather information through the media. These activities took place at a two-day training session, funded through the Finland-Pacific project (FINPAC) which works across 14 countries in the Pacific region to reduce the vulnerability of communities to extreme weather events, disasters and climate change, through preparedness and response capability.

Palau commits record funds to fight invasive alien species

In June 2014, Palau President HE Tommy Remengesau Jnr committed to allocate USD 1.4 million of Palau's GEF biodiversity funding to eradicating invasive species – the biggest commitment ever made by a Pacific leader to address the harmful impacts of invasive species. At the subsequent Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, Palau's work in the area of invasive species management and island biosecurity was showcased to other leaders in the Pacific region – highlighting the importance of a united response to this expanding economic and environmental threat.



Photo: © Stuart Chape

Papua New Guinea on track for smarter weather forecasting

In 2014, Papua New Guinea rolled out the installation of a state-of-the-art weather forecasting system known as SmartMet. Prior to the installation, representatives from the National Weather Service joined other technicians and forecasters from across the region to learn about the programming logic used to create the SmartMet tool and, importantly, how best to train others in the proper use of the system. The training was funded through FINPAC and was delivered at SPREP by the Information and Communications Technology team.



Photo: E.Tagi/SPREP

Samoa commences forest restoration activities at iconic Mount Vaea site

Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has commenced training to support vital forest restoration activities to increase the resilience of native rainforests against the threat of invasive species and climate change. Activities will focus on the iconic Mount Vaea Nature Reserve which is famous for its walking trails and natural beauty. The 80 hectare area was formerly covered with lowland rainforest but is now heavily infested with invasive weeds. The training forms part of a greater forest restoration project being undertaken by SPREP through the GEF Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GEF-PAS) funded 'Prevention, control and management of invasive alien species in the Pacific Islands' project.



Photo: © Stuart Chape



Photo: © Stuart Chape

Solomon Islands demonstrates the benefit of integrated partnership model

The Solomon Islands showcased the success of the Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme (CHICCHAP) at a special side event at the third UN SIDS conference. Through the CHICCHAP, projects working across multiple sectors coordinate their efforts to ensure that benefits extend from 'ridge-to-community-to-reef'. SPREP is proud to be a part of the CHICCHAP through the USAID-funded Ecosystem-based Adaptation programme which is increasing the resilience of Choiseul Province to climate change and natural disasters.



Photo: © IMO

Tokelau supports the reduction of emissions from international shipping

In 2014, Tokelau made a valuable contribution to regional discussions about regulations for the prevention of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from ships. At a special workshop about Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, known as MARPOL, participants discussed measures to enhance the energy efficiency of ships as well as exploring on-shore power supply and green port initiatives. The workshop was hosted by SPREP in partnership with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), and was supported by the Government of Canada through Transport Canada.



Photo: Ofa Sefana

Tonga harnesses solar power to provide water to remote communities

Thirteen remote villages in the Ha'apai District of Tonga now have improved access to water thanks to the installation of solar powered water pumps. Since the December 2014 launch, the fuel and electricity use in these 13 villages is estimated to have been reduced by more than half. As part of this project, 65 people were trained in operating the pumps and the Geology Department of Tonga is monitoring the water to ensure its quality. This project was funded by Denmark through SIDS DOCK and implemented through the second phase of the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project, known as PIGGAREP+.

Tuvalu formally implements conservation areas to protect island biodiversity

In September 2014, Tuvalu commenced work on demarcating existing conservation areas on each of its nine islands. This will formalise the management of conservation areas through the development of Conservation Agreements. As well as assisting Tuvalu to satisfy its obligations under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the conservation areas help to preserve marine and terrestrial biodiversity for current and future generations. This activity, supported by SPREP, was undertaken as part of the GEF-PAS Integrated Island Biodiversity (IIB) project.



Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP

Vanuatu on track for the sustainable management of used oil

In 2014, a cost benefit analysis and regulatory review was undertaken in Vanuatu to provide guidance for the ongoing management of used lubricating oils and hydraulic fluids. This body of work is an important first step towards implementing a national framework on the improved management of these harmful waste products. This framework promotes shared responsibility by relevant stakeholders in the collection, storage, and export or reuse of used oil. The sustainable management of used oil and hydraulic fluids means better human and environment health for the people and environment of Vanuatu. These activities were undertaken with the support of the AFD.



Photo: D.Haynes/SPREP

Wallis and Futuna commences strategic management of invasive species

In 2014, funding was secured from Fonds Pacifique to develop strategic action plans on biological diversity and invasive species management in Wallis and Futuna. An initial assessment mission in 2014 identified key sites, such as wetlands, to target for preservation under regional and international frameworks. Capacity building needs for invasive species management were also addressed through a regional training on the CABI Invasive Species Compendium.



Photo: P.Skelton/SPREP

SPREP at the UN SIDS Conference

Supporting the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States

From 1–4 September, 2014 Samoa hosted the third United Nations conference on Small Island Developing States (UN SIDS). The conference was attended by leaders of the 52 island countries who are classified as SIDS in the Caribbean, Indian and Pacific Oceans. With the overarching theme being ‘The sustainable development of Small Island Developing States through genuine and durable partnerships’ the conference looked at innovative solutions to address the unique vulnerabilities faced by small island nations in attaining sustainable development.



Over the course of the five-day event, almost 300 partnerships between governments, businesses and civil societies from all over the world were registered to support the sustainable development of SIDS. At the close of conference, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway, known as the SAMOA Pathway, was adopted by delegates and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly of the UN.

SPREP played a key role in the historic event and was involved in more than 50 partnerships at the conference. With major positive outcomes in the areas of renewable energy, climate change and disaster risk management, oceans and biodiversity, and waste management – the UN SIDS conference was a great success for SPREP’s 21 Pacific Members and for the SPREP Secretariat.



Better waste practices showcase Samoa as a green, clean and healthy island

Ahead of the influx of conference visitors to Samoa, SPREP embarked on a suite of activities to help address the increase in waste generated during the conference as well as to raise awareness of marine debris and demonstrate effective waste management measures.

The initiative was implemented by SPREP and Samoa’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and funded by UNEP.

The campaign commenced with a waste audit of the 40 Samoan hotels and other accommodation venues and ports of entry used during the conference. The audit results were then discussed at a technical workshop where waste management processes for the accommodation facilities and the UN SIDS conference venue were developed.

A second activity saw temporary litter booms placed at the mouth of Apia’s major rivers, to help prevent litter and debris from entering Apia harbour. Local communities living along the rivers were engaged in the project and played an active role in taking care of the booms

and reducing the amount of rubbish in the rivers. These two litter booms, and a third oil containment boom, were loaned to Samoa by the Australian Government for the conference as a result of SPREP’s close relationship with AMSA.

Another initiative that met with strong community support came in the form of two full-day workshops on waste-craft. Waste-craft is the practice of refashioning rubbish into beautiful and sought-after consumer items. In other Pacific island countries such as Fiji, the endeavour has proven to be a huge success – not just in raising awareness of sound waste management practices but also in providing income to many communities from the sale of items created from the waste materials.

Members of the Fugalei SISDAC Women’s committee, the Tuaeufu women’s committee, the Pan-Pacific South East Asia Women’s Association (PPSEAWA), and Women in Business Development Incorporated (WIBDI) attended workshops and learnt to re-fashion litter into purses and other consumer items.

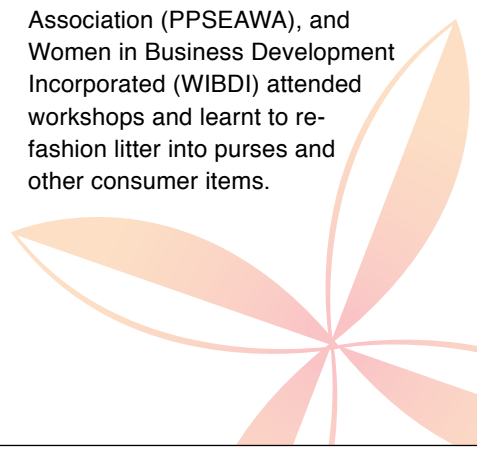


Staff from SPREP joined local communities to clean-up the rivers around Apia ahead of the UN SIDS Conference. Photo: C.lacovino/SPREP

After only four days, SPREP retrieved 23 kilograms of plastic from the rubbish boom located at the Vaisano River in Apia. Photo: A.Markic/SPREP

Participants at the Waste-craft workshops learned about upcycling – the art of transforming unwanted items into something of value. Photo: A.Solofa/SPREP

Left: SPREP’s Director General, Mr David Sheppard, speaking at the plenary of the UN SIDS Conference. Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP





Keynote speaker, Professor Albert Binger from SIDS DOCK, urged small island developing states to work together to take the lead on adopting renewable energy technologies. Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP

Working in partnership to take the lead on sustainable energy

Sustainable energy partnerships for SIDS were the topic of conversation at a special side event hosted by SPREP, SIDS DOCK and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs) on the third day of the UN SIDS conference,

Featured at the event were case studies from St Vincent and the Grenadines, Cape Verde and Samoa that all demonstrated sustainable energy partnerships using the SIDS Sustainable Energy mechanism – SIDS DOCK – as the framework.

Three specific issues were highlighted during discussions of renewable energy success stories for SIDS. The first was the value

of partnerships that recognise the specific challenges of SIDS. The second was the critical importance of political will and leadership from the recipient country, and third was the acknowledgement that even small investments in the field of renewable energy can result in major benefits for small island states.

SPREP was an active founding member of the team that developed the SIDS DOCK concept from 2009 onwards. The signing of the SIDS DOCK treaty was a major highlight of the conference, with more than half of the members of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) present for the signing of the historic treaty.

“Once again, the Pacific islands region is showing the world what can be done. This regional framework is one of the major outcomes of the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas held in Suva, Fiji in December 2013. The other major outcome was the ten high level key actions agreed by government leaders, development organisations and partners – actions which I urge all Pacific island countries and territories to implement.”

– *The Hon. Tony De Brum, Foreign Affairs Minister for the Republic of the Marshall Islands.*

The Pacific is the only region in the world to have developed and adopted a strategic framework that bridges the gap between national initiatives and global instruments.





Dr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the UN CBD, at the launch of the *Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014–2020*.

Pacific region leads the way with strategic framework for nature conservation

SPREP and the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) launched the *Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014 – 2020* as a partnership platform at the third UN SIDS conference.

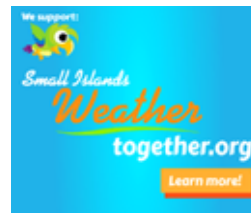
The Framework was developed at the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in December 2013, following extensive consultation with members of both SPREP and PIRT. Input was also provided by regional and international organisations, development partners, NGOs and conference participants.

The document provides guidance to the region on key priorities for biodiversity conservation for the next six years. Its broad scope has been designed to accommodate local, national, regional and international priorities and to allow for the successful coordination and implementation of concrete actions at country level.

Through this milestone, the Pacific has become the only region in the world to develop and adopt a strategic framework that bridges the gap between national initiatives, like National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and global instruments such as the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the CBD.



Small Islands, Weather Together



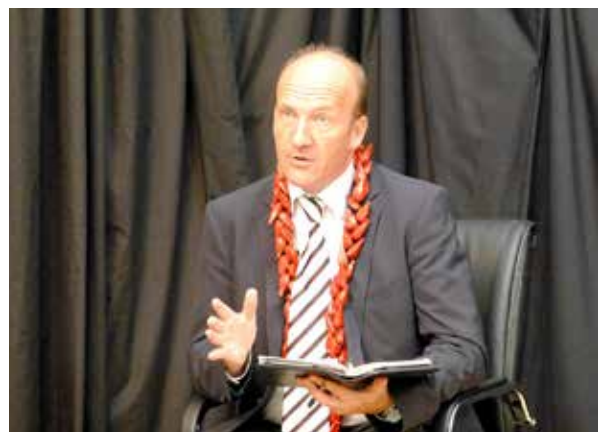
In the lead-up to the UN SIDS conference, SPREP joined the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Digicel Pacific to launch a global campaign to improve weather and climate services for SIDS.

The Small Islands, Weather Together campaign (www.weather.together.org) shows how the small island nations of the world can work together to improve their vital weather and climate services.

As part of the campaign, the well-known BBC World presenter Mr David Eades hosted two special events at the UN SIDS conference involving leaders such as His Excellency Anote Tong, the President of Kiribati and Mr Hans Brattskar, State Secretary of the Government of Norway. These panel discussions were edited into a combined 23-minute television programme broadcast throughout the Asia Pacific region via the Australia Plus Network and other broadcasters.

The campaign used a range of successful advocacy approaches that included the development of a website and an online competition for Pacific island countries and territories.

By November, the campaign had reached more than 100 million people in over 50 countries, and directly engaged leaders and donors in the discussion about the urgent need to increase investment in weather and climate services for small island nations. The campaign was subsequently nominated for a Green Cross 'Green Star Award' for its efforts to strengthen weather and climate services for all small island nations.



BBC World presenter, Mr David Eades, collaborated with organisers of the Weather Together campaign to host and record two special events at the UN SIDS conference. Photo: C.Iacovino/SPREP

Highlighting Displacement in the Context of Disasters and the Effects of Climate Change

For centuries, war, famine and persecution have resulted in the forced movement of populations both within national borders and across them. Generally, people who become displaced within their own countries are covered by national laws, international human rights law, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internally Displaced Persons and other regional instruments.



The issue of displacement is particularly pertinent to those small island developing states that are at the front line of climate change.

Unfortunately there is a serious legal gap with regard to people who are forced to leave their countries because of extreme weather events, rising sea levels or drought.

SPREP representatives joined stakeholders from around the globe to discuss the issue of displacement and climate change at a UN SIDS side event called 'Prevent, Prepare, and Respond: Displacement in the context of disasters and the effects of climate change.' The event was organised by the Nansen Initiative – a state-led consultative process to build consensus on a protection agenda addressing the

needs of people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and the effects of climate change.

The issue is particularly pertinent to those small island states that are at the front line of climate change. These low lying atolls – including Kiribati, Tuvalu, Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Maldives – already face the very real prospect of having their people becoming the world's first displaced persons from the effects of climate change.

SPREP and The Nansen Initiative have been working closely together on national planning for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Through this partnership, SPREP hosts a secondment from the Norwegian Refugee Council to work specifically with Pacific island countries and territories on the issues of human mobility in the context of climate change.

Spotlight on Ocean Acidification

The need for small island nations to rehabilitate, protect and preserve their threatened marine environments was discussed at a special UN SIDS parallel event called 'Ocean Acidification: State-of-the-Science Considerations for Small Island Developing States.'

Ocean acidification is emerging as an urgent environmental and economic issue in many areas of the world. As the world's oceans absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, ocean pH levels are falling, resulting in greater acidity of ocean water. Since the industrial revolution, the oceans have absorbed 40% of the carbon dioxide released by human activities, resulting in a 30% increase in the acidity of the world oceans. If these changes to the chemical balance of ocean and coastal waters continue at present rates, they may have potentially devastating effects on marine life.



The two-day workshop, held on board the Pacific Jewel cruise ship, was jointly hosted by New Zealand and the United States in partnership with SPREP. It brought together international experts in the field of ocean acidification to complete a 'Declaration on Ocean Acidification' which was then taken to the UN SIDS Conference.

International experts on ocean acidification completed an important declaration on the issue and delivered this to delegates at the UN SIDS conference. Photo: E.Armitage/US Embassy New Zealand



All hands on deck for UN SIDS

All staff at SPREP made a fantastic contribution to the success of the UN SIDS conference. In total, 78 members of our team attended the conference and many more provided vital behind-the-scenes work to ensure the smooth running of the side events held at the conference venue and at our campus in Apia.

Over the course of the conference, SPREP held 15 side events, eight parallel events, 25 executive bilateral meetings, five launches and five signing of agreements. Our Apia campus looked spectacular, thanks to the hard work of grounds staff who prepared for the event with extensive gardening and beautification works, as well as creating a new area for parking at the rear of the compound.

Staff worked together to ensure that the SPREP seat at the UN plenary and our stand in the exhibition pavilion were not ever left unattended for the duration of the four-day conference.
Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP



A special SPREP display at the UN SIDS exhibition pavilion contributed to raising the profile of our work amongst conference delegates.
Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP



The hospitality and enthusiasm from the people of Samoa made UN SIDS delegates feel very welcome. Photo: M.Bradley/SPREP



In the lead-up to the conference, SPREP worked with PACNEWS, PINA, PACMAS and *Islands Business* to run media training for reporters on SIDS-related issues. At the conference itself SPREP coordinated a team of reporters resulting in over 20 published news stories. Photo: N.Woonton/SPREP

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management



The Pacific islands region is one of the richest complexes of terrestrial and marine ecosystems on Earth, with habitats ranging from mountain forests to volcanic islands, low lying coral atolls and the open ocean. The plants and animals that inhabit our region are often found nowhere else on the planet. Many have adapted to specialised habitats, making them especially vulnerable to the threats and pressures caused by, or derived from, human activities.



Importantly, biodiversity conservation in the Pacific region is much more than an economic and an ecological issue – it is also a social, political and cultural one. Pacific islanders are dependent on natural ecosystems and their resources for survival. Natural ecosystems not only provide food, clothing, tools, medicines and other material products, but are also a critical component of Pacific island cultures, providing the objects of traditional cultural practices, myths and legends.

Rapid Biodiversity Survey in Tonga yields new findings

In February 2014, a team of international and local experts participated in a Rapid Biodiversity Survey (BIORAP) of the Vava'u archipelago in Tonga. Through the survey, exciting new data on the status of marine and terrestrial ecosystems was collected to inform ongoing conservation management.

The first piece of good news arising from the survey was confirmation that the friendly ground-dove bird species has extended its range in Tonga. During the expedition, the globally threatened bird was observed further afield than had previously been noted.

Another encouraging sign was the discovery of a new species of iguana, similar to the Fijian banded iguana. Prior to the BIORAP survey it had been rumoured but not confirmed, that iguanas were still present in the area. Following a tipoff from local community members the team managed to locate an iguana and take DNA samples for further analysis.

Another discovery came from the marine survey team who reported 75 coral species previously not reported from Tonga, and potentially three entirely new species. They also noted range extensions on reef fish biodiversity.

In less positive news, the marine team found extremely low numbers of commercially valuable species

such as sea cucumbers and clams, and the biomass of some important fish groups such as grouper, snapper, emperors and jacks was low. On the reefs, they saw evidence of bleaching due to higher than normal water temperatures – a development that has long-term implications for coral health and the reef community.

The BIORAP survey was followed by an Ecosystem Service Valuation (ESV), funded by SPREP through IUCN, making the Vava'u archipelago one of the first sites in the Pacific where up-to-date biodiversity and ecosystem information has been linked with ecosystems valuation approaches.

The BIORAP was jointly coordinated by SPREP and the Tongan Government, through the Ministry of Lands, Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MLECCNR), along with partner organisations including the Waitt Foundation and the Vava'u Environmental Protection Association (VEPA).

This activity was undertaken as part of the UNEP and GEF-funded Integrated Islands Biodiversity Project.



The BIORAP confirmed that iguanas are still present in Vava'u. Photo: © Stuart Chape



The rare coral *Echinomorpha nishihirai* was identified during the marine survey. Photo: D.Fenner

Left: The Vava'u archipelago is the northernmost of the Kingdom of Tonga's three main island groups. Photo: © Stuart Chape

Scholarship awarded in memory of marine species warrior

Following the untimely passing of Mr Lui Bell in 2012, who was working at the time as SPREP's Marine Species Adviser, a scholarship fund was established by SPREP to honour his memory.

Through the fund, a grant of up to USD 20,000 is awarded to assist a young person from the Pacific to undertake a course of post-graduate study that will contribute to those issues about which Lui was most passionate – the conservation of the threatened and migratory species of the Pacific islands.

The Lui Bell Memorial Post-Graduate Scholarship for Marine Species Conservation was opened to applicants for the first time in 2014, and the applications were reduced to a shortlist of three by a review panel from the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Division and Dr George Balazs, a turtle expert from the US National Marine Fisheries Service in Honolulu, and long-time colleague of Lui.

In September, the award was made to Ms Saras Sharma, a graduate of

the University of the South Pacific (USP) who is currently working at the Department of Fisheries in Fiji. Through the award, Ms Sharma will undertake her Masters Degree in Marine Affairs, specifically studying the migration pattern of humpback whales in Fiji waters.

For Ms Sharma, the award was made even more special given she had previously worked with Lui on various activities.

Besides her lectures and tutorials, she will also be conducting research on turtles, dolphins and whales in Fiji. This experience will enrich her capacity to act as the Focal Point for the Pacific island Parties to the CMS.

“I'm excited and a little bit sad at the same time, as Lui taught me some of the work that I am doing today. I'm very grateful to SPREP and his family. I really wish that Lui was here to see how much I have achieved from what he has taught me.”

– Ms Saras Sharma, Recipient of the first Lui Bell Memorial Post-Graduate Scholarship for Marine Species Conservation



Ms Saras Sharma (front right) and Mr Lui Bell, pictured above in the red shirt, worked together in marine species conservation.

A big year for our big ocean

They may generally have small populations, landmass and economies, but because of their large EEZs, SPREP Members are Large Ocean States, with jurisdictional responsibility for more than 28 million square kilometres of the planet's oceans. Our region is at the forefront of ocean conservation globally. Developments over the past 12 months have seen this commitment taken to an unprecedented new level.

One of the key contributing factors has been the creation of new large MPAs in the region, which will greatly improve the protection of large tracts of the ocean and its resources from exploitation.

For the Pacific region, 2014 was a cornerstone year for large MPAs. One major development was the groundbreaking announcement from HE Tommy Remengesau Jnr, President of Palau, that the island nation intended to close most of its EEZ to foreign fishing vessels through the creation of the Palau Marine Sanctuary.

Another significant milestone was the Government of Kiribati's decision to close the Phoenix Islands Protected Area to all



The whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) is the largest fish on Earth. Their distinctive spots are thought to be unique to each individual – similar to human fingerprints. Photo: © Lill Haugen

commercial fishing – a fantastic win for our marine species.

A third key development was the April announcement of a new MPA, of international significance, in New Caledonia. Known as *le parc naturel de la mer de Corail*, this MPA encompasses the entire EEZ of New Caledonia, as well as the territorial waters and islands under its management. In total, the park protects an area of roughly 1.3 million square kilometres.

Sustainably managing an MPA of this size is a hard task. Through the Pacific Oceanscape Framework, SPREP has facilitated technical cooperation between

the Marine Protected Areas in New Caledonia and the similarly-sized Marine Park in the southern Cook Islands, promoting technical exchanges and capacity-building in both countries through a 'sister site' arrangement.

SPREP is taking a more active role in ocean conservation than ever before. In 2014 we renewed our commitment to the conservation of sharks and increased our capacity to investigate and address the problems of marine debris, including discarded and lost fishing gear. Further to this, a new inter-divisional 'Blue Team' was established within the organisation to address cross-cutting ocean issues – such as better monitoring of the marine environment and coastal zone management.

Taking a 'big picture' approach to the sustainable management of oceans benefits our region, and indeed all of humanity, through preserving and conserving these unique ecosystems and their inhabitants for future generations.



The Pacific is the world's largest ocean, covering nearly one-third of the Earth's surface. Photo: © Stuart Chape



The community of Talihau in Vava'u, Tonga are now overseeing the maintenance of their beach, with assistance from the Tongan Ministry of Environment and the Vava'u Environmental Protection Association (VEPA). Photo: P.Anderson/SPREP

Inexpensive and achievable rehabilitation techniques strengthen Pacific island coastlines

An innovative set of techniques developed for the strengthening and rehabilitation of beaches in the Pacific island region have been put to the test in Tonga, Kiribati and Samoa.

This approach to coastal erosion has been developed over the past two years as part of the coastal Ecosystem-based Adaptation project which is implemented by SPREP and funded by the Australian Government under its International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (ICCAI).

The beach rehabilitation guidelines and practical interventions – developed over the past two years and tested in Samoa, Vanuatu and Kiribati – are designed to limit and, where possible, stop continued erosion on affected beaches in the region and put in

place strategies to reverse damage that has already taken place. Such rehabilitation can strengthen coastal resilience to the impacts associated with sea level rise.

Crucially, the techniques are designed to be cheap, achievable and easily managed by local communities in both the short and long term.

While coastal erosion is a serious problem across the region, the reality is that there is a lot that can be done to curb the harmful impact of humans and animals – and many of these can be implemented in a relatively short period of time. Interventions include the installation of fencing to prevent livestock from damaging beachside vegetation, putting systems in place to prevent the mooring of boats on degraded areas of the beach and talking to the community about the damaging impact of sand mining.

Replanting coastal vegetation and creating brush protection mats also assist in building up the volume of sand on the beach. These measures can help to restore healthy coastal ecosystems, making them more climate resilient and better able to bounce back from the impacts of severe weather and natural disasters.

“This is like a dream come true to have something like this to help us to protect our beach. We are so happy to have this work as we know it’s for the benefit of our community and for our grandkids in the future. We will work together and help each other by replanting trees, replacing the fence if it breaks and help to conserve the areas from being abused by animals and visitors.”

– Ms 'Ana Finau, Talihau community, Tonga



Planting new vegetation and protecting it from being disturbed can help to rehabilitate an eroding beach. Photo: P.Anderson/SPREP



Mua Voyage sets sail with a message of natural solutions for increased island resilience

To celebrate SPREP's Year of Natural Solutions, a range of activities were undertaken to highlight the important role that ecosystems play in building island resilience. This issue is particularly pertinent to the Pacific region, given the vulnerability of our islands to the impacts of climate change and severe weather events.

The campaign also sought to raise awareness of the important role that traditional knowledge can play in modern day conservation, and the relationship between Pacific island people and the natural environment.

A highlight of the 2014 campaign was the Mua voyage which saw four traditional canoes – originating from the Cook Islands, Fiji, New Zealand and Samoa – journeying all the way to the World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia to call for unity and harmony between people and nature.



Voyaging canoes from the Pacific sailed all the way to Darling Harbour in Sydney to highlight the importance of environmental stewardship. Photo: © Stuart Chape

SPREP was a co-partner in the Mua Voyage, which was coordinated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Oceania Regional Office.

Natural solutions to island resilience in the Pacific were highlighted through discussions of ecosystem-based adaptation, such as the role that mangroves can play in increasing resilience against severe weather events such as cyclones.

Historic Pacific joint preparatory meeting for biodiversity-related MEAs

A shared commitment to the conservation of the Pacific environment brought together delegates to an historic first meeting of all regional parties to the three key biodiversity-related Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs).

The Pacific Joint Preparatory Meeting in Nadi, Fiji, assembled

regional parties to the CBD, CMS, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

The gathering symbolised a new push to harmonise regional efforts to implement obligations under these international agreements by assisting with coordination and administrative demands at the national level.

It was the first time that delegates implementing their countries' obligations under these

very different conventions had had the opportunity to share their experiences and aspirations and collectively commit to promoting a shared vision of 'A Pacific Voyage' at their respective Conferences of Parties.

Countries and territories represented at the meeting included the Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The meeting was also attended by key partners and stakeholders including the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), WWF Pacific, UNEP and representatives from the CBD, CMS, CITES and Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Delegates gather to the landmark meeting of regional parties to biodiversity-related MEAs. Photo: SPREP archive



Protecting turtles and empowering communities: a win-win for all

In 2014, SPREP implemented community turtle monitoring training in Kiribati and the Solomon Islands. The training is part of the four-year Turtle Monitoring and Eco-tourism Development Project, funded by the New Zealand Aid Programme and managed by the New Zealand Department of Conservation, in partnership with SPREP.

This aim of the project is to engage local communities in the conservation and sustainable management of marine turtles. Through initiatives such as community turtle monitoring training, representatives from local communities and environmental organisations are able to learn more about endangered marine turtle populations, and how local

communities can benefit from turtle-related eco-tourism activity.

At the training sessions, participants learn useful facts about turtles such as their life cycle, migration habits and identification. Also covered in the training is important information about threats to turtle populations in the Pacific region, such as unsustainable

harvesting for meat/eggs and handicraft, animal predation on turtle nests, incidental capture in commercial fishing, degradation of habitat, pollution, marine debris, boat strikes and global warming – which may impact sex ratio, and loss of nesting beaches through sea level rise.

“I learned new skills in turtle monitoring which adds another useful skill to my current job as a Fisheries Officer. When I go back to Marau community I would like to organise a committee to oversee the turtle monitoring project and to carry out education and awareness on marine turtles.”

– Mr Patrick Haukare, Marau Conservation Association.



Participants at the community turtle monitor training in the Solomon Islands practice the safe relocation of green turtle eggs from a nest found below the high tide mark. Photo: C.Siota/SPREP



Invasive species: everybody's responsibility

The continued proliferation of invasive species remains a serious threat to fragile island environments across the Pacific region. In this age of frequent international travel and extensive movement of freight, invasive plants and animals can – and do – move very quickly. Therefore an important aspect of managing any negative impact is keeping up to date with which invasive species are found within each country and their trading partners.

In 2014, Invasive Alien Species (IAS) desktop reviews were completed for the Cook Islands,

Niue, Kiribati and Vanuatu, complementing work already undertaken in Tonga.

These reviews, conducted in partnership with the Invasive Species Specialist Group, compile all existing information available on invasive and introduced species in a given location, including data on protected areas and invasive pathways. As well as painting a clear picture regarding invasive species, the information is used to foster discussion and collaboration on the development of National Invasive Species Strategies and Action Plans (NISSAPs) with relevant country and regional stakeholders.

NISSAPs, which have been identified as a

An IAS desktop review on Mount Talau, Tonga identified the site of the rare endemic plant *Casearia buelowii*. In the subsequent development of a Tonga's NISSAP, stakeholders determined that protecting the plant was a high priority. Photo: D.Moverley/SPREP

strategic priority for SPREP, have now been completed for Palau, Tonga, Niue and Vanuatu. Over the coming year, plans will also be completed for the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Wallis and Futuna. By the end of 2015, SPREP's target of having five additional Members with NISSAPs in place, will have been doubled.

The IAS desktop reviews and the development of NISSAPs are activities that form part of the GEF-PAS Prevention, Control and Management of Invasive Alien Species in the Pacific Islands project, implemented by UNEP and executed by SPREP.



The few remaining specimens of *Casearia buelowii* are now protected behind a pig-proof fence. The site is co-managed by the Tongan government and the local Mt. Talau community. Photo: D.Moverley/SPREP

Climate Change



The culture, environment and livelihoods of the Pacific islands are at risk from the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. Climate change is no longer a future threat – the impacts of climate change are already evident in all continents and oceans around the globe.



Our region is one of the most vulnerable in the world to the threats of climate change and related disaster risks. For this reason, increased awareness and understanding of climate change impacts on Pacific communities and livelihoods is essential, as are activities that foster island resilience to changing weather extremes and climatic conditions.

SPREP is the lead agency on coordinating climate change responses and mainstreaming in the Pacific region. One of our key strategic goals is to strengthen the capacity of our Members to respond to climate change. This is undertaken through policy improvements, implementation of practical adaptation measures, strengthening of weather and climate information and knowledge management, growing ecosystem resilience to the impacts of climate change and implementing initiatives aimed at low-carbon development and emissions reduction.



Towards a climate and disaster resilient Pacific

The Pacific is set to become the first region in the world to fully integrate disaster risk management and climate change in a single overarching regional strategy, which focuses on resilient development.

The Strategy for Disaster and Climate Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP) will replace the current Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change, and the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action – both of which will expire in 2015.

The main focus of the SRDP is on building the resilience of Pacific island communities to the impacts of climate change and disasters, by developing more effective

and more integrated ways to address climate and disaster risks, within the context of sustainable development. The SRDP will be a guiding document to assist the region in achieving these goals.

The SRDP was developed following extensive consultations spanning two years. SPREP – in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), PIFS, UNDP and USP – has provided the technical guidance to the development of the SRDP.

The development of the SRDP has been overseen by a Steering Committee which is made up of Pacific island governments and territories, civil society and

private sector representation. Implementation will be guided by a regional coordinating mechanism called the Pacific Resilience Partnership.

Successful implementation of the SRDP will revolve around effective human and financial resource mobilisation, communication and advocacy, partnerships and coordination to strengthen resilience against climate change and disasters in the region – ensuring that Pacific people, their environment and livelihoods are protected.

The final approval is expected in September 2015 when the SRDP will be presented to Pacific Island Forum Leaders for their endorsement.

Left: The SRDP will help to build the resilience of Pacific island communities to the impacts of climate change and disasters. Photo: © Jeff Tan





On Mangaia Island in the Cook Islands, a stronger and safer harbour was designed to withstand climate-related threats. Photo: PACC/SPREP

Wrapping up and reflecting after six successful years of PACC

The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) programme will wrap up in June 2015 after six successful years at the forefront of climate change adaptation in the Pacific region.

With hundreds of activities taking place across 14 Pacific island countries and territories, PACC was one of the largest climate change adaptation initiatives in the region. All of the on-the-ground adaptation measures undertaken through the programme focused on one of three key climate-sensitive sectors – food security, water resources, or coastal zone management.

A highlight of the programme's work in water resource management was the successful installation of a 700,000 litre water cistern in the Lofeagai community in Tuvalu. As a result of this intervention, 92 households now have enough water reserve capacity to cope with long periods of drought.

An inspiring food security success story took place in the remote Solomon Islands. In the community of Sikaiana, PACC introduced low

maintenance and high yielding permaculture systems through which 30 women and six young men trained in simple farming methods appropriate for small-scale farming in atoll conditions. The introduction of solar-dried food processing has supplemented the activity further, with the community now able to safely store excess produce for times of scarcity.

In the area of coastal zone management, a highlight was the 2014 launch of a new climate-resilient harbour on Mangaia Island in the Cook Islands. The 570 residents of Mangaia had seen their harbour destroyed in 2005 as a result of tropical cyclones.

“Water is life. The people of Lofeagai now have this extra water source to help them all. This is a good thing because water is life. We need it for everything we do.”

Through PACC, a stronger and safer harbour was developed that is designed to withstand current and future climate-related threats. It has also allowed more than one shipping agent to service the island ensuring that essential supplies like flour, sugar and rice are now more readily available.

These three examples highlight the extent to which the PACC programme has touched the lives of so many individuals across the region, facilitating grassroots and community-focused activities with global outcomes in mind.

Through its successful outcomes and strong levels of engagement, PACC has paved the way for other initiatives to foster island resilience for a safer and stronger future.

The PACC Programme is funded by the GEF and the Australian Government with support from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Climate Change Capacity Development (C3D+). SPREP is the implementing partner, and UNDP acts as executing agency.

Building climate and disaster resilient communities through improved meteorological services

Changing weather patterns, brought about by variations in weather and climate, are impacting vulnerable communities in the Pacific like never before, and will be exacerbated by climate change. Our islands are already faced with the increased frequency and intensity of severe weather and climate events such as prolonged periods of flooding and drought and more intense tropical storms. These changing weather patterns have also disrupted traditional knowledge and subsistence activities such as artisanal farming and fishing.

The four year Finland-Pacific project, known as FINPAC, is addressing these issues by providing technical support to National Meteorological Services and building their capacity to generate more accurate weather information and early warnings. This will allow communities to better prepare for severe weather and climate events. FINPAC also raises awareness of, and improves access to, meteorological information, leading to better informed and more resilient communities.

One of the ways that FINPAC contributes to these goals is by assisting the National Meteorological Services across the Pacific to better respond to the needs of communities in relation to weather and climate services. In 2014, FINPAC conducted community consultations in the Cook Islands, Tuvalu and Tonga to establish how best to deliver weather and climate information to



local communities. The outcomes of these successful consultations were then incorporated into the development of national Climate and Disaster Resilience Planning.

In Fiji, Tonga and Papua New Guinea, FINPAC successfully rolled out the SmartMet weather forecasting system. This user-friendly tool allows users to access up-to-date and location-specific weather information, and strengthens the capacity of National Meteorological Services to provide accurate and timely early warning information.

Also this year, FINPAC conducted lightning location training for the National Meteorological Services of all 14 Pacific island countries participating in the project. This was the first ever training in the region on using lightning data to forecast severe weather.

After only one and a half years FINPAC has already cemented its role in the region, with

The SmartMet Integrated Forecasting System was installed in the Tonga Meteorological Services by FINPAC. In this image the Lead Forecaster demonstrates how it is operated. Photo: S.Nihmei/SPREP

very positive feedback from both national meteorological services and local communities alike. With the impacts of climate change set to increase our reliance on forecasting, this important groundwork will become even more valuable into the future.

FINPAC is funded by the Government of Finland and coordinated by SPREP, in concert with a range of partners including the Finnish Meteorological Institute, the WMO, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Climate and Oceans Support Programme within the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, SPC and USP.



Students in Vanuatu learn about the use of rain gauges. Photo: S.Nihmei/SPREP

Amplifying Pacific voices in climate change negotiations

A new international agreement on climate change is set to be adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris in December 2015.

With long term survival and sustainability of Pacific peoples in the balance, there has never been a more critical time for Pacific island countries to ensure that their individual and collective voices are heard loudly, clearly and convincingly.

Throughout 2014, SPREP worked closely with a wide range of partners to provide ongoing support to Pacific negotiators on the 'Road to Paris'.

In addition to support provided at key UNFCCC events, SPREP staff worked with Ministers and officials from 14 Pacific island countries to prepare for the pivotal negotiations.

A High Level Support Mechanism (HLSM) preparatory meeting, held in October in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, was specially designed to improve the likelihood of Pacific island concerns and priorities being incorporated into the final outcomes of the UNFCCC COP 20 in Lima and ultimately at COP 21 in Paris.

The four-day training programme – undertaken by SPREP and Climate Analytics, with technical support from 5Cs, PIFS and the Green Climate Fund – received excellent feedback from all involved. Participants noted the importance of Pacific island representatives coming together prior to key international meetings to ensure that everyone is 'on the same page'.



Pacific island representatives performed strongly at the UNFCCC COP 20 in Lima, Peru. Photo: N.Woonton/SPREP

SPREP ran a workshop at COP 20 in Lima to brief Pacific island delegations on the status of negotiations, and coordinate their positions ahead of the actual meetings. This workshop was made possible through the generous assistance of Climate Analytics and technical expertise from Independent Diplomat.

At the negotiations, Pacific island delegations performed strongly and collaboratively. Notable outcomes from COP 20 in Lima included the adoption of the 'Lima Call for Action' and the two year work programme for the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage.

In 2015, further work will be carried out to finalise a draft agreement

for adoption in Paris. For the Pacific region, a true test of this agreement's success will be whether it is ambitious enough to ensure the long term sustainability of all Pacific island countries and territories and deliver the necessary resources to address climate change.

The HLSM training was made possible through the support of Climate Analytics and the Government of Germany. Support was also provided by the British High Commission in Suva, and the Governments of Australia and New Zealand. SPREP's work in the UNFCCC has also been supported through partnerships with PIFS, SPC, USP and Independent Diplomat.

Long live PIGGAREP

In 2014, the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) wrapped up after six and half years dedicated to encouraging widespread and cost effective use of renewable energy technologies in the Pacific.

A draft report on the project's outcomes, released in July, indicated that by 2019, an estimated 551,881 tons of carbon will have been avoided as a result of PIGGAREP efforts to reduce the use of and reliance on fossil fuels in the Pacific region.

These emission reductions are being achieved through technical capacity building, market development, institutional strengthening, financial support and more.

In the Solomon Islands, for example, PIGGAREP supported the installation of 50 solar home systems to the 300 residents of the remote Santa Ana community. The residents of Santa Ana have seen tremendous improvements to their quality of life as a result of this project. The community now has ready access to lighting and more money due to fuel cost savings. They have even seen benefits to their health as a result of eliminating the use of kerosene.



Through PIGGAREP, solar powered water pumps were installed in 13 remote villages in the Ha'apai District of Tonga. Photo: Ofa Sefana

Another success story was the PIGGAREP-funded feasibility study on the production and use of biofuel on Kiritimati, Kiribati. Based on the results of this feasibility study, the generation of biofuel is now being trialed on the island of Abemama, with a view to extending the initiative to other more remote locations in the future. It has been estimated that through this biofuel project alone, Kiribati will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by around 479 tons of CO₂ per year.

Throughout its six and a half years, PIGGAREP gained a reputation as a 'springboard' project – one through which small-scale activities could develop into much larger ones. Across the region, numerous

renewable energy and emission reduction activities have secured financial support as a result of the groundwork undertaken by PIGGAREP at the feasibility phase. So the enduring legacy of PIGGAREP lives on.

PIGGAREP is a GEF funded regional project being implemented by UNDP (through the UNDP Samoa Multi Country Office) with SPREP as the implementing partner. Two extension projects, known as PIGGAREP+ and PIGGAREP++ are supported through the SIDS DOCK Support Program, a joint initiative of the UNDP and the World Bank, developed in close consultation with the AOSIS and funded by the Governments of Denmark and Japan.



PIGGAREP Coordinators and key stakeholders express what the project means to them. Photos: A.Carvan/SPREP

Linking the right people to the right climate change interventions



Photo: S.Bentin/SPREP

In 2014, a new programme was launched which links technical experts working in the field of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management to the countries and projects that need them most.

Housed within SPREP, the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience's Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) provides direct technical advice and support to Pacific countries. This is achieved through an online portal through which technical experts can register their skills, and eligible countries can request technical assistance to support climate and disaster-related priorities in the Pacific region.

Crucially, attached to the RTSM is an associated Rapid Response Fund (RRF) which finances the deployment of experts to provide technical assistance for Pacific

island countries eligible under this initiative.

Funded by the Climate Investment Fund through the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the RTSM and RRF is a collaborative undertaking of all agencies of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) and their associated development partners and donors.

The RTSM can provide technical assistance in a range of different areas from developing project concepts, training and writing proposals through to direct hands-on project assessments or planning – such as provision of civil engineers for projects designed to climate proof infrastructure. Best of all, the interventions are designed to be rapid, with the aim of progressing requests for support within a three month period.



The RTSM provides rapid technical assistance to eligible Pacific island countries.

SPREP is the lead implementing agency for this regional initiative, in partnership with SPC, the German agency for international cooperation (GIZ), USP, PIFS, Forum Fisheries Agency and the South Pacific Tourism Organisation, under the guidance of the Working Arm of the CEO Subcommittee on Climate Change and Disaster Resilient Development (CES-CCRD).



The testing of household wells in Abaiang, Kiribati has provided valuable data on water quality and contamination. Photo: C.Iacovino/SPREP

Supporting open and collaborative climate change knowledge management

Good climate change data and information management practices are critical for supporting decision-makers, researchers and practitioners to undertake more effective adaptation and resilience planning.

In the Pacific region, SPREP's Pacific Climate Change Portal (PCCP) is a key online hub for information related to climate change. The website is updated on a daily basis, ensuring that the information it houses is always relevant and up-to-date.

In 2014, the PCCP grew from strength to strength. In February, the portal was selected as one of nine partners to the Global Open Knowledge Hub partnership. This innovative new partnership supports knowledge producers and intermediaries to improve the availability and accessibility of development research by developing an open and collaborative 'Hub' for the sharing of development knowledge.

In April, SPREP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Griffith University as part of the

'Pacific iCLIM' Climate Change information management project. The purpose of the project is to enhance climate change adaptation and resilience planning in the Pacific by supporting a regional approach to climate change information management and sharing.

This will be undertaken through strengthening the PCCP e-infrastructure, developing tools that help complex data to be utilised for climate change decision making and establishing a regional approach to climate change data and information management in the Pacific through the development of information management protocols and guidelines.

The project works closely with the three nationally-managed climate change portals in Fiji (www.climatechange.gov.fj), Tonga (www.ecc.gov.to) and Vanuatu (www.nab.vu) as well as the GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Islands Region (CCCPIR) programme and the PCCP Advisory and Technical Committee.



Vice Chancellor Professor Ian O'Connor and Dr Netatua Pelesikoti at the MOU signing for the Pacific iClim project.
Photo: © Griffith University

The Pacific iCLIM project is supported by the Government Partnerships for Development programme (an Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade initiative) and is implemented by Griffith University in collaboration with SPREP. The Global Open Knowledge Hub partnership is supported by the Department for International Development at the University of Sussex.

The PCCP can be accessed at www.pacificclimatechange.net

Whole of Island approach to water security in Kiribati

Water resources on the atoll of Abaiang in Kiribati are limited and poor in quality which has had significant health implications for the population of around 5,000. With the impact of climate change expected to further affect water supply, SPREP and the Water Engineering Unit of the Kiribati Ministry of Public Works and Utilities have been working to improve water supply on the atoll. The project is made possible by the generous support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The work is being undertaken as part of the Government of Kiribati's 'Whole of Island' approach. This

integrated approach is designed to more comprehensively support people and the environment on which they depend for sustenance and livelihoods. It promotes better coordination between community, local and national government and donor-funded projects.

In 2014, the USAID/SPREP project made major progress towards improving the atoll's potable water supply. Well water was tested and suitable sites selected for the installation of Tamana pumps. These Kiribati-designed, easily maintained, hand powered pumps greatly reduce bacterial contamination of household water supplies. Currently, many of the wells on Abaiang are open,

which leaves them vulnerable to overflowing and exposed to dirt and other contaminants. Once the Tamana pumps are installed the wells can be covered and the water will be kept safe from direct contamination. In addition Ecosystem-based Adaptation measures will be implemented on the nearby coastline to further protect the groundwater supply from seawater intrusion.

Other key milestones for 2014 included the completion of an island-wide vulnerability assessment and the construction of a meteorological station at the Abaiang Island Council through which more detailed weather data can be gathered to assist with forecasting and long-term climate prediction.

Mobilising key players to improve access to climate financing and technical assistance



Participants at the CTCN training learned about opportunities for technical support and assistance related to technologies for climate change. Photo: N.Woonton/SPREP

Despite their high vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change, Pacific island countries and territories have accessed a disproportionately small amount of financial and technical assistance towards adaptation and resilience-strengthening activities.

To address this under-representation, SPREP facilitated a gathering of Members and key regional representatives from the Adaptation Fund Board and the UNEP Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) to discuss best practices for successful proposals.

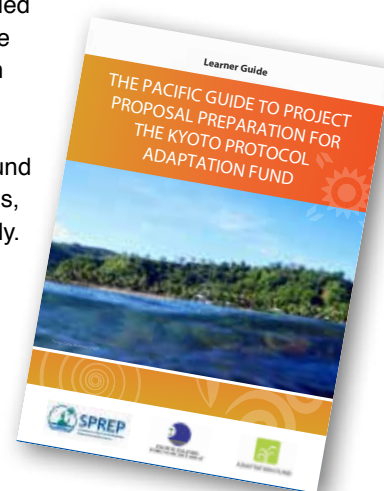
The training helped participants to become familiar with the full Adaptation Fund proposal development cycle and to respond to each of the key components of the application process.

Sessions were held to help bring about an understanding of the Adaptation Fund resources, the role of SPREP as an Implementing Agency for the Adaptation Fund, and the processes required for countries to become National Implementing Entities.

Participants were also walked through the services and support available to the Pacific islands from the CTCN which provides opportunities for technical support and assistance related to technologies for climate change. Following the training session, SPREP was successful in becoming an accredited member of the CTCN.

A key output from the week long training session was the creation of a *Pacific Guide to Project Proposal Preparation for the Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund* which has been made available to all on the SPREP website.

Led by SPREP, these training activities were supported by the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN), the Ministry of Environment, Japan through their Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), SPC through their European Union Global Climate Change Alliance, PIFS, and UNEP through the CTCN. Additionally, in-kind support through the provision of resource people was provided through the Adaptation Fund and Green Climate Fund secretariats, respectively.



The Pacific Guide to Project Proposal Preparation for the Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund details how to prepare a proposal for the Adaptation Fund through SPREP as a Regional Implementing Entity.

Mainstreaming climate change and disaster risk reduction into national policies

January 2014 saw SPREP and ADB work together to design and implement the Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience – Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience: Pacific Regional Track. This is part of the Climate Investment Fund's global initiative to pilot and demonstrate ways in which climate risk and resilience may be integrated into core development planning and implementation by providing incentives for scaled-up action and initiating transformational change. This work is undertaken in close coordination with the RTSM work of SPREP.

The two main outputs associated with the work led by SPREP/ADB are to ensure climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction are factored into national and local development policies; and to build and support the capacity of Pacific islands to respond to climate change.

In the project's first year after the production of a situation analysis and the identification and endorsement of priority mainstreaming tools and actions, work began in Federated States of Micronesia (Kosrae) on specialised

training to strengthen the capacity of key ministries to apply cost-benefit analysis to development projects, taking into account climate change and disaster risks.



Kosrae State Officials carrying out a cost-benefit analysis in October 2014.



Supporting climate observations in the Pacific

The ongoing collection of reliable data is crucial to informing our understanding of weather and climate. Cooperation with National Meteorological Services plays an important role in ensuring that accurate data from remote locations such as the Pacific is made available to strengthen global model for weather and climate forecasting.

A new MOU between SPREP, the United Kingdom Met Office and the Meteorological Service of New Zealand was signed in April 2014 on supporting the operations of selected upper air stations in the Pacific region. Funding support for specific activities is provided by the Met Office through a 'Pacific Fund'. This agreement supports upper air climate stations located in Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Cook Islands.

These three stations are seen as an important part of the GCOS (Global Climate Observing System) programme.

Recent studies at the Met Office have shown that the observations from these stations are very important not just for the region, but globally, when compared to the impact of the average European and global upper air soundings.

In 2014, support was provided to purchase radiosondes and weather balloons, which are released daily to collect information on pressure, temperature and relative humidity. This information is subsequently shared with meteorological services around the world. Through the agreement, support is also being provided towards the maintenance and day-to-day operations of the three upper air stations in Tarawa, Funafuti and Rarotonga.

The Pacific Fund is managed by SPREP, under a MOU with the Met Office who undertake the management and administration with technical assistance from the Meteorological Service of New Zealand.

Staff from the Cook Islands Meteorological Services release a weather balloon armed with a radiosonde – a small instrument with sensors used to collect data on pressure, temperature and relative humidity. The balloons are released daily.

Waste Management and Pollution Control



Pollution and the growing volumes of solid and hazardous wastes are major threats to the environments and sustainable development of 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 increased quantities 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 national capacity for managing pollutants threaten to undermine the quality and health of vulnerable ecosystems on which Pacific people depend.

Improved pollution and waste management was thus a priority focus for SPREP in 2014. SPREP continued to assist countries to address pollution, and to improve management of hazardous chemicals and waste through the provision of technical advice, programmes and institutional support.

PacWaste heralds new era of sustainable hazardous waste management

A partnership between the European Union and SPREP is addressing some of the Pacific region's most pressing, and dangerous, waste issues. The Pacific Hazardous Waste project, known as PacWaste, is a €7.85 million, four year project, funded by the European Union and implemented by SPREP to improve the management of hazardous waste across the Pacific region.

One of the hazardous types of waste that PacWaste is targeting is asbestos – a naturally occurring fibrous mineral that was once commonly used in building materials, insulation, brake linings, roofing products, and electrical and other consumer products. Asbestos is now banned from most modern products, as it has been found to be a major threat to human health.

In 2014, PacWaste oversaw the completion of the most comprehensive region-wide asbestos baseline survey conducted to date in the Pacific. These surveys involved visual asbestos assessments of many thousands of government, commercial and residential buildings, including hospitals, schools and other public places in 26 different islands across 13 Pacific island countries. The visual surveys were augmented with comprehensive asbestos sampling and analysis of suspected structures.

Left: To minimise the risk of asbestos exposure to individuals and communities, PacWaste is working to identify and prioritise the removal of this hazardous material in 13 countries across the Pacific. Photo: E.Vanderburg/SPREP

The baseline surveys have already shown their value in reducing human exposure to harmful asbestos.

During the Fiji asbestos survey, PacWaste experts identified high risk friable asbestos fibres at the Tamavua Twomey Hospital in Suva. After the asbestos risk was identified, PacWaste worked immediately to arrange an emergency clean-up of the hospital. Within days, PacWaste had successfully removed the most dangerous asbestos from the hospital – a major win for both staff and patients, as well as the environment.

In 2014, PacWaste also conducted a similar emergency asbestos clean-up at the Nauru Hospital and provided emergency intervention assistance to the Samoan Government. Preparations were also made for an intervention in Niue to help remove asbestos waste that had been generated as a result of Cyclone Heta.

Asbestos is one of four focus areas for PacWaste – the others include E-waste, healthcare waste and atoll solid waste management. In 2014, in addition to the regional asbestos surveys, PacWaste completed the Pacific region's first ever prioritised assessment for the management of healthcare waste and E-waste. Work was also undertaken in the assessment of integrated atoll waste management which will be piloted on Majuro atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.



Asbestos disposal experts rid the Tamavua Twomey hospital boiler of asbestos. Photo: Amol Lal

“For years we’ve been trying to get rid of this white stuff in the boiler, and nobody knew how to get rid of it. We knew it was bad for our health. So these people came up, they brought their equipment, their body suits and all this safety equipment, they got rid of it. We’ve got a clean environment now and it’s better to look at.”

– Mr Niumaia Tule, Boiler Operator, Tamavua Twomey Hospital



Facilitating sustainable solutions for the disposal of used oil

Motor oils and other lubricants are widely used across the Pacific islands in cars, buses, trucks and in power station generators. These oils and lubricants contain a range of compounds – such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), heavy metals, additives and antioxidants, and trace levels of chlorinated solvents that are detrimental to both human health and the environment.

In many parts of the Pacific, used oil is disposed of through open burning or dumping on land or in water. These practices have a devastating effect on human and environmental health and, in the case of open burning, can result in the formation of dangerous



chemicals known as unintentionally produced Persistent Organic Pollutants (uPOPs).

Managing used oil in a sustainable way requires the development and implementation of an appropriate management framework that promotes shared responsibility for used oil management by all stakeholders at national and regional levels.

SPREP is supporting this process through the GEF-PAS POPs Release Reduction Project.

In 2014, the project conducted a comprehensive audit of used oil management practices in ten Pacific island countries – a crucial first step in towards implementing sustainable used oil management practices in the region. The audit results will be used to guide regional reforms, implemented through National Used Oil

Education and awareness products about dumping and burning are being developed for use across the region.



Used oil contains a range of compounds that are detrimental to both human health and the environment. Photo: D.Haynes/SPREP

Steering Committees, to enable the collection, storage and reuse of used oil and lubricants in an environmentally sound manner.

The GEF-PAS POPs Release Reduction Project is funded through the GEF and the AFD. The five-year project is implemented by UNEP and executed through SPREP.

Setting a new standard in climate-proof landfill

In 2014, SPREP oversaw the development of the Pacific region's first ever 'climate proof' landfill. The ground-breaking rehabilitated waste management facility, re-engineered to better withstand natural hazards and to manage waste produced during disasters, has also delivered healthier mangrove ecosystems and a safer environment for surrounding Fijian communities.

Prior to rehabilitation, the old Namara landfill in Labasa, Fiji had been prone to flooding during heavy rains resulting in rubbish and leachate spreading out around the dumpsite and polluting the surrounding mangroves and marine environment. The flooding also made the dumpsite

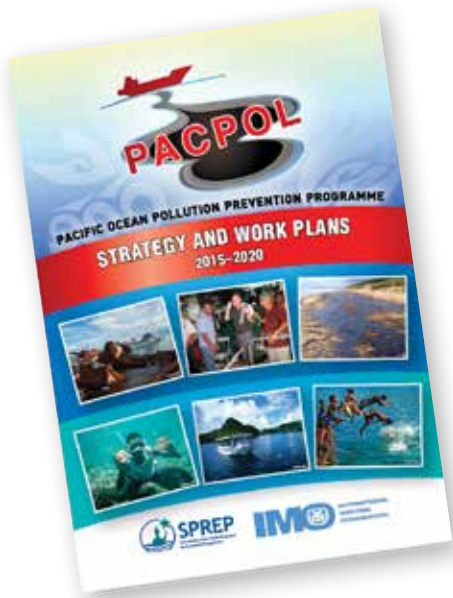
inaccessible following heavy rains, causing the additional problem of rubbish left sitting in dump trucks until improved weather permitted access.

The site now features accessible roads, a proper reticulation and collection system to capture, treat and reduce leachate runoff, and a vent system to regulate gas flow. This effectively separates the landfill from nearby mangrove areas and protects them from toxic spillages. The drainage system diverts storm water away from the waste storage cells preventing the low-lying landfill from getting flooded.



The ribbon is cut on the Namara Landfill.

The refurbished site also houses an office building from which workers can transact business and ensure quality control of incoming waste and the collection of necessary data. The newly built hazardous and E-waste storage areas mean



The PACPOL strategy helps to protect the marine and coastal environment of the Pacific region.

Targeting ship sourced marine pollution through regional cooperation

Ship sourced marine pollution encompasses a number of important issues including oil spills, dumping and ballast water management. With a huge volume of ship traffic passing through the Pacific Ocean, these issues pose a threat to the people and the environment in our region.

In 2014, SPREP worked in partnership with the IMO to facilitate the review and update of the Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL) strategy. Through initiatives like PACPOL, Pacific island countries and territories are better able to

protect the marine and coastal environment, and the natural and cultural resources of island nations as well as the general safety of the public.

Genuine regional cooperation was evident throughout the strategy revision process. Thirteen SPREP Member countries and territories participated in the review, along with representatives from SPREP, AMSA, Australian Government Department of Environment, Maritime New Zealand, SPC, Great Barrier Reef Foundation, and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA).



Representatives from 13 Pacific island countries and territories gathered in Brisbane, Australia to review and update the PACPOL strategy.

that potentially dangerous waste types can be easily separated from general rubbish.

Importantly, the site has also been retrofitted to withstand severe weather events, such as cyclones and floods, which pose an increasing threat to the region. The design of the landfill even incorporates best practice disaster

waste management provisions. Following natural disasters, a significant volume of waste is generated in the clean-up phase. The dedicated disaster waste cell in the rehabilitated Namara landfill allows recycling of much of this 'disaster waste' thus potentially reducing pressure on the landfill space.

The rehabilitation of the Namara landfill was made possible through the Australian Government's ICCAI project. The project was implemented by SPREP with the technical expertise of the Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries (J-PRISM).



The dedicated disaster waste cell at the Namara Landfill. Photo: B.Guinto/SPREP

Working towards a strategic regional direction for marine litter prevention and mitigation

Historically, the accumulation of plastic and other rubbish in the marine environment was considered to be merely an aesthetic issue. Things have changed. Marine debris pollution is now known to be a severe environmental hazard.

The cumulative, persistent nature and associated toxicity of pollutants contained in the plastics in marine litter are a cause of great concern due to their impact on marine ecosystems and human health.

In 2014, SPREP continued work on developing marine litter prevention and mitigation strategies as a key priority for the region. With relatively little information available about this issue in the Pacific, SPREP undertook a comprehensive marine debris literature assessment, through which a range of regional marine litter management priorities were identified.

The assessment recommended the priority of identifying major sources of marine debris and accumulation

points, also known as hot spots. The report further recommended an integrated regional approach to interventions to reduce the impact of marine debris, with activities identified in the areas of research and monitoring, public outreach and education, pollution prevention and reduction, and ongoing physical removal of debris from the environment.

In 2015, SPREP will commence work on two regional priority projects identified through the assessment.

Marine litter is a rapidly growing environmental problem in our region and beyond. Photo: © Peri Paleraio/Marine Photobank



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – and Return

The 3Rs – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle – are essential to managing waste in a sustainable manner in Pacific SIDS. While there have been many 3R success stories in the Pacific region – such as eco-bag and eco-school programmes in the Solomon Islands, and organic waste management initiatives in Vanuatu – our region still has a long way to apply the 3Rs concept.

At the Fifth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific Islands, held in Surabaya, Indonesia in February 2014, Pacific island participants heard 3R success stories from other parts of world, and discussed how these might be adapted to our region.

Of great interest to many Pacific island delegates was the concept

of adding a fourth ‘R’ – Return to source – to the 3R concept. This approach encourages the introduction of container deposit legislation to provide sustainable funding for the export and off-island recycling of wastes. Such legislation means that a deposit is paid on reusable packaging (such as glass bottles, or a commodity such as oil) at the point of sale and is reimbursed on return.

SPREP and J-PRISM were co-supporters of the Regional Forum, which was attended by more than 250 participants from 32 countries in Asia and the Pacific. The participation of delegates from the Pacific SIDS was supported by the United Nations Centre for Regional Development and J-PRISM.



Top: Recycling is essential to the sustainable management of waste in Pacific island countries and territories. Photo: D.Haynes/SPREP

Bottom: Representatives from SPREP and J-PRISM attended the Fifth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific Islands, held in Surabaya, Indonesia. Photo: D.Haynes/SPREP

World-first shipping plan to deliver cleaner oceans for the Pacific region

A new Regional Reception Facilities Plan, developed in 2014, will result in the reduction of waste materials being dumped from ships in Pacific waters. The Plan, developed by SPREP, AMSA and the IMO is the first of its kind in the world.

The term ‘reception facilities’ refers to special infrastructure that enables ships to safely offload waste (such as garbage, sewage and used oil) when they arrive in port. This means that ships are less likely to simply dump waste when they are at sea – or, indeed, when they’re in port.

Many SIDS lack these reception facilities. The significance of this Plan is that it recognises five Pacific shipping hubs – in Apia, Suva, Port Moresby, Noumea and Papeete – as being regional centres for the safe offloading of waste from ships.

Aside from the obvious benefit of less waste in our oceans, the Port Reception Plan will mean that an increased number of countries are able to sign up to the International Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). Previously, the lack of reception facilities had

prevented many countries from becoming a Party to this important international agreement.

The endorsement of the Plan was a key outcome of the twelfth meeting of the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region and Related Protocols – known as the Noumea Convention – which concluded in Majuro, Marshall Islands in September 2014.



The Regional Reception Facilities Plan will result in the reduction of waste materials being dumped from ships in Pacific waters. Photo: © Stuart Chape

Supporting the implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions

SPREP's Pacific Regional Centre (PRC) is responsible for the regional coordination of the Basel and Waigani Conventions, which address the trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste.

A key outcome for the PRC in 2014 was increased engagement and collaboration with the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (BCRC – Beijing), with high level representatives attending the fourth Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee and the third Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre in Apia.

BCRC – Beijing also supported representatives from the Pacific region to attend the ninth International Conference on Waste Management and Technology (ICWMT9) held in China in 2014, an arrangement that will continue into the future.

Through this burgeoning relationship, a formal agreement



In 2014, arrangements were made for students from Tsinghua University to undertake work placements at SPREP to research innovative solutions for waste management in the Pacific region.

was reached through which two students from Tsinghua University will undertake work placements at SPREP in 2015. Their area of focus will be on innovative solutions for

waste management in the Pacific islands such as used lead acid battery recycling and an analysis of the viability of waste to energy initiatives.

Photo: C.Iacovino/SPREP



Building capacity in the management of oil spills

In August, a three-day specialised training programme in the management of oil spills in Samoa culminated in the spectacular deployment of a 500 metre long containment boom around the cruise ship, the Pacific Jewel, which was docked in Apia Harbour for the UN SIDS conference.

The oil spill response training was undertaken through a partnership between SPREP, Maritime New Zealand and AMSA. Financial support was also provided by UNEP.

The training programme, facilitated by experts from all three organisations, covered a variety of different topics including the causes of oil spills and their impacts on environmental and human health. A particular emphasis was placed on the management of specialty equipment used in oil spill response and containment.

The oil containment boom placed around the Pacific Jewel was one of



several that were loaned to Samoa by the Australian Government as the result of the ongoing partnership between SPREP and AMSA, at the request of Samoa's Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

With the Pacific Jewel cruise liner in dock, participants at the oil spill response training had the opportunity to gain first-hand experience at deploying a 500 metre boom around a vessel. Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP



Oil spill training exercise on Apia Harbour. Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP

Environmental Monitoring and Governance



Building the capacity of our Pacific island Members in environmental management and governance is crucial to achieving sustainable development.



One of our key strategic goals is to ensure that the region has the capacity to develop and implement transparent and robust environmental governance and management frameworks and processes. This is achieved through improved legislation, policy, planning and assessment, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

An important part of our work in this area is the development of a regional monitoring network for

the Pacific, through which periodic State of the Environment (SOE) reports will be produced at both a national and regional level. Other priorities are to ensure that environment strategies, policies and legislation are updated and that robust environment assessment and enforcement systems are in place and integrated into national sustainable development processes. These activities, carried out largely

through funding from the Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environment Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (ACP/MEAs) project, will enable countries to implement and report against MEA obligations.

These activities also assist our Members in mainstreaming environmental issues at the national level and help meet their national environmental and sustainable development targets.

Building regional capacity for negotiating ABS contracts and agreements

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) refers to the fair and equitable distribution of benefits – in the form of payment, acknowledgement, in-kind assistance or other opportunities – arising from the use of genetic resources found in plants, animals and micro-organisms. As the Pacific region is home to such rich biodiversity, this issue is one that impacts greatly on island communities.

In 2010 an international agreement was adopted to guide providers and users of genetic resources and biochemicals. The official title of the international agreement is 'The Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation'. Unsurprisingly, it is most commonly referred to as, simply, the Nagoya Protocol.

A key tenet of the Protocol is that indigenous knowledge should be protected and communities that possess it must be adequately compensated if that knowledge is used for commercial gain.

An example of how genetic resources from the Pacific region

can benefit local communities and island nations is demonstrated by the case of prostratin – a compound found in the bark of the mamala tree (*Homalanthus nutans*) of Samoa. When scientific research indicated that prostratin had the potential to be useful in the treatment of HIV-AIDS, monetary benefits were provided to Samoa and the traditional healers through whom the compound was identified. The funds received were used to construct a canopy walkway for the village, with a view to generating income by encouraging visitors to experience the local rainforest.

On 12 October 2014, the Protocol entered into force with 54 parties including Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands Samoa and Vanuatu.

Ahead of this historic first meeting in Korea, SPREP and the ABS Capacity Development Initiative ran a one week regional workshop in



Some flowers like this Fijian orchid are prized for their beauty but the high rate of endemism of island plants also encourages further research. Photo: © Stuart Chape

Nadi, Fiji to support Pacific countries to implement this Protocol.

This training focused on helping participants understand how to negotiate contracts between the providers (such as communities and countries) and the users of genetic resources.

The ABS Training was run by SPREP in collaboration with the multi-donor ABS Capacity Development Initiative which is implemented by GIZ.

Left: Traditional healers and elders are, sadly, declining repositories of knowledge regarding medicinal and other uses of plants.

Photo: © Stuart Chape

Guiding efforts to sustainable development pathways

State of the Environment (SOE) reports and National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS) are two important and inter-related tools used for effective environmental governance to facilitate sustainable development.

Through the SOE reporting process, a set of indicators provide a picture of the overall condition of a country's environment and natural resources, and their implications for sustainable development. The end result is best described as a diagnostic report card on the health of the environment and its prognosis for the future. The NEMS will often take this prognosis one step further by prescribing a strategic plan for achieving long-term environmental and sustainable development goals.

While these documents support national planning processes, they also play a crucial role in helping countries to meet regional and international obligations including reporting requirements laid out under MEAs such as the United Nations CBD, UNFCCC and the UN Convention on Law of the Sea.

Through the ACP/MEAs project, SPREP has been assisting Members to develop these integrated national assessments and plans which address priority environmental issues.



SPREP Director General, Mr David Sheppard, receives a formal plaque of appreciation from Mr Samuela Namosimalua, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government, Urban Development, Housing and Environment for Fiji.

In 2014, SPREP and Fiji worked together to achieve a major milestone in the country's environmental monitoring, planning and governance.

Following the country's first SOE report in over 20 years, SPREP worked closely with the Fiji Department of Environment and other stakeholders to develop, review and finalise the Fiji National Environment Strategy (NES). This work was long overdue as Fiji's Environment Management Act requires the Department of Environment to complete the SOE and NES within five and six years respectively of the passing of the Act in 2005.

The resulting NES for Fiji covers five thematic areas – climate change, island biodiversity conservation and management, waste management and pollution control, ozone depleting substances and environmental governance.

Following the drafting of Fiji's NES, SPREP received personal thanks and a formal plaque from the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government, Urban Development, Housing and Environment for Fiji.

In addition to this milestone achievement in Fiji, SPREP continued work in 2014 on the development of SOE reports and NEMS with the Governments of the Cook Islands, Vanuatu and Tuvalu.

The EU-funded ACP/MEAs project is implemented through UNEP with SPREP executing the Pacific Hub.

“In my capacity as the Permanent Secretary for Environment, I extend on behalf of my Minister and staff our appreciation and gratefulness to the support and collaboration rendered by SPREP in the development of Fiji's State of the Environment report and National Environment Strategy. The formulation and finalisation of these two important national reports which have been absent for the past decade or two, will assist Fiji in achieving many sustainable development obligations under the numerous multi-lateral environment agreements we are signatory to.”

– Mr Samuela Namosimalua, Permanent Secretary for Local Government, Urban Development, Housing and Environment, Fiji Government.

Participants at the Fiji NES Workshop. Photo: M.Bradley/SPREP



Towards a Pacific Portal for biodiversity and protected areas management

In September 2014, SPREP signed a Grant Partnership with the IUCN Regional Office for Oceania to host the Pacific Regional Observatory of the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA). BIOPAMA aims to address threats to biodiversity in

African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, while reducing poverty in communities in and around protected areas. This is financially supported by the intra-ACP envelope of the European Commission's (EC) 10th European Development Fund (EDF).

BIOPAMA will establish a Pacific Observatory as a resource hub to support decision-making and effective protected areas management, and also facilitate networking of practitioners, experts and institutions. The project strengthens existing SPREP



Mr David Sheppard, and IUCN Regional Director for Oceania, Mr Taholo Kami, at the signing of the IUCN-SPREP BIOPAMA Partnership Grant Agreement in September 2014.

information platforms including the Pacific Environmental Information Network (PEIN), the Environmental Spatial Information Service (ESIS), and the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal (PIPAP). In addition, it establishes a new working relationship with the EC's Joint Research Centre (JRC), building SPREP's capacity for web-based data management systems.



South Choiseul, Solomon Islands.
Photo: C.Iacovino/SPREP

Building capacity for Global Environment Facility accreditation

In 2014, SPREP laid important groundwork for the development of a new project to strengthen the capacity of Pacific island countries to progress environment projects through the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The GEF is a partnership of 183 countries who work to address global environment issues, providing billions of dollars to fund environmental projects. Since 1991, the GEF has provided USD 13.5 billion in grants and leveraged USD 65 billion in co-financing for 3,900 projects in over 165 developing countries. The six focal areas of the GEF are: biodiversity; climate change; chemicals and waste; land

degradation; international waters; and sustainable management of forests.

Improved access to GEF financing has been a long-held desire on the part of SPREP Members. To address this, the Secretariat has been preparing to equip the organisation to apply for Implementing Agency status. In 2014, SPREP developed a Medium Sized Project (MSP) to strengthen its capacity to become an implementing agency. When that happens SPREP will be better placed to assist Pacific countries to access resources on environmental programmes across the six focal areas of the GEF.

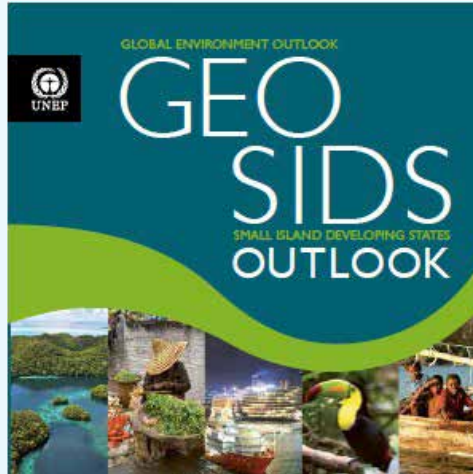


The sustainable management of forests is one of six focal areas of the GEF.
Photo: C.Iacovino/SPREP

Supporting the Global Environment Outlook for Pacific

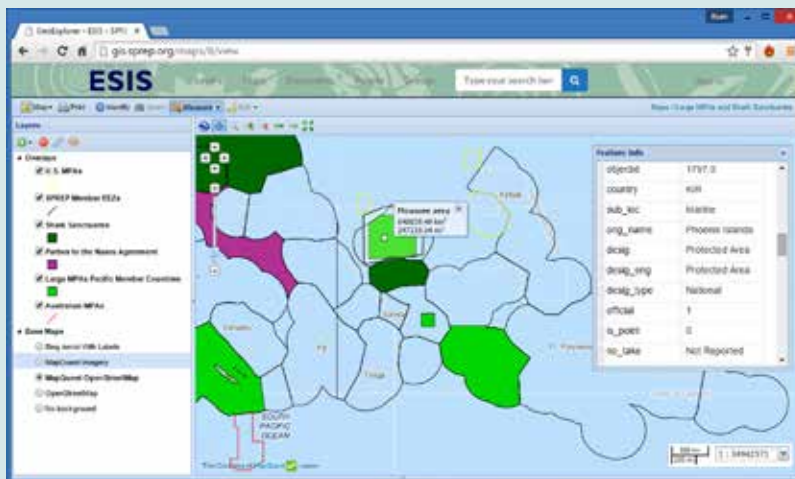
In 2014, representatives from SPREP's Environmental Monitoring and Governance division led SPREP's contribution to UNEP's Global Environment Outlook for Small Islands Developing States (GEO SIDS).

The report, based on the findings of a broad range of scientists, experts and policy makers, provides four integrated themes for action to support SIDS sustainable development and adaptation into green economies of the future.



UNEP's GEO SIDS report outlines blue-green economy and island innovation opportunities for Small Island Developing States.

Opening up access to Pacific geospatial data



SPREP's Environmental Spatial Infrastructure System (ESIS) supports better use, planning and management of marine and coastal areas.

Robust and open data-sharing is critical for supporting collaboration amongst SPREP Members and regional agencies and for delivering effective natural resource management and conservation.

Through the Pacific Ocean Ecosystem Analysis project

(PACIOCEA) SPREP has developed an online Geographical Information System (GIS) database using open source software solutions.

This platform, known as Environmental Spatial Infrastructure System (ESIS), is

SPREP's first ever online spatial data access platform. This new initiative provides easy access to environmental GIS data and documents collated and created through PACIOCEA. Users of the website can also upload their own data to share.

By fostering stakeholder participation in marine conservation and management, ESIS supports marine spatial planning and builds the ocean governance capacity of Pacific island countries and territories.

ESIS is funded by the French agency for marine protected areas (AAMP) and the BEST Preparatory Action initiated by the European Union.

Technical support and data was provided by the Australian Government's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and SPC.

Strengthening support for Environmental Planning and Impact Assessment in the Pacific

A key target in SPREP's strategic plan is to build and strengthen the capacity of Members to implement planning tools such as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

In 2014, more than 20 participants from Tongan Government and non-government agencies attended EIA training in Nuku'alofa, Tonga. The specialised, country-specific training was delivered in response to a request from the Tongan Government's Department of Environment for additional support with EIA capacity building

and awareness raising across Government.

Over the course of the two day workshop, participants learned about how to implement key steps of the EIA process, Tonga's EIA legislation, the role of consultants in EIA, and the importance of community consultation.

An EIA awareness-raising presentation was also delivered in Tonga to South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) members. Following the success of this industry-specific training, SPREP and SPTO developed a

memorandum of understanding to work together on environmental planning and management for sustainable tourism.

With positive feedback from all who participated in SPREP's 2014 EIA training sessions, similar programmes will be delivered in Tuvalu, Samoa and the Marshall Islands in 2015. Also under development are EIA guidelines for SPREP Member countries and an online resource to support environmental assessment practitioners in the Pacific region.



Environmental Impact Assessment is the environment sector's primary tool for development assessment and management. Photo: © Stuart Young

Corporate Services



The Corporate Services Division is the engine room of SPREP, encompassing the vital functions of human resources, finance and administration, information and communication technology, communication and outreach, and knowledge management.



Governance: SPREP's governance function includes an Internal Audit unit which assists the Secretariat to strengthen and improve corporate governance processes, risk management and internal controls. A monitoring and evaluation function was introduced in 2014 to support the development of SPREP's project management capacity, and strengthen SPREP's results and performance monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems.

Human Resources: The Human Resources team take the lead on ensuring we recruit and retain the highest quality of staff at SPREP. They look after our staff from recruitment and induction through to repatriation and are also in charge of HR policies, performance and professional development and act as the official channel for information about staff-related matters at SPREP.

Finance and Administration: SPREP's finance and administration section looks after a wide variety of essential services ranging from travel, facilities management, property maintenance, internal auditing and day-to-day financial management of the organisation.

Information and Communication Technology: The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) team ensure that reliable, secure and effective systems are available to the organisation in order to effectively deliver services to our Members and stakeholders.

Communications and Outreach: As well as providing strategic support to projects and programmes within SPREP, the Communication and Outreach team plays a key role in raising awareness of SPREP's activities through the media and in supporting the growth of the region's next generation of environmental leaders.

Knowledge Management: SPREP's Information Resource Centre and Archives (IRCA) holds a unique collection of publications, periodicals, scientific and technical reports prepared by SPREP, our Members, stakeholders and partners. This vast assembly of environmental information is available to SPREP staff, Member countries and territories, and members of the public.

Supporting media to support the Pacific environment

SPREP's ongoing work in media outreach was further strengthened in 2014. In April, the Communications and Outreach team coordinated training for journalism students of the National University of Samoa about reporting on environment issues. This annual event strengthens environment reporting in Samoa. Along with other capacity building activities across the region, this has helped bring about a stronger flow of environmental reporting within SPREP Member countries and territories.

In August, SPREP partnered with the Pacific-Australia Climate

Change Science and Adaptation Planning Programme (PACCSAP) to launch a Pacific Media and Climate Change Toolkit. This valuable tool has been made available to journalists across the region to improve their understanding of climate change science and related issues. This, in turn, strengthens the quality and impact of reporting on climate change.

Of major significance in 2014, was the commencement of the Broadcasters Climate and Disaster Resilience Plan (BCDRP) project which works across eight Pacific island countries to support broadcasters to develop media

plans and standard operating procedures for use during disasters, and to ensure that they have a safe place to continue broadcasting to the nation during these difficult times.

The flow of information to local communities leading up to and during times of crisis is integral to helping people prepare and keeping communities safe and well informed. The BCDRP, funded through the Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS), is executed by SPREP in partnership with SPC.

In October, the IRCA worked in collaboration with the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation to run Web 2.0 Training at the SPREP campus.



New online systems deliver green outcomes

A major achievement for Corporate Services in 2014 was the introduction of two new online platforms which streamline processes, improve efficiency and reduce the amount of paper used at the SPREP campus.

The first platform has involved transitioning from a paper-based performance development system to an online one, developed in-house by our ICT team. This was a key milestone of the Human Resources Information System (HRIS) project that explores and applies more efficient and effective HR processes. The new paperless system strengthens the workflow process for the performance review and development process. Crucially, it also ensures that staff can undertake their performance reviews remotely – a valuable feature for those who travel.

The second new system caters for the increasing special financial requirements of our Members, donors and partners. The new Financial Management Information System (FMIS) called Tech One, ensures that SPREP is able to meet the increasing volume of transactions taking place and streamlines processes for efficiency. The new FMIS, which went live in July 2014, was supported through funding from the Australian and Chinese Governments.

As a result of the new systems, all of SPREP's requisition to purchasing/procurement and performance review processes are now electronic. Through these initiatives, SPREP has dramatically reduced the volume of paper used in the workplace, an outcome that aligns with our environmental

values. Other green initiatives at SPREP in 2014 included the establishment of composting at the SPREP campus and the organisation-wide adoption of an ethical paper policy.



Representatives from SPREP's Finance and ICT teams worked together to launch the new paperless FMIS called Tech One.



Representatives from Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and Fiji attended training at SPREP to learn about the technical aspects of the SmartMet weather forecasting system.

Expansion of direct support to SPREP Members

Over the past few years, the role of Corporate Services has increasingly expanded to deliver support directly to SPREP Members.

In 2014, representatives from SPREP's ICT team provided in-country to support to Fiji, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands to help National Meteorological Services to set-up the SmartMet weather forecasting system. Further training on the system, which provides forecasters with accurate and timely early warning systems, was provided at the SPREP campus to representatives from countries that are installing the new system through the FINPAC project.

The ICT team has also been closely involved in the new capacity

building and knowledge sharing initiative called iClim and the development of the online database which services the RTSM.

Throughout the year, the Communications and Outreach team assisted the FINPAC project with strengthening the media skills of staff from National Meteorological Services across the region. In 2014 media training took place in Tuvalu, Cook Islands and Niue. At these training sessions, tailored media plans were developed to help National Meteorological Services staff to raise the profile of meteorological issues to local communities via the media. This ensures that residents can understand and prepare for different climatic circumstances.

Increased awareness of SPREP reflected in the numbers

In 2014, the Secretariat's publishing function oversaw a significant increase in the number of publications produced. In the period from January – December 2014, SPREP produced 50 new publications, not including meeting reports or promotional materials. This represents a 177% increase from the same period in the previous year.

This increase in the number of publications produced is reflected in the bi-annual distribution of resources to depository libraries around the region and abroad, with hard copy distribution increasing from 7 to 32 in the twelve month period.

This swell of interest in the work of SPREP and our Members is also reflected in our online presence. For the 2014 calendar year, the number of users accessing the SPREP website increased 38% –

from 69,093 to 95,554. The massive growth in our social media traffic speaks volumes for the profile-raising work undertaken by all staff. In 2014 the SPREP Facebook page had amassed more than 30,000 followers and the introduction of live-tweeting at major events was responsible for a 200% increase in our Twitter following during the calendar year.

During the year, staff at the IRCA responded to 533 requests for information and publications – an increase of around 20% from 2013. The number of visitors to the SPREP resource centre also increased, with a total of 514 students, researchers, meeting participants, members of the public, visiting dignitaries and representatives of partner and donor agencies visiting the library to access information on environmental issues in the Pacific region.



In 2014, SPREP introduced a new monthly newsletter called *SPREP-Tok* which has received very positive feedback from Members and supporters.

As well as managing the Pacific Environment Information Network (PEIN), the IRCA disseminates SPREP publications and hosts visits from local school groups. Photo: SPREP archive



A clean and unqualified audit for 2014

In accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and best practice, an unqualified audit was undertaken of 2014 financial statements, a testament to our high standards of financial management.

A further audit took place in November, when a team from Ernst & Young visited SPREP to conduct the European Union 7 pillar audit – a pre-condition for receiving funds from the European Union under EDF 11.

Governance functions receive a positive assessment

SPREP's Internal Audit unit is overseen by an Audit Committee consisting of three independent members and two non-independent members. The internal audit function provides an assurance service to management and the Audit Committee through the review of risks in the risk management plan and the provision of appropriate recommendations with regard to risk management.

In 2014 our Internal Auditor completed a review of the SPREP

Risk Management Plan and submitted recommendations to the Senior Management Team.

In 2014, SPREP significantly improved its monitoring and evaluation programme and systems. In particular, the key appointment of a Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser has led to the establishment of a Project Review Monitoring Group (PRMG) to strengthen SPREP's work on project design and formulation, as well as monitoring and evaluation.

Journalism students from the National University of Samoa attended training at SPREP to learn about reporting on environment issues. Photo: N.Woonton/SPREP



Photo: D.Haynes/SPREP

Supporting SPREP's most important resource – our people

The past year saw further growth in the number of positions at the Secretariat. As at December 2014, the Secretariat had a total of 96 staff, with an almost equal balance of genders (48% male and 52% female). A number of new staff joined SPREP during the year, including two positions based outside of the SPREP headquarters, one in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and one in the Solomon Islands. In terms of nationalities, 95% of staff are from SPREP Member countries and territories (both Pacific island and metropolitan).



Team SPREP at the 25th SPREP Meeting in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands. Photo: © Stuart Chape



Following completion of performance reviews in early 2014, 96% of staff had been assessed as performing at or above the expected level. Four staff members received the Director General's Excellence Award in recognition of their exemplary and exceptional performance.

In 2014, SPREP continued to support continuous learning,

professional development and growth for all staff. In February, an off-site, learning and team-building workshop for all staff under the broad theme of 'Learning Together, Leading Together' was facilitated by Dr Harold Hillman and colleagues from Sigmoid Curve Consulting. The programme included targeted training for senior staff and middle management.

The SPREP Staff Seminar Series, held at the IRCA every month, provides an informal avenue for staff to share knowledge and lessons learned.

Independent reviews of SPREP support our commitment to excellence

A major, five yearly, Independent Corporate Review was undertaken of SPREP in 2014. This review noted the significant improvement in SPREP's governance since 2008 and that Members view SPREP as an effective and efficient organisation delivering tangible outcomes for Pacific

island countries and territories. The review team also undertook a Mid-term Review of the 2011–15 SPREP Strategic Plan and noted good progress in achieving targets in the plan. The review also noted the continuing relevance of the objectives and targets within the Strategic Plan.



Mr. David Sheppard, Director General of SPREP, and Professor John Hay. Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2014

DONOR FUNDS AND MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS (USD)							
Details	Balance 01-Jan-14	Actual Funds Received	Total Funds Available	Programme Support	Programme Expenditure	Other Adjustments	Balance 31-Dec-14
Asian Development Bank	(28,172)	403,539	375,367	(20,324)	(492,620)	–	(137,576)
Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Extra Budget	(45,431)	2,611,479	2,566,048	(278,080)	(2,421,696)	–	(133,727)
Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Extra Extra Budget	876,318	44,977	921,295	(77,436)	(733,177)	–	110,681
British High Commission	13,254	–	13,254	–	(7,863)	–	5,391
Commonwealth Secretariat	16,287	–	16,287	–	(5,113)	–	11,175
Conservation International	60,259	10,000	70,259	–	(1,183)	–	69,077
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	277,014	425,884	702,898	(28,914)	(294,458)	–	379,527
European Union	2,640,278	90,117	2,730,395	(60,532)	(917,869)	–	1,751,994
Food and Agriculture Organization	46,480	23,506	69,986	(11,051)	(37,530)	–	21,405
Government of Canada	6,020	3,064	9,083	–	2,414	–	11,496
Government of Finland	(107,673)	1,496,587	1,388,913	(172,343)	(900,104)	–	316,465
Government of France	124,492	383,704	508,197	(16,440)	(235,303)	–	256,455
Government of Germany	–	125,341	125,341	–	(12,754)	–	112,587
Government of Japan	6,092	–	6,092	–	–	–	6,092
Government of Switzerland	(1,212)	–	(1,212)	–	–	–	(1,212)
International Maritime Organization	7,504	172,182	179,687	(861)	(161,629)	–	17,197
John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation	6,303	–	6,303	–	–	–	6,303
NZ Aid PIE	4,812	–	4,812	–	–	–	4,812
NZ Aid Extra Budget	(9,235)	945,541	936,306	(95,373)	(894,705)	–	(53,773)
NZ Aid Extra Extra Budget	(22,214)	88,308	66,094	–	(9,237)	–	56,857
Parkard Foundation	17,184	–	17,184	(718)	(11,005)	–	5,460
People's Republic of China	10,298	150,000	160,298	–	(160,298)	–	–
Other Funds	989,048	464,157	1,453,205	(66,320)	(712,118)	–	674,768
Ramsar Secretariat	(98,219)	76,336	(21,883)	(14,078)	(123,895)	–	(159,857)
The Nature Conservancy	41	–	41	–	–	–	41
The Christensen Foundation	8,178	–	8,178	–	–	–	8,178
United Kingdom Meteorology Office	–	335,070	335,070	(11,856)	(132,451)	–	190,764
United Nations Development Programme	420,051	4,815,659	5,235,710	(194,871)	(5,024,982)	–	15,857
United Nations Environment Programme	297,659	2,458,686	2,756,344	(77,410)	(1,774,616)	–	904,317
United Nations Institute for Training and Research	54,739	–	54,739	–	(1,200)	–	53,539
UN Economics and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)	8,786	–	8,786	–	–	–	8,786
UN Office of Project Services	7,055	–	7,055	–	–	–	7,055
US Dept of Energy/Los Alamos University	4,471	–	4,471	–	–	–	4,471
US Fish and Wildlife	14,625	–	14,625	–	–	–	14,625
US Dept. of State	88,943	60,000	148,943	(3,798)	(61,569)	–	83,575
USAID	33,650	401,651	435,301	(21,945)	(376,024)	–	37,333
US National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration	43,394	70,000	113,394	(2,569)	(13,716)	–	97,109
US Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council	1,082	21,000	22,082	(2,259)	(18,764)	–	1,059
World Meteorological Organization	(34,235)	140,830	106,595	(12,098)	(117,393)	–	(22,895)
TOTAL	5,737,925	15,817,618	21,555,543	(1,169,274)	(15,650,858)	–	4,735,411

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS (USD)	
American Samoa	10,184
Australia	185,106
Cook Islands	10,214
Federated States of Micronesia	10,184
Fiji	20,265
France	268,399
French Polynesia	20,360
Guam	–
Kiribati	10,180
Marshall Islands	10,184
Nauru	189,181
New Caledonia	21,202
New Zealand	134,202
Niue	10,209
Northern Mariana Islands	–
Palau	–
Papua New Guinea	–
Samoa	20,340
Solomon Islands	20,390
Tokelau	10,184
Tonga	–
Tuvalu	10,184
United Kingdom	134,202
United States of America	210,000
Vanuatu	19,629
Wallis and Futuna	17,801
TOTAL	1,342,600

PARTIES TO THE NOUMEA CONVENTION	
Australia	3,598
Solomon Islands	885
TOTAL	4,483

PARTIES TO THE WAIGANI CONVENTION	
Solomon Islands	2,042
Tuvalu	51
TOTAL	2,093

Note: The income received shown above can be located in the Donor Funds schedule in the rows titled 'Other Funds'.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (USD)

INCOME	
Member Contributions	1,342,600
Programme Management Charge	1,169,274
Programme/donor funds income	15,650,858
Other Donor funds income	918,678
Amortisation of deferred income	83,225
Other income	108,268
TOTAL INCOME	19,272,903

EXPENDITURE	
Executive Management and Corporate Support	4,110,220
Climate Change	8,718,844
Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management	3,152,564
Waste Management and Pollution Control	2,440,544
Environmental Monitoring and Governance	1,400,038
Depreciation expense	132,434
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	19,954,644

Betham & Co

Chartered accountants and business advisors

Independent Audit Report
To the Members of

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme ("SPREP") which comprises the statement of income, statement of movement in reserves and statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 December, 2014, the statement of financial position as of that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Managements' responsibility for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and with the requirements of the SPREP Financial Regulations. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion to the Members of SPREP, as a body, in accordance with SPREP Financial Regulation 32. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than SPREP and the SPREP Members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

We confirm that we have no other relationship with SPREP other than the audit of the financial statements.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the SPREP's Directors and Management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by SPREP, so far as it appears from our examination of those books and the financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards:

- (i) are in agreement with the books of account;
- (ii) to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us:
 - a. give a true and fair view of SPREP's state of affairs as at 31 December, 2014 and of its statements of financial performance, changes in reserves, and its cash flows for the year ended on that date;
 - b. provide the information required by the SPREP Financial Regulations in the manner so required.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purposes of our audit.

Specific Reporting Requirements

In accordance with SPREP's Financial Regulation 32 we report on the specific matters per the financial regulation as follows:

- a) The extent and character of our examination has been explained in the section on Auditor's Responsibility above and is based on the International Standards on Auditing. The financial statements for the year end of 31st of December, 2014 have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.
- b) There are no matters affecting the completeness and accuracy of the accounts
- c) We confirm the accuracy of the equipment records as determined by physical inspection of additions to assets and verification of disposals during the reporting period.
- d) The financial procedures of SPREP are adequate based on our examination of the financial procedures necessary for the purposes of formulating the auditor's opinion expressed above.
- e) Based on our examination of the insurance documentation the insurance cover for SPREP's assets is adequate.
- f) Others matters which do not affect our audit opinion have been brought to the attention of management in our report to management.


BETHAM & CO.
Chartered Accountants
Apia, Samoa
May 29th, 2015



A member of AGN International Ltd., a multi-licenced association of separate and independent accounting and consulting firms
Betham & Co. House, Vatele Street, Laloa, Samoa. P.O. Box 659, Apia, Samoa. T: +685 24337, F: +685 24338.
www.bethamco.com

INTERNAL AUDIT ATTESTATION



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

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

PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa

E: sprep@sprep.org

T: +685 21929

F: +685 20231

W: www.sprep.org



Internal Audit and Risk Management Attestation

Statement Financial year: 2014

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

We, David Sheppard and Tagaloa Fa'afouina Su'a, are of the opinion that the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme has internal audit and risk management processes in place that are, in all respects, compliant with the policy procedures and other requirements contained in the Policy document titled "Internal Audit Policy". These processes provide a level of assurance that enables the Senior Management of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme to recognise, understand, manage and effectively control its exposure to risk.

We, David Sheppard and Tagaloa Fa'afouina Su'a, are of the opinion that the audit committee for the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme is constituted and operates in accordance with the independence and governance requirements of the Internal Audit Policy and Audit Committee Charter.

The Chair and members of the Audit Committee are:

- Independent Chairman Mr. Tagaloa Fa'afouina Su'a (CPA) – Partner Su'a and Associates
- Independent Member Mrs. Sophie Vickers – Deputy High Commissioner NZ
- Independent Member Mr. Jovilisi Suveinakama – General Manager Apia Office of Tokelau
- Non-Independent Member Mr. Clark Peteru – Secretariat Legal Counsel
- Non-Independent Member Mrs. Simeamativa Vaai – Secretariat Human Resource Adviser

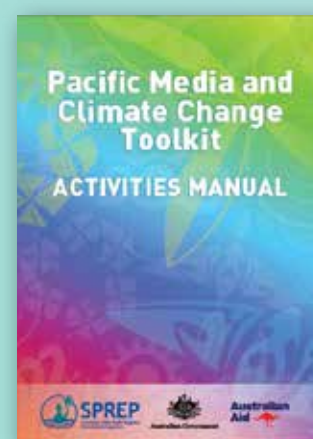
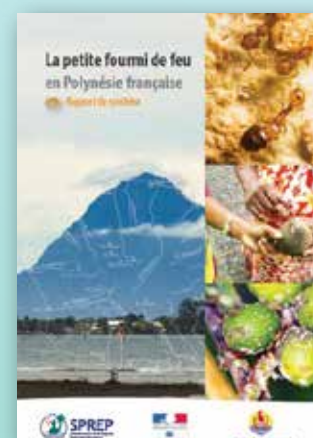
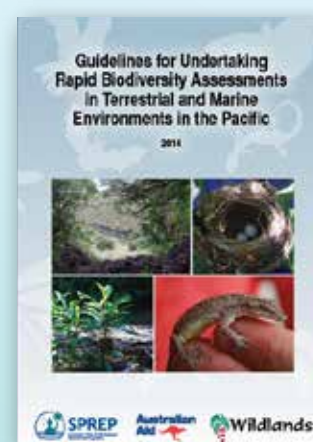
We, David Sheppard and Tagaloa Fa'afouina Su'a, declare that this internal Audit Attestation is made on behalf of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

David Sheppard
SPREP Director General

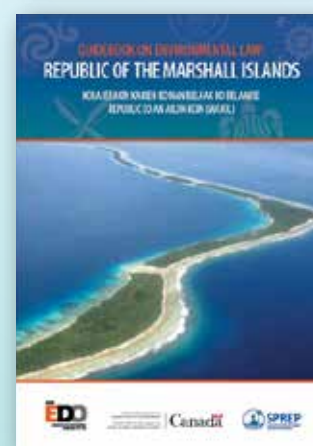
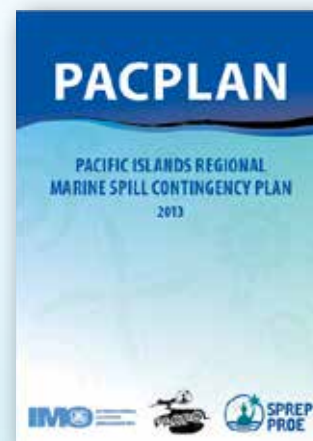
Tagaloa Fa'afouina Sua
Chair of the Audit Committee

SPREP PUBLICATIONS 2014

TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	PAGES
Technical reports		
Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014–2020	978-982-04052-5-7 (print) 978-982-04052-6-4 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/1DhaUG2	32 p.
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STAFF LIST (AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2014)

STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE	
SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM				
1	David Sheppard	Director General	Australia	31-Dec-15
2	Kosi Latu	Deputy Director General	Samoa	31-Dec-16
3	Stuart Chape	Director, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management	Australia	04-Sep-17
4	Netatua Pelesikoti	Director, Climate Change	Tonga	29-Nov-15
5	Sefanaia Nawadra	Director, Environmental Monitoring and Governance	Fiji	12-Feb-15
6	David Haynes	Director, Waste Management and Pollution Control	Australia	12-Feb-15
7	Clark Peteru	Legal Adviser	Samoa	12-Mar-16
8	Alofa Tuuau	Finance and Administration Adviser	Samoa	23-Jul-17
9	Simeamativa Vaai	Human Resources Adviser	Samoa	07-Jan-16
EXECUTIVE SUPPORT				
10	Rosanna Galuvao-Ah Ching	Executive Assistant to the Director General	Samoa	30-May-16
11	Apiseta Eti	Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director General	Samoa	31-Dec-15
12	Audrey Brown-Pereira	Executive Officer	Cook Islands	19-Mar-15
REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS				
13	Moriana Philip	SPREP Technical Expert (Water Sector)	Marshall Islands	09-Feb-15
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA				
14	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Solid Waste Management Expert, North Pacific</i>		
INTERNAL AUDIT				
15	Selesitina Reti	Internal Auditor	Samoa	25-Jun-15
CLIMATE CHANGE				
16	Peniamina Leavai	Adaptation Planning Officer Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change	Samoa	30-Apr-15
17	Naheed Hussein	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Finance and Operations Officer	Fiji	20-Apr-15
18	Diane McFadzien	Climate Change Adaptation Adviser	Cook Islands	12-Nov-16
19	Carlo Iacovino	Climate Change Communications Officer	Australia	06-Oct-15
20	Espen Ronneberg	Climate Change Adviser	Marshall Islands	31-Dec-15
21	Tagaloa Cooper	Climate Change Coordination Adviser	Niue	31-Dec-15
22	Makelesi Gonelevu	Knowledge Management Officer	Fiji	31-Dec-15
23	Azarel Mariner	Climate Change Technical Officer	Samoa	01-Dec-16
24	Tommy Moore	Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System Officer	USA	11-Jul-17
25	Salesa Nihmei	Meteorology and Climate Officer	Vanuatu	18-Jan-16
26	Christina Leala-Gale	Finland Project - Project Manager	Samoa	01-Sep-16
27	Sili'a Kilepoa-Ualesi	Project Manager - Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project	Samoa	31-Dec-14
28	Priscilla Olano	Pacific Climate Change Portal Technical Assistant	Samoa	12-Feb-17
29	Joyce Tulua	Secretary to Division Director/ Division Assistant	Samoa	29-Jul-16
30	Ewan Cameron	Climate Change Support (On Secondment from the Norwegian Refugee Council)	Cook Islands	31-Dec-14
31	Herman Timmerman	Climate Change Adviser (On Secondment from GIZ)	South Africa	31-Jan-16
32	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Climate Prediction Services Coordinator</i>		
33	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Climate Change Mitigation Officer</i>		
34	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Climate Change Monitoring and Evaluation Officer</i>		
35	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Pacific Islands Global Climate Observing System Officer</i>		

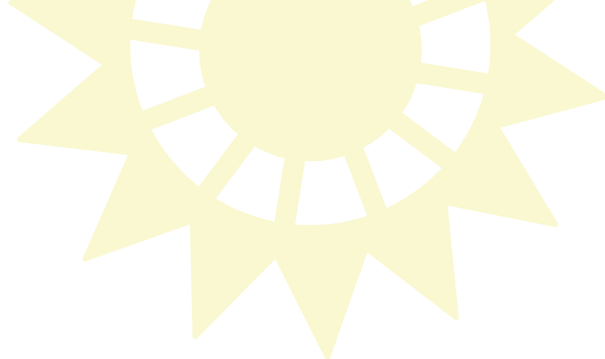
STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE	
BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT				
36	Warren Lee Long	Coastal and Marine Adviser	Australia	28-Jun-17
37	Vainuupo Jungblut	Ramsar Officer, Oceania	Samoa	22-Feb-15
38	Michael Donoghue	Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser	NZ	19-Oct-16
39	Penina Solomona	Convention on Migratory Species Pacific Officer	Fiji	07-Jan-15
40	Catherine Siota	Turtle Database Officer	Solomon Islands	12-May-16
41	Easter Galuvao	Biodiversity Adviser	Samoa	11-Apr-16
42	Amanda Wheatley	Ecosystem and Biodiversity Officer	Australia	13-Jun-17
43	David Moverley	Invasive Species Adviser	NZ	13-Oct-15
44	Posa Skelton	Pacific Islands Learning Network Coordinator	Samoa	29-Jun-16
45	Gianluca Serra	Global Environment Facility - Project Facilitator	Italy	20-Mar-15
46	Fred Patison	Ecosystem-based Adaptation Officer	Solomon Islands	09-Dec-15
47	Makerita Atiga	Secretary to Division Director/Division Assistant	Samoa	02-Aug-17
48	Pascale Salaun	Marine Conservation and Management Specialist (On secondment from the French Government)	France	29-Feb-16
49	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Coral Reef Management Officer</i>		
50	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Project Manager</i>		
51	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Solomon Islands Project Manager</i>		
52	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Vanuatu Country Manager</i>		
53	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Vanuatu Project Officer</i>		
54	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Fiji Project Officer</i>		
55	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Communications Officer</i>		
56	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Administrative and Finance Project Assistant</i>		
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE				
57	Mark Graham	Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Adviser	Canada	02-Jan-16
58	Paul Anderson	Environmental Monitoring Analyst	USA	17-Mar-17
59	Jope Davetanivalu	Planning and Capacity Development Adviser	Fiji	30-Sep-16
60	Melanie Bradley	Environmental Planning Officer	Australia	08-Feb-17
61	Meapelo Mai'ai	Global Environment Facility Support Adviser	Samoa	4-Nov-15
62	Ryan Wright	Spatial Planning Officer	Australia	22-Feb-15
63	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Secretary to Division Director/Division Assistant</i>		
64	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Sustainable Development Adviser</i>		
65	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>BIOPAMA Project Officer</i>		
WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL				
66	Anthony Talouli	Pollution Adviser	Fiji	20-Apr-16
67	Ma Bella Guinto	Solid Waste Management Adviser	NZ	16-Sep-17
68	Frank Griffin	Hazardous Waste Management Adviser	PNG	20-Sep-16
69	Lusiana Ralogaivau	Global Environment Facility - Project Coordinator	Fiji	19-Jul-16
70	Stewart Williams	PacWaste Project Manager	Australia	11-Nov-16
71	Pulemalie Habiri	Secretary to Division Director/ Division Assistant	Samoa	03-Oct-16
72	Scott Willson	Marine Pollution Officer (On Secondment from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority)	Australia	31-Aug-15
73	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>PacWaste Project Officer</i>		
CORPORATE SERVICES				
<i>Information Resources and Archives</i>				
74	Miraneta Williams-Hazelman	Information Resources Centre and Archives Manager	Samoa	9-Aug-15
75	Angelica Salele	Information Management Officer	Samoa	18-May-17
76	Lupe Silulu	Registry and Archives Officer	Samoa	31-Dec-15
77	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Assistant Registry and Archives Officer</i>		

STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE
CORPORATE SERVICES cont.			
<i>Communications and Outreach</i>			
78 Seema Deo	Communications and Outreach Adviser	Fiji	12-Mar-15
79 Nanette Woonton	Media and Public Relations Officer	Cook Islands	15-Sep-16
80 Amber Carvan	Publications Officer	Australia	13-Jan-17
<i>Information Technology</i>			
81 Christian Slaven	IT Manager	Samoa	02-May-15
82 Epeli Tagi	IT Network and Systems Support Engineer	Fiji	06-Jan-17
83 Billy Chan Ting	Web Applications Developer Specialist	Samoa	13-Feb-17
84 Ainsof So'o	Systems Developer and Analyst	Samoa	05-May-16
<i>Finance and Administration</i>			
85 Makereta Kaurasi-Manueli	Financial Accountant	Fiji	14-Apr-15
86 Honsol Chan Tung	Project Accountant	Samoa	31-Aug-17
87 Maraea Slade-Pogi	Administration and Accounting Officer	Samoa	06-Jan-17
88 Asenati Tuiiletufuga	Conference and Travel Officer	Samoa	12-Jan-17
89 Leilani Chan Ting	Finance Officer	Samoa	24-Jun-16
90 Rachel Levi	Finance Officer	Samoa	24-Jun-16
91 Sabrina Reupena	Finance Officer	Samoa	16-Mar-17
92 Penina Matatumua	Finance Officer	Samoa	16-Mar-17
93 Reuben Tamanikaiyaroi	Finance Officer	Samoa	16-Mar-17
94 Elama Tofilau	Finance Assistant	Samoa	30-Apr-16
95 Lawrence Warner	Property Services Officer	Samoa	4-Dec-15
96 Faamanatu Siliti	Driver/Clerk	Samoa	05-Dec-17
97 Tologauvale Leaula	Cleaner/Teaperson	Samoa	31-Dec-15
98 Amosa To'oto'o	Cleaner/Teaperson	Samoa	31-Dec-16
99 Tagiilima Enele	Groundsman	Samoa	12-May-17
<i>Monitoring and Evaluation</i>			
100 Simon Wilson	Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser	Australia	08-Aug-17
<i>Human Resources</i>			
101 Luana Chan-Jamieson	Human Resources Officer	Samoa	05-Jan-17
102 Christine Purcell	Assistant Human Resources Officer	Samoa	04-Mar-15
103 Jolynn Managreve-Fepuleai	Assistant Human Resources Officer	Fiji	08-Jul-15
104 Monica Tupai	Corporate Services Assistant	Samoa	21-May-16
<i>Young Professionals/ Attachments</i>			
105 Kilom Ishiguro	Spatial and Data Technician	Marshall Islands	03-Aug-15
106 Ana Markic	PhD Work Placement with Waste Management and Pollution Control Division	Croatia	Jan-17
<i>Temporary Appointment</i>			
107 Anna Bertram	GEFPAS-PIRT Administrative and Technical Assistant	German	28-Feb-15
108 Leilani Curry	Project Assistant - National Broadcasters Climate and Disaster Resilience Plans	Samoa	31-May-15
109 Anama Solofa	BIOPAMA Project Assistant	Samoa	20-Jan-15
110 Tino Faumuina	Groundsman	Samoa	31-Dec-14
<i>Project Staff/ Consultants</i>			
111 Andrea Volentras	Programme Manager - PCCR	Samoa	Aug-16
112 Aaron Buncl	Mainstreaming Specialist - PCCR	Australia	Aug-16
113 Satui Bentin	Regional Technical Support Mechanism Coordinator - PCCR	Samoa	Aug-16
114 Carolin Canessa	Environmental Law Project Assistant	Italy	Mar-15
115 Vacant	Procurement and Financial Management Specialist		

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

5Cs	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
AAMP	Agence des aires marines protégées (French agency for marine protected areas)	J-PRISM	Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries
ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing	MEA	Multilateral Environment Agreement
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific	MNRE	Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
ACP/MEAs	Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environment Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries	MPA	Marine Protected Area
ADB	Asian Development Bank	MSP	Medium Sized Project
AFD	Agence Française de développement (French development agency)	NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority	NEMS	National Environment Management Strategy
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States	NGO	Non-government organisation
APAN	Asia Pacific Adaptation Network	NISSAP	National Invasive Species Strategic and Action Plan
BCDRP	Broadcasters Climate and Disaster Resilience Plans project	PACC	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change
BCRC	Beijing – Basel Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific	PACCSAP	Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning Programme
BIOPAMA	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme	PACIOCEA	Pacific Ocean Ecosystem Analysis project
BIORAP	Rapid biodiversity survey	PACMAS	Pacific Media Assistance Scheme
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	PACPLAN	Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan
CHICCHAP	Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme	PACPOL	Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	PCCP	Pacific Climate Change Portal
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species	PCCR	Pacific Climate Change Roundtable
COP	Conference of the Parties	PEIN	Pacific Environment Information Network
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific	PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
CSIRO	Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	PIGGAREP	Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project
CTCN	Climate Technology Centre and Network	PINA	Pacific Islands News Association
EC	European Commission	PIPAP	Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal
EDF	European Development Fund	PIRT	Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	PRC	Pacific Regional Centre
ESIS	Environmental Spatial Information Service	PRMG	Project Review and Monitoring Group
EU	European Union	RRF	Rapid Response Fund
FINPAC	Finland-Pacific project	RTSM	Regional Technical Support Mechanism
FMIS	Financial Management Information System	SIDS	Small Island Developing States
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	SMT	Senior Management Team
GCCA	Global Climate Change Alliance project	SOE	State of the Environment
GCOS	Global Climate Observing System	SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
GEF	Global Environment Facility	SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
GEF-PAS	Global Environment Facility – Pacific Alliance for Sustainability	SRDP	Strategy for Disaster and Climate Resilient Development in the Pacific
GIS	Geographical Information System	TREDS	Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German agency for international cooperation)	UN SIDS	United Nations conference on Small Island Developing States
HLSM	High Level Support Mechanism	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
HRIS	Human Resources Information System	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
IAS	Invasive Alien Species	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
ICCAI	International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative	UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
iCLIM	Climate change information management	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
IIB	Integrated Island Biodiversity	USP	University of the South Pacific
IMO	International Maritime Organization	WMO	World Meteorological Organization
IRCA	Information Resource Centre and Archives	WWF	World Wildlife Fund

Our region



The Pacific is the world's largest ocean, covering nearly one-third of the Earth's surface. About 30,000 islands of varied shape and size lie across its vast expanse.

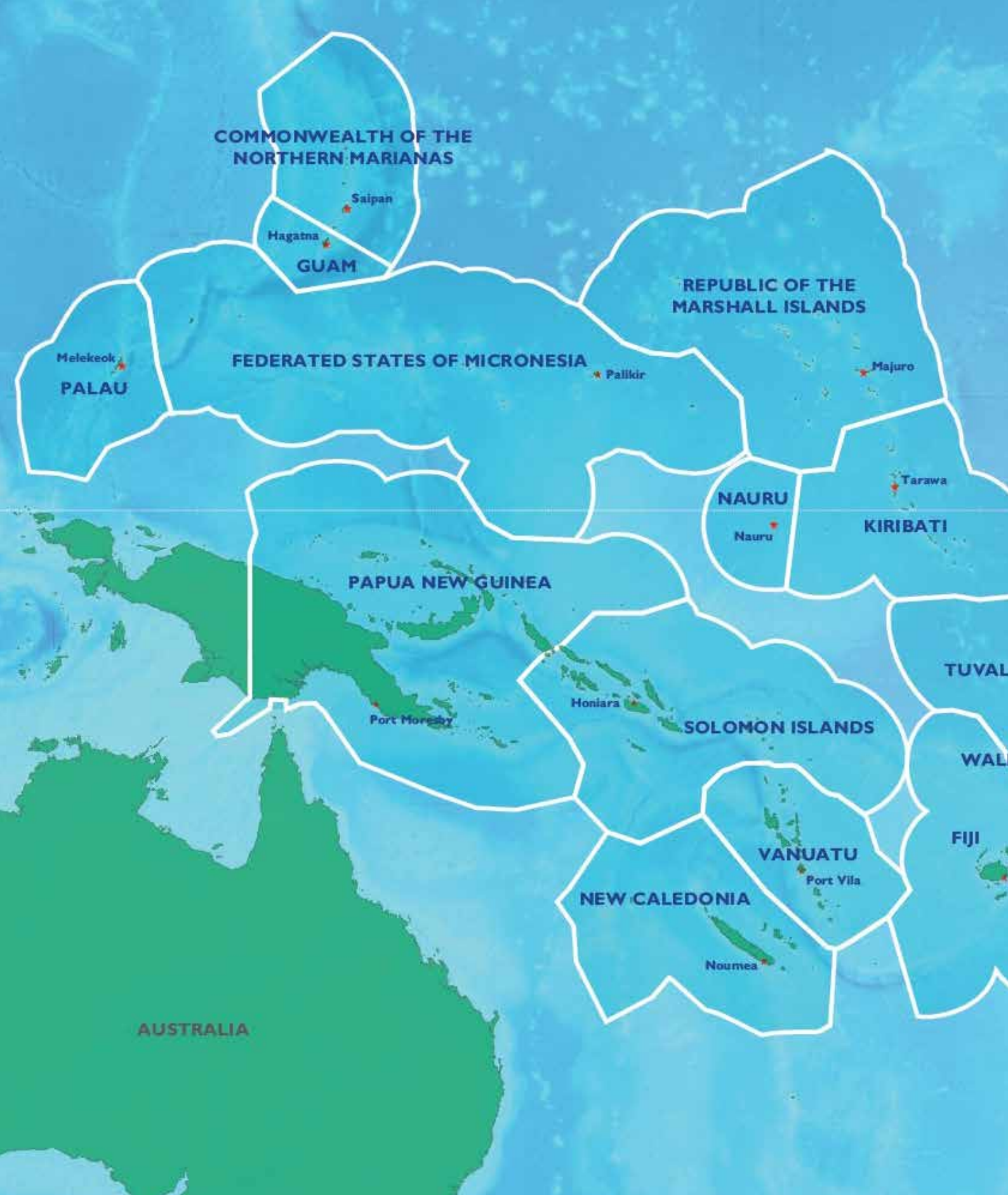
The Secretariat's Pacific island members are:

- American Samoa
- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- Cook Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji
- French Polynesia
- Guam
- Kiribati
- Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Nauru
- New Caledonia
- Niue
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tokelau
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu
- Wallis and Futuna

In addition to this, SPREP also has five metropolitan members. These are:

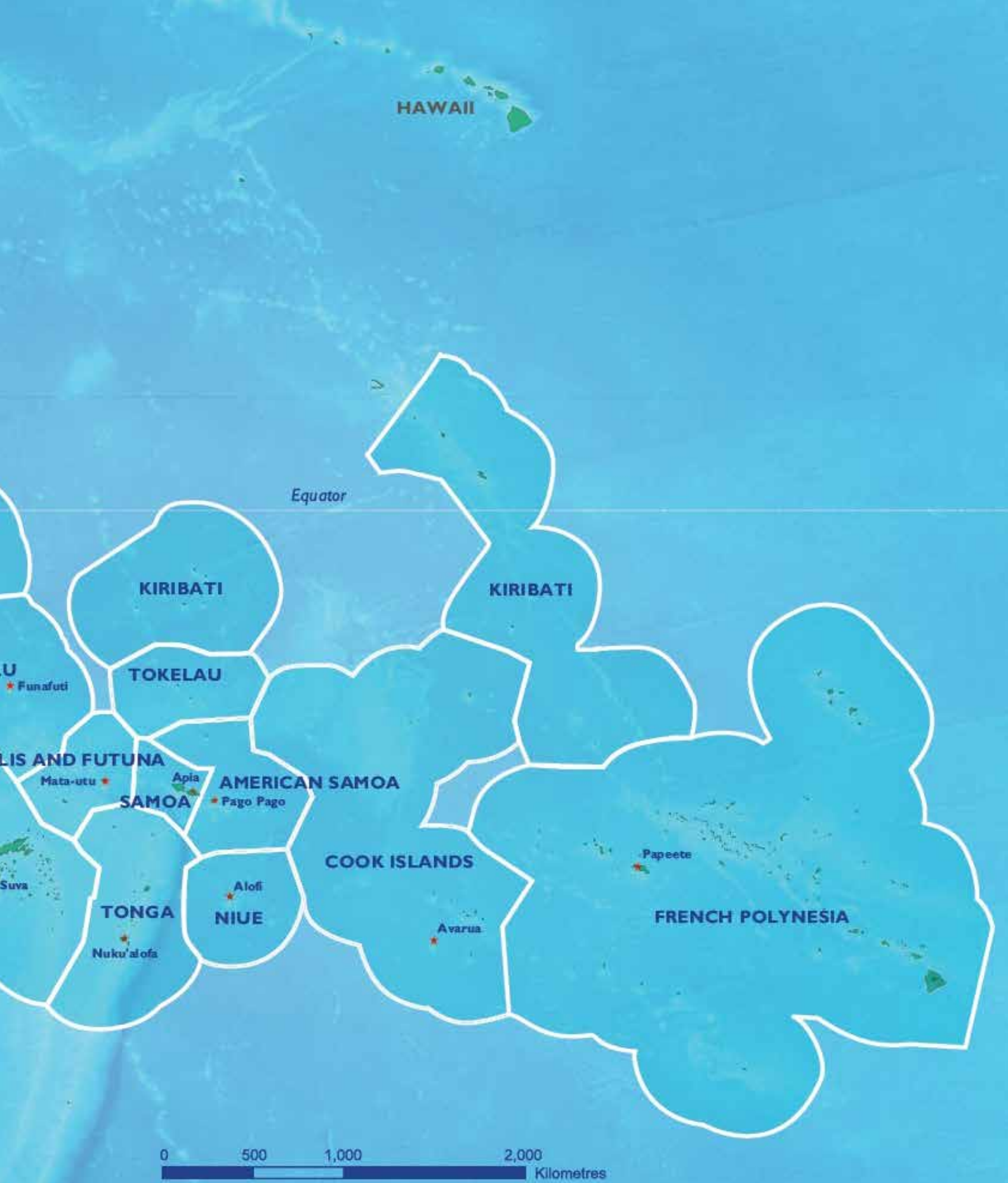
- Australia
- France
- New Zealand
- United Kingdom
- United States of America





SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



This map is indicative only of agreed and potential maritime jurisdictional limits within the Pacific region. It does not imply the expression of an opinion by SPREP on the legality of any boundary shown.



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme