



Our Members

SPREP members are: American Samoa, Australia, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.

More information
 Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
 PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa Tel: +685 21929 Fax: +685 20231
 sprep@sprep.org
 Follow us on Facebook and Twitter www.sprep.org

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.



The Pacific Islands Region

The 21 Pacific island countries and territories that are members of SPREP are spread across 32 million square kilometres of the Pacific Ocean. Only two percent of the region is land, with over 30,000 high islands, uplifted limestone and coral atolls making up a combined area of just over 540,000 square kilometres. Thousands of unique land and marine species live in the region, and the islands support more rare and endangered species per capita than anywhere else in the world.

The huge expanse of ocean supports the most extensive and diverse coral reefs in the world, the largest tuna fishery, the deepest oceanic trenches and the healthiest and in some cases, largest remaining populations of many globally rare and threatened species including whales, sea turtles, dugongs and saltwater crocodiles. The land and marine ecosystems of the Pacific have nurtured human inhabitants for thousands of years, providing food, fuel, shelter and economic opportunity.



The regional intergovernmental organisation for the protection and sustainable development of the Pacific island environment



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

As part of SPREP's commitment to the environment, this item is printed on 100% recycled post-consumer waste.

About Us

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) was established by its member governments in 1992, to support regional cooperation and coordination of the protection, management and sustainable development of the Pacific island environment. The *Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme* came into force in 1993, officially making the organisation an autonomous body. SPREP currently has a membership of 26, with 21 Pacific islands and five metropolitan countries.



© Stuart Chape

What We Do

SPREP delivers its strategic priorities through policy and technical support to our island members. We provide direct national level support while building technical capacity and relevant common approaches through regional collaborative efforts. Some of our work includes:

Collaboration and Coordination

- Supporting a common vision for addressing priority issues (regional plans and strategies)
- Implementing regional and partnership-based approaches to fundraising and implementation
- Hosting the regional secretariat to the Noumea, Waigani and Basel conventions
- Coordinating the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, the Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, and the Pacific Meteorological Council
- Integrating climate change and disaster risk management – Joint National Action Plans
- Supporting Pacific participation in international multilateral environment negotiations
- Providing technical and scientific support and advice.

Capacity Building

- Targeting training at national level to safeguard and manage the environment
- Coordinating a waste management regional technical training initiative
- Facilitating international negotiations training
- Awareness and education programmes
- Supporting emergency response training (oil spills, invasive species)
- Growing future leaders – Pacific Emerging Environment Leaders' Network, Pacific Youth Environment Network, Pacific Invasives Learning Network
- Empowering the Pacific Islands Environmental Leadership Awards to encourage Pacific champions.

Environment and Development Challenges

The Pacific islands are striving to balance the needs and economic aspirations of growing populations with the maintenance of healthy environments and natural systems.

Changing lifestyles and practices, poor waste management, high population growth rates, introduction of invasive species and increasing urbanisation place pressures on island environments and thus, on the health and socio-economic wellbeing of Pacific communities. Compounding this are climate change and changing weather patterns, which are further impacting on coastal and forest ecosystems, the ocean, freshwater supplies, biodiversity and agriculture and fisheries.

The small size of Pacific islands limits the availability of technical and financial resources to effectively manage their natural resources and environment. The geographic isolation of the islands means higher cost of fuel and energy, which impacts on the cost of travel and communication.

These challenges underscore the need to work together and share the human/technical and financial resources that Pacific island countries and territories need to protect and manage their natural environment as a basis for sustainable human and social development.



© Stuart Chape



© Stuart Chape

How We Work

Our work is guided by the *SPREP Strategic Plan (2011–2015)* which has been developed by SPREP member countries and territories. The Secretariat, based in Apia, Samoa, works with members and partners to deliver on environmental management and sustainable development in the region against four strategic priorities:

- **Biodiversity and ecosystem management**
- **Climate change**
- **Waste management and pollution control**
- **Environmental monitoring and governance.**

Communication

- Developing and disseminating information and educational resources
- Coordinating the Information Resource Centre and Archives as well as the Pacific Environment Information Network
- Sharing information through our website and social media
- Engaging journalists in environmental reporting
- Sharing experiences and success stories
- Developing policy briefs, technical reports
- Sharing information through the Pacific Climate Change Portal.