

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Annual Report

2017



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

*A resilient 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 islands environment.

SPREP was established by its Member governments in 1992 to support cooperation and coordination across the region. The agreement establishing SPREP (SPREP Agreement) came into force in 1993, officially making the organisation an autonomous inter-governmental body.

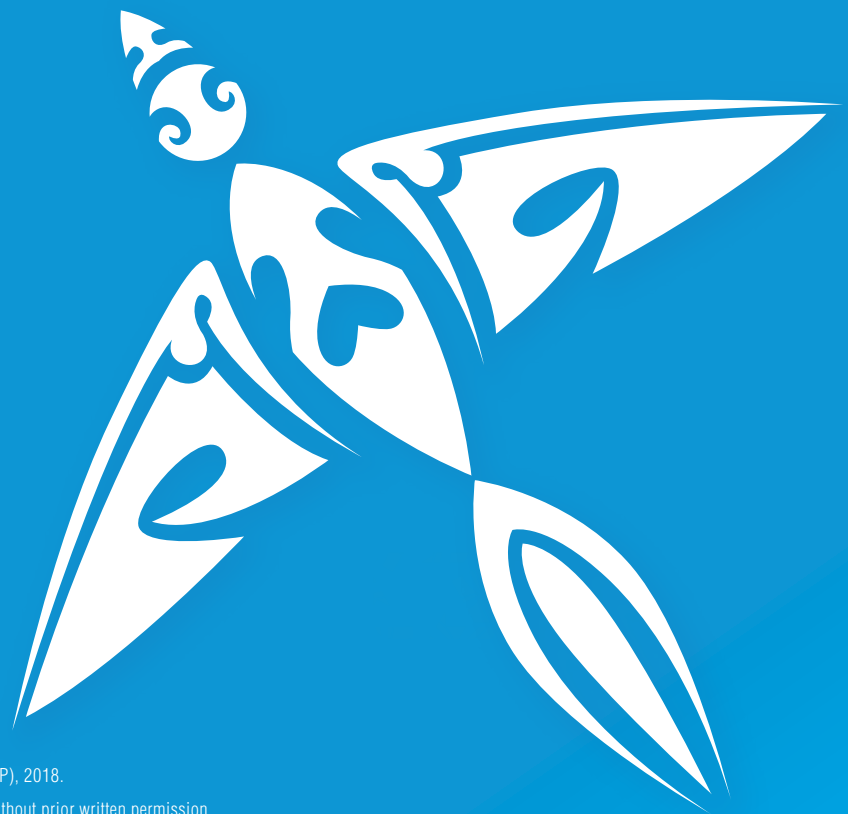
With headquarters located in Apia, Samoa, SPREP works closely with its 26 Member countries and territories – along with partners, donors and local communities – to deliver on environmental management and sustainable development in the region in four priority areas:

BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE



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Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

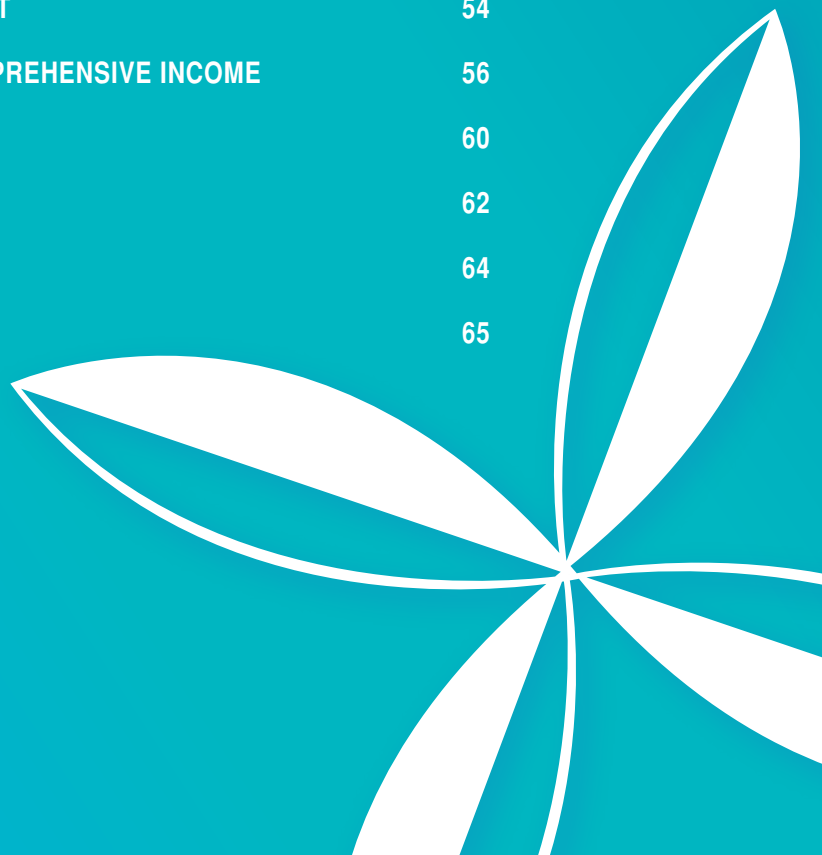
PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
+685 21929
sprep@sprep.org
www.sprep.org



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Foreword



Hon. F. Umiich Sengebau.

Message from the Chair

2017 was a special year for SPREP as the Secretariat prepared for a new voyage with us all on the waves of the 2017–2026 Strategic Plan. As the organisation strives towards a resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures, it is with our collective partnership and support that this journey will be a fruitful one.

As you will read through the report there were many accomplishments for SPREP which have helped bring better impacts on the ground in our Pacific islands region. One of which shines bright was the unity formed between our membership as we worked together to conserve our Ocean at the UN Ocean Conference in June, 2017.

This was a historic moment for our Pacific islands region as a member of our Pacific family, the Government of Fiji, co-chaired this special conference with the Government of Sweden.

The Ocean is very much who we are as Pacific Islanders. It is our culture, food security, economy and even a place for recreational activities and we have much to celebrate in the Pacific in regards to our contribution to the international community.

It is not a coincidence that by far the greatest number of Marine Protected Areas in the world's oceans has been established in the Pacific, by SPREP Members. We are on the frontline of climate change and the threat of extinction of our marine wildlife and

coral reefs. Pacific island Governments have shown leadership to the world on marine conservation through initiatives such as the Phoenix Islands Protected Area in Kiribati, the Natural Park of the Coral Sea, the Cook Islands Marae Moana, and of course the Palau National Marine Sanctuary.

Although we may be small islands and economies, our region of over 30 million sq km is unique in the world, because 97% of this vast area is within our Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ's) and consequently, Pacific island nations have jurisdiction over large areas of ocean where we can exercise some management control. This is especially true when we join together in a shared commitment.



For example, the regional Micronesia Shark Sanctuary comprises the EEZs of Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Palau covering an area of 9 million sq km, within which similar measures apply under our respective domestic legislations. This enables us to apply appropriate measures to conserve our depleted shark populations.

The Palau National Marine Sanctuary not only protects marine mammals and sharks, we are also banning industrial fishing in 80% of our EEZ by 2020, and catching only enough fish to provide for subsistence needs and the tourist market in the remaining 20% of the zone.

Protecting our threatened species through conservation

and marine sanctuaries also brings economic benefits. Studies have shown that sharks in Palau have a one-time value of USD 108 when dead but may generate USD 1.9 million in ecotourism revenues during its lifetime. Shark-diving is worth over USD 42 million per year to Fiji, and in the Kingdom of Tonga, whale-watch revenues amount to millions of dollars annually.

So while we are faced with environmental challenges, our region is also playing its part to address these and on the global stage we are making an impact. Fiji also presided over the Twenty-Third Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP23), the very first time a Pacific island country has had this role and with it came the

Pacific flavour at the COP23 in Bonn, Germany in 2017.

Samoa and Sri Lanka successfully lobbied to place blue sharks on Appendix II under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals to help ensure their conservation.

It is these global actions that see positive changes happening in our Pacific islands, yet again showcasing our Pacific leadership.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands made the move to ban single use plastic in 2017 with RMI also banning Styrofoam and disposable plastic cups and plates. Fiji also placed a 10 cent levy on single use plastic bags. It was at our Twenty-Eighth SPREP Meeting in 2017

that there were calls for action against asbestos and plastic microbeads.

We all recognise that we have many environmental challenges that we are to address and we look forward to continuing our journey with SPREP and partners under the direction of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026.

As the Chair of the 2017 SPREP Meeting, Palau commends the Secretariat for the support it provides our Pacific islands region as we strive together for a resilient Pacific.

We wish all Members a fruitful 2018.

Hon. F. Umiich Sengebau

MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM, PALAU

Introduction

Message from the Director General



Mr Kosi Latu.

I am very pleased to introduce the SPREP Annual Report for 2017. As part of our journey 2017 demonstrated the resilience of SPREP to adapt with the times and address the changing needs of our Pacific region in order to be more efficient and effective. We have grown from strength to strength, which has only been made possible with the strong support and guidance from our Members and partners.

On the global agenda, 2017 marked a significant milestone year for the Pacific with its leadership on climate change and oceans led by Fiji at the helm. We congratulate the Government of Fiji for their role at the Twenty-Third Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It was history in the making being the very first time for a Pacific island to preside over a UNFCCC COP. We worked with the Council of the Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP-plus) team, leading CROP-plus coordination for the negotiations process and successfully worked with Members and partners to support Pacific island Member's needs.

Our work on oceans and conservation was recognised at the UN Ocean Conference, with a strong presence from the Pacific. Our island region was also very clear in articulating our Pacific priorities to a global audience. SPREP facilitated a very successful side event with the co-hosts of the UN Ocean Conference of the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Fiji and Sweden respectively as key note speakers alongside our Pacific Leaders of Samoa, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Tokelau. SPREP strategically ensured our targeted themes were highly profiled on ocean conservation, climate change, marine pollution, whale conservation, and ocean acidification. These jointly profiled the commitment to the SPREP Regional Goals 1 and 2 that ensures 'Pacific people benefit from strengthened resilience to climate change' and 'from healthy and resilient island and ocean ecosystems'. The strengthened support to Pacific island Members made possible with the funding support of the Government of Sweden, which committed extensive financial resources for work on climate change and oceans, ensuring the voice and visibility of the Pacific were prominent and integrated throughout the key messages, policy considerations and outcomes of the conference.

SPREP signed an MoU with the Japan International Cooperation Agency for J-PRISM II, which builds upon its project predecessor and is a five year project worth USD 15 million covering nine Pacific island

countries. The commitment of the Government of Japan to addressing solid waste management in the Pacific has been a long and enduring partnership with SPREP of over 17 years. J-PRISM II continues to enhance the technical, capacity and institutional needs of solid waste management and directly contributes to the achievement of the SPREP Regional Goal 3 'Pacific people benefit from improved waste management and pollution control'. In continued support of our waste work we also acknowledge the completion of the successful PacWaste project funded by the European Union from 2013 to 2017 which helped improve the effective management of hazardous waste across 14 Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste. We welcome the continued confidence of participating members and the EU and look forward to the next phase of PacWaste II which shall commence in 2018. PacWaste II will also complement JPRISM-II to support implementation of Cleaner Pacific 2025.

SPREP is also proud of the GEF funded Inform Project implemented by the UN Environment and executed by SPREP which commenced in late 2017. The project contributes towards Regional Goal 4 'Pacific people and their environment benefit from commitment to and best practice of environmental governance' and ensures the work to address the challenges of the environment are measured, monitored and reported supporting national capacity to ensure measures undertaken are sustainable.

With much of the work of SPREP to support Pacific island Members at the national, regional and global levels, the role of a strong, efficient, effective and accountable Secretariat is critical. As we shift to a biennial cycle the Twenty-Eighth SPREP Meeting approved the terms of reference for the Executive Board which serves an important governance mechanism of SPREP. The SPREP Meeting will now convene every two years, with the first meeting of the Executive Board in September 2018 and the Twenty-Ninth SPREP Meeting in 2019. Another key decision was the approval of the Performance Implementation Plan which puts into action the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026 to address the environmental priorities and aspirations of our Pacific region.

The GEF funded Medium Sized Project which provided a suite of policies and systems has enhanced our internal processes ensuring we are a more efficient and effective organisation, providing better services and support to our members and partners. The evidence of improvement is the budget surplus of the SPREP audited financial accounts for the year ended 2017 and the positive surplus in total reserves. SPREP recognises the importance of sustainable financing and will continue to work closely with Members and partners, as well as continue to engage non-traditional donors to SPREP such as the Governments of Sweden, Japan and China which have generously supported the work of SPREP.



Coral Reef, Mamanuca Group, Fiji. © Stuart Chape

We now have a Project Coordination Unit in place with personnel from the US Peace Corps Response Volunteers. The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade have committed financial resourcing for additional experts to be placed in the unit by 2018. This enhanced capacity and tangible support has strengthened the role of SPREP as an accredited entity to the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund to better assist our Pacific island Members to access climate finance and other sources of funding.

In 2017 our first Adaptation Fund proposal on 'Enhancing the Climate Change Resilience of Vulnerable Island Communities in the Federated States of Micronesia' worth USD 9 million was approved by the Adaptation Fund Board. This is in addition to the USD 20 million Green Climate Fund 'Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Project' with Vanuatu approved in December 2016. To date SPREP has assisted Niue, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Vanuatu to successfully access readiness funding from the Green

Climate Fund. There is now a predictable pipeline of projects, which will continue for the direct benefit of Pacific island Members including with the European Union which is set to be the number one donor to SPREP in 2018/2019.

All of our work at SPREP serves a common purpose for our Members and our partners of a 'Resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures'. SPREP would like to thank all partners for supporting and working with SPREP in our common endeavours to

make the Pacific environment a healthy and sustainable one. I would also like to thank all staff at SPREP for their dedication and hard work over the last year. Thank you to SPREP Members, whom we as a Secretariat have worked hard to serve and support. We appreciate your guidance and your partnership. We will continue our efforts to make SPREP a more efficient and effective organisation that continues to be dynamic and responsive and can better serve the needs, priorities and aspirations of our Member countries and territories.

Kosi Latu

DIRECTOR GENERAL, SPREP

Our Pacific Island Members

Working in partnership to achieve shared goals



SPREP is committed to working with our 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.

Vatuki and Nadogo Islands, Vanua Levu, Fiji. Photo © S. Chape

Voice of American Samoa featured at PMC

American Samoa joined the Fourth Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-4) and the Second Pacific Meteorological Ministers Meeting (PMMM-2) in Solomon Islands last year, presenting key activities undertaken between, 2015–2017. American Samoa has installed a new satellite communication receiver as well as the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System model. This helps them to analyse a range of different data from different models to provide weather forecasts. The theme of the PMC-4 and PMMM-2 was “Sustainable weather, climate, ocean and water services for a resilient Pacific”.



SPREP represented at Twenty-Ninth Pacific Islands Environment Conference

SPREP was invited to the Twenty-Ninth Pacific Islands Environment Conference from June 13–15 2017 in Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The conference theme was “Sustainable Pacific: preparing for change, voyaging with knowledge”. The conference drew practitioners, specialists, elected officials and residents from across the region. SPREP was requested to facilitate a session explaining the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process in the region, as well as participate in a panel on Climate Change and Climate Impacts in the Pacific. Panel partners were the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and a Washington think tank. The presentations helped industries, businesses and environmental consultants understand their part in the EIA process and informed them of SPREP’s role in climate change. SPREP established a work plan with Environment Executive Directors from Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), also a part of the conference, on EIA training and Environment Policies development.

◀ Photos SPREP/S.Lui ▼ PIEC Registration underway. Photo PIEC





“Going to Scale in the Ocean” side event at the UN Ocean Conference.



Photo SPREP/J.Ward

Marae Moana officially launched

The Marae Moana legislation was passed in 2017, officially dedicating close to 2 million sq km, all of the Cook Islands Exclusive Economic Zone, as the Cook Islands Marine Park. The Cook Islands were also at the forefront of a special event during the UN Ocean Conference in June last year – “Going to Scale in the Ocean: from large scale Marine Protected Areas to whole domain management: ridge to reef to ocean.”

The special event heard the journeys undertaken by the Cook Islands, Kiribati, New Caledonia and Palau as they worked to establish large scale marine protected areas. The event was led by the Cook Islands and Conservation International with the following partners – Kiribati, Palau, New Caledonia, House of Ariki Cook Islands, Big Ocean Network, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, SPREP, Pacific Islands Development Forum, Global Island Partnership, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, University of Auckland, Moccasin Lake Foundation and the Global Conservation Fund.

FSM showcased at COP23 side event

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) were featured on a side event panel at the Twenty-Third Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Titled “Pacific island climate action and finance: successes, challenges and lessons learned”, the side event was a partnership between SPREP and the Governments of Tuvalu and Vanuatu. FSM presented on the challenges faced in accessing climate finance, having been awarded USD 9 million from the Adaptation Fund, in particular those relating to technical capacity and availability of resources.

Return of Tabua to Fiji

One hundred and forty six tabua, a tabua being a sperm whale tooth, were presented to the Government of Fiji from New Zealand in recognition of the cultural significance of tabua to the local communities of Fiji. The 146 tabua had been seized by New Zealand border agencies over the past 15 years under the Trade in Endangered Species Act and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The special ceremony opened the “Oceania regional workshop on CITES implementation and prevention of illegal wildlife trafficking” which brought together participants from 17 different countries that were CITES Parties and Non-Parties.

The meeting in Fiji in 2017 marked Fiji’s 20th anniversary of being a Party to CITES.

French Polynesia registers commitments on the Ocean Registry at UN Ocean Conference

French Polynesia submitted the Marine Educational Area Network initiative as a voluntary commitment in the Ocean Registry at the UN Ocean Conference in 2017. Titled Marine Educational Area Network, the project contributes to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of resources, valorisation of ecosystem services and sustainable development. It is an initiative for school children to become directly involved in a citizen action project of local and participatory coastal management and marine environmental protection. As of June, 2017 there were six Educational Managed Areas with plans to expand this initiative.





Together FOR OUR Ocean

2017 International Coastal Cleanup Report.

Guam featured in 2017 Report on coastal cleanup

The International Coastal Cleanup Report released in 2017 by the Ocean Conservancy featured results from Guam. The report was based on an activity in 2016 involving over 5,500 volunteers, collecting over 10,500 kilograms of waste from a 54 kilometre stretch along the coast. Waste collected included over 18,000 cigarette butts, close to 16,000 plastic beverage bottles, approximately 8,000 food wrappers such as candy, and close to 4,000 plastic bags. Guam was featured in the Weird Finds section of the report with a slide being found as part of the cleanup.

Kiribati embarks on a Marine Spatial Planning process

At least 15 government and community stakeholders in Tarawa atoll, Kiribati are now able to use spatial data and other information for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) with support from the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in the Pacific Island Countries (MACBIO) Project. This project also assisted key agencies to develop a Cabinet submission that will help institutionalise MSP into national planning and sustainable development policy, recognising that further MSP work is needed for Kiritimati and other parts of Kiribati. Funded by the German Government International Climate Initiative fund, the MACBIO project partnership between the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), IUCN and SPREP has also enabled Fiji, Kingdom of Tonga, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to apply comprehensive sets of spatial information into national marine bioregion descriptions and marine spatial planning processes.

Photo SPREP/C.Iacovino



Regrowth on an old phosphate mining area, Nauru. Photo © Stuart Chape.

Nauru drafts first National Integrated Environment Policy

SPREP helped develop Nauru's first National Integrated Environment Policy (NIEP) in collaboration with UN Environment and the Nauru Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment. The NIEP was funded through the United Nations Development Programme-Global Environment Facility (GEF) Nauru Ridge to Reef Project. The NIEP complements and supports Nauru's efforts to sustainably conserve and preserve its environment and build resilience to the impacts of climate change. The policy will also help Nauru develop its Environment Management Act and Regulation.

New Caledonia showcased at UN Oceans

“We have found that it is not the creation of this protected area which is the most important, it is more the way the governance has evolved around this area, this has been a great journey.”

Ms Anne-Claire Goarant, New Caledonia.

New Caledonia was showcased at the “Going to Scale in the Ocean: from large scale Marine Protected Areas (MPA) to whole domain management: ridge to reef to ocean” side event during the UN Ocean Conference in 2017. The New Caledonian Coral Sea Marine Protected Area covers the country's entire 1.4 million hectare EEZ which includes the world's largest lagoon, a UNESCO World Heritage site, established in 2008. This MPA is the first contribution to the Pacific Oceanscape by a Melanesian country or a French overseas territory. New Caledonia also has a sister-site agreement with the Cook Islands on their large scale MPAs.

Anne-Claire Goarant of New Caledonia presenting on the New Caledonian Coral Sea Marine Protected Area at the UN Ocean Conference.





Photo courtesy of Niue Tourism.

Whale research supported in Niue

Funding support for whale research in Niue from the Government of New Zealand was announced in 2017 to further assist in the protection and conservation of humpback whales in the Pacific. Oma Tafua, a Whale conservation NGO in Niue is dedicated to the education, protection and conservation of marine mammals in the Niuean community. The funding provided focussed on photo identification, acoustics and genetics to compare how closely related the Humpback Whales are to other populations in the region.

Sun shines on new solar power water pump system in Palau

A new Kayangel Island Solar-Photo Voltaic (PV) water pumping and supply system, commissioned in 2017 has replaced the electric motor driven pumps of the Kayangel well water systems helping to enable all residents to have water. A new electric motor driven pump has also been installed as a standby to maintain reliability of water supply during bad weather, cloudy days or if there are operational issues with the solar PV power system. To ensure safe water supply, a new chlorinator unit has also been installed. The Sustaining Renewable Energy Efficiency Measures project in Palau is made up of components of the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) Plus regional project. This is implemented by the UNDP multi-country office in Samoa and executed by SPREP. PIGGAREP Plus is an extension of the PIGGAREP GEF project. It is funded from the SIDS DOCK Support Program, which was supported by the UNDP and the World Bank, and in close consultation with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and funded by the Government of Denmark and Japan. SIDS DOCK is now an independent international organisation.

Rock Islands, Palau. Photo © Stuart Chape



Mr Vagi Regi, representing Papua New Guinea at the CMS COP12.

Migratory species conservation on the agenda for Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea (PNG) held observer status at the Twelfth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) of Wild Animals in Manila, Philippines in 2017. PNG has worked very closely with the CMS since 2003 initially through SPREP and the Regional Marine Species Action Plan. In 2010 PNG was able to conduct market surveys for dugong with financial support from the CMS Secretariat. The survey was conducted at four sites in Manus, Madang, Western Province and West New Britain.

Republic of the Marshall Islands ban styrofoam and plastic shopping bags

“Majuro has the highest per capita waste generation in the Pacific region and disposable plastic packaging makes up a significant proportion of this waste. We feel confident that this is going to make a huge difference to the people and environment of the Marshall Islands.”

Ms Moriana Philip, Director of the Environment Protection Agency of the RMI

Legislation to ban the importation, manufacturing, sale or distribution of Styrofoam cups and plates, disposable plastic cups and plates and shopping bags came into effect as of 1 February, 2017. These are giant steps in helping to save the environment. The planet went from making two million metric tons of plastic in 1950 to 380 million metric tons in 2015. Of the world's plastics nine percent is recycled, 12 percent is incinerated and 79 percent accumulates in landfills. There are at least 51 trillion pieces of micro plastic particles in our ocean.

Picking up trash on Majuro in 2016 before the ban came into being.





Working with local communities in Samoa to conserve sharks

Over 200 community representatives from selected villages around the islands of Apolima-tai, Manono-tai, Savaii, and Upolu took part in consultations to understand the importance of sharks. These helped raise the awareness of the communities on the importance and role of sharks in the marine environment, document traditional knowledge on sharks, identify important areas such as nursery areas and to document the general perception of communities. A declaration was also signed by the various communities that were involved in the consultations. The declaration was a call to the Government to strengthen the protection of sharks within Samoa's national jurisdiction through stronger legislative frameworks.

The consultation was organised in close collaboration with the Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa Fisheries Division, Samoa Conservation Society, Youth Climate Action Network of Samoa, The Pew Charitable Trusts and SPREP.

10 “I am encouraged by the determination of the community to engage in the implementation of this EbA option that will include re-planting of trees and management of the water catchment area for the Mataniko and Lunga rivers.”

Chair of the committee, Peter Mbaranumba

Committee formed to restore Queen Elizabeth Nature Park in Solomon Islands

The community of Barana on Mt Austen, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands has a committee in place to work with the Pacific Ecosystem Based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) project to restore the Queen Elizabeth Nature Park located within their area. The committee is comprised of youth, women and men representatives including the community chiefs as the key players.

Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. Photo © Stuart Chape



Invasive Species Management support to Tokelau

In collaboration with Pacific Biosecurity, the SPREP Invasive Species Team visited the three atolls of Atafu, Fakaofu and Nukunonu of Tokelau to raise awareness of invasive species with the Taupulega and local communities. Of the invasive species currently in Tokelau, their concerns included the Pacific rat and feral cats, which prey on endemic fauna, coconut flowers and cause health issues. Singapore daisy, *Wedelia* sp. is also a big concern as it smothers the ground in an impenetrable mat of vegetation limiting the ability to grow other plants in its location.

The SPREP Invasive Species Team provided initial training in the management of Singapore daisy which will be expanded in 2018 through on the ground assistance. SPREP is also working with Pacific Biosecurity, Eco-Oceania and Tokelau to create a Tokelau Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan. The SPREP team is also seeking opportunities for funding the eradication of rats from Tokelau.

Singapore daisy. *Wedelia* sp.





2017 Pacific Invasive Species Battler of the Year – Ms Lisa Tokanga Fe'ofa'aki Fanua of Vava'u Environmental Protection Association (VEPA) of the Kingdom of Tonga,



Port Vila, Vanuatu. Photo © Stuart Chape

Work in Tonga recognised for Pacific invasive species battler of the year award

Ms Lisa Tokanga Fe'ofa'aki Fanua of Vava'u Environmental Protection Association (VEPA) from the Kingdom of Tonga was the winner of the first Pacific Invasive Species Battler of the Year Award announced in December 2017, making her the very first recipient of the award.

Recognised for her work in battling invasive species in Tonga, Ms Fanua and her team of volunteers have helped make a positive impact on the ground in the Vava'u island group of Tonga.

The "Battler of the Year" award is given to Pacific invasive species field-based, non-management practitioners who have worked at the grass roots level and achieved an outstanding outcome for biodiversity from the use of minimal resources.

Tuvalu National Environment Management Strategy launched at Pacific Environment Forum

Tuvalu was one of four countries that launched their National Environment Strategy in 2017 during a special side event titled "Are we contributing enough to a healthy environment?" at the SPREP coordinated Pacific Environment Forum. The strategy was developed by the Government of Tuvalu and SPREP in partnership with UN Environment as part of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States Multilateral Environmental Agreements 2 funded by the European Union.

Mr Soseala Tinilau, Director of Environment, Tuvalu launches their Tuvalu National Environment Management Strategy.



PEBACC hands over ESRAM reports to Vanuatu Government

Three Ecosystem and Socio-economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping reports were presented to the Government of Vanuatu by SPREP in 2017. These included two on Port Vila, one on Tanna Islands as well as a high-level national study. These were developed by the PEBACC Project with support from the people of Vanuatu.

"We thank SPREP for the work they are undertaking in Vanuatu and reiterate the point that protecting the natural environment is critically important to Vanuatu and the region if we are to build strong communities in the face of climate change."

Jesse Benjamin, Director General of the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geohazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management of Vanuatu.

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Pacific Biodiversity Blue Belt in Wallis and Futuna

To assist Wallis and Futuna with Marine Spatial Planning and strategic regional analysis in Marine Protected Areas (MPA) planning and design, a meeting was held in June between Wallis and Futuna, Loyalty province government services and the French Agency for Biodiversity (AFB). It aimed to improve coordination of the delivery of services to Pacific island countries and territories to build biodiversity in MPAs. This event was supported by the Pacific Biodiversity Blue Belt Project which is funded by a European Commission BEST 2.0 Medium-sized Grant, and is implemented by SPREP in partnership with the AFB.

Photo SPREP/W.Isenhower



Protect Pacific Whales

Our ocean voyagers



In 2016 and 2017, SPREP worked with Members and partners to coordinate a regional “Protect Pacific Whales, our Ocean Voyagers” campaign resulting in positive actions for whale conservation and protection.

Photo courtesy of Niue Tourism.

Pacific Whale Declaration signed!

The Pacific Islands Year of the Whale Declaration was signed by Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, France, Kingdom of Tonga, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tokelau, Tuvalu and the United Kingdom last year. The declaration called for strengthened whale conservation across the Pacific islands region.

Eleven Members signed on to the declaration at the conclusion of the Whales in a Changing Ocean Conference

with France and the United Kingdom signing at the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species.

The declaration notes the value of whales to the signatories, acknowledges the steps by Pacific island countries and territories who contribute to the regional protection of whales, and recalls the near-extinction of the large whale species that overwinter in Pacific islands breeding grounds due to

industrial whaling fleets in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The declaration also recognises that lost and abandoned fishing gear is one of the most harmful forms of marine debris for whales, and that accelerated action to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution is needed. It also commits governments to collaborate with Pacific islands to provide a secure future for whales in the Pacific islands region.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Government of Samoa, Hon Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa signs the Pacific Whale Declaration.



Whale tailing in support of whale conservation.



Whale tailing it in support of whale conservation were the delegates from Fiji with Permanent Secretary Mr Joshua Wycliffe for Local Government, Housing and Environment of Fiji.



Former Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga, Hon. Siaosi Sovaleni and Mr Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP at the Whales in a Changing Ocean Conference in April, 2017

Whales in a Changing Ocean Conference

For the very first time, government representatives, senior officials, academics, civil society, and NGO experts came together in the Pacific to discuss future collaboration on the conservation of whales in the Pacific region.

The Whales in a Changing Ocean Conference was coordinated by the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga, SPREP, and the Auckland

Institute of Studies with partners in April, 2017.

The conference concluded with recommendations from working group sessions relating to specific scientific research and the threats to whales.

One recommendation is to establish a validated inventory of whale and dolphin species, genetic distinctiveness and habitat use for each nation and

territory of the SPREP region by December 2020. This will improve the understanding and management of ecological roles, and economic values.

It was also recommended that by 2022, Pacific island countries and territories should enact protected areas to prevent the disturbance of marine mammals, mindful of national targets based on science and using



Ms Lahaina Tatfu of the Kingdom of Tonga shared stories about her life on the ocean in the whale watching field.

precautionary approaches, and implement regional and national cetacean action plans.

Protecting Pacific Whales through art

“Des baleines et des hommes pour la protection des océans”- “Whales and men to protect the oceans”, an art exhibition consisting of works of art by 11 Pacific island artists to commemorate the “Protect Pacific Whales – our Ocean Voyagers” campaign opened at the Tjibaou Cultural Centre in Noumea, New Caledonia.

The artists took up residence at the Tjibaou Cultural Centre in 2016 to work on the art pieces for the exhibition.

Mr Ito Waïa, Ms Christelle Montané, Mr Kapoa Tiaou, Ms Marie-Anne Kapetha, Mr Sacha Terrat, Mr Arnaud Elissalde, Mr Nicolas Molé, and Ms Seiuli Tiaou are artists from New

Caledonia who contributed to this project. Other Pacific island artists include Mr John Pule of Niue, Mr George Nuku of New Zealand and Ms Ruha Fifita of Tonga.

“Des baleines et des hommes” is conveying messages through paintings, sculpture, photographs, installations and

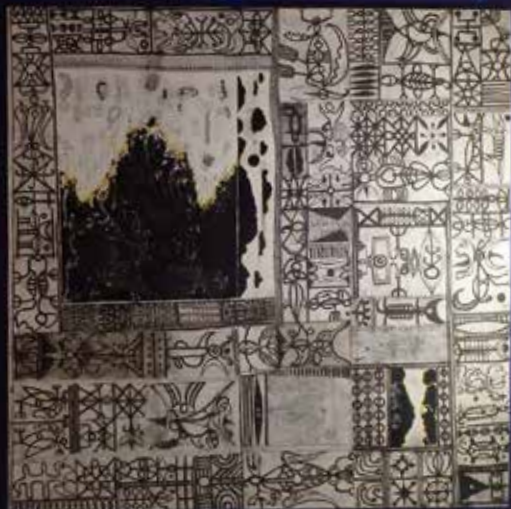
tapa – providing a reminder of the power of art in influencing a positive change for conservation.

The project is supported by the Government of New Caledonia, the Government of New Zealand and Creative New Zealand, SPREP, the Pew Charitable Trusts, and Fonds Pacifique.

Enamel and oil painting by artist John Pule.

Sculpture by artist George Nuku using plastic as a medium for his art.

Two perspectives on an indoor installation using adhesive-taped plastic bags by artist Nicolas Molé.



New partnerships to strengthen marine protection in the Pacific islands



SPREP signed Memorandums of Understanding with Blue Planet Marine (BPM) and the South Pacific Whale Research Consortium (SPWRC) in 2017.

The MoU with BPM provides a framework for cooperation between the two organisations for a five year period, where they will be collaborating in the implementation of surveys for marine biodiversity, such as Rapid Biodiversity Assessments, surveys for large marine megafauna such

as whales, dolphins, and dugongs, and mapping for potential Marine Protected Areas. This resulted in four Pacific Islanders from the Cook Islands, Fiji and the Kingdom of Tonga undergoing work attachments with whale research scientists aboard the BPM flagship vessel the Flying Fish. This included a research cruise in the humpback whale breeding grounds in the northern Great Barrier Reef in July, 2017.

The MoU with SPWRC, also for five years, has an agreed work programme which will see the consortium update SPREP with information on the status of stocks of cetacean species and results of cetacean research in the region. It also supports capacity development amongst Pacific islands through annual meetings of the consortium, workshops organised by SPREP, and opportunities to join field research arranged by the consortium.

Mr Kosi Latu with Mr Scott Baker of SPWRC (top) and Mr David Paton of Blue Planet Marine (bottom) signing the Memorandum of Understanding for strengthened partnerships.

Photo courtesy of Niue Tourism.

Important Marine Mammal Areas in South Pacific

An important achievement of the Year of the Whale was a regional expert workshop hosted by SPREP in Apia, March 2017, which was dedicated to identifying Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) in the South Pacific region. Scientists from 12 SPREP Member countries and a number of overseas experts attended the workshop. This was the second in a series of meetings to be held between 2016 and 2021, where experts will identify the most critical habitats for marine mammals in all the world's oceans.

The meeting was organised by the Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force of IUCN and funded through the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative project of Germany's International Climate Initiative. The global project will provide governments with robust evidence to support the protection of areas that are vital for marine mammal conservation.



Pacific Island Whales in a Changing Climate Report launched

The potential impacts of climate change on Pacific island whales were explored in the Pacific Island Whales in a Changing Climate Report that was launched at the UN Ocean Conference by the Kingdom of Tonga.

Spanning a range of topics including ocean acidification, warming oceans and disrupted food chains, the report highlights the different consequences climate change has for Pacific island whales. Another area of focus is the impact of climate change on the whale-watching industry as well as underlining the role of whales in mitigating climate change.



Photo courtesy of Niue Tourism.



UN Ocean Conference

Our ocean, our future

Volcanoes National Park lava flow into ocean. Photo © Stuart Chape



History was made yet again with a Pacific island nation co-chairing the UN Ocean Conference in 2017. Fiji and Sweden co-chaired the conference which adopted the "Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action" declaration. SPREP and its Members joined over 4,000 participants from governments, the UN and other intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, academia, the scientific community and the private sector for the conference held at the UN headquarters in June, 2017.

SPREP and the Pacific islands were featured in a range of different events and meetings, helping to amplify the united Pacific voice in our call for ocean action. This included SPREP's role in the Partnership dialogue on Addressing Marine Pollution as well as during a special event on Global Ghost Gear.

With support from the Government of Sweden, SPREP was able to coordinate several key activities providing strong support to SPREP Member countries and helping to amplify the Pacific voice.

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SPREP and UN Environment partner in the lead up to the UN Ocean Conference

Further collaboration between SPREP and UN Environment helped to enhance the support provided to SPREP Members as the Pacific prepared for the UN Ocean Conference. Coordinated assistance was provided to Members during the preparatory meetings, a website was launched containing key information needed for the UN Ocean Conference participation and engagement, a range of 27 factsheets were developed for Pacific Members and briefs were also available upon request.

Helping to raise awareness about ocean issues, SPREP released a series of Pacific Conversations on ocean topics, which aimed to encourage informed Pacific conversations on issues of importance to Pacific island people. SPREP and UN Environment also prepared and distributed a UN Ocean Conference Survival Tips guide for Members, as well as a UN Ocean Conference Compass guide to help Pacific island Members navigate through the event.



A range of 27 factsheets were developed as part of the SPREP and UN Environment partnership to support SPREP Member countries at the UN Ocean Conference.

Taking the Pacific flavour to the UN Ocean Conference

The Pacific island tradition of wearing a flower behind your ear was alive and strong at the UN Ocean Conference with the SPREP booth distributing these to help enhance Pacific visibility at the UN headquarters. The SPREP and Forum Fisheries Agency booths helped to distribute Pacific island resources, reusable bags and flowers. Showcasing the Pacific islands region, over 300 new contacts were made at the conference, allowing for further opportunities to showcase and share work undertaken in the region to enhance ocean health.

The SPREP delegation with Mr Mark J Spalding, President of the Ocean Foundation.





Clean Seas for a Cleaner Pacific. Photo SPREP/L.Curry



The Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification. Photo © Stuart Chape

Commitments led by SPREP with partners

The conference resulted in over 1,420 voluntary commitments made to help achieve SDG 14: Life Below Water, these included those from the Pacific islands region. SPREP listed four commitments in the Ocean Registry in collaboration with a wide range of partners:

Clean Seas for a Cleaner Pacific #15962

As an answer to the call to action on clean seas, a partnership was formed between UN Environment, SPREP and other organisations to cooperate in the delivery of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, a #CleanSeas Campaign for the Pacific, and the implementation of the Cleaner Pacific 2025 Strategy to reduce marine debris and achieve a Clean Pacific Ocean.

The Pacific Ocean Research Alliance (PORA) #15810

PORA connects and expands coastal and offshore ocean research with the aim to source and provide marine data for decision makers, build Pacific capacity, connect international, regional and national experts and stakeholders, and support the Pacific Ocean Alliance and the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner.

The Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification #15798

This partnership aims to build on the NZ Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification project with the goal of building resilience to ocean acidification and climate change impacts on oceans in coastal communities and ecosystems.

Protecting, Conserving and Restoring Whale Populations in the Pacific islands #16006

In April 2017, SPREP and the Kingdom of Tonga hosted the 'Whales in a Changing Ocean' conference, bringing together a wide range of experts and stakeholders to address issues impacting on whales, including a suite of new threats, such as noise, entanglement in fishing gear, ingestion of plastic debris, ship strike and climate change. Many of the participating governments and organisations have signed a voluntary commitment to save whales and to address with our partners the emerging threats for the ocean's largest creatures.

'Our Pacific islands, Our Ocean, Our Home' Exhibition

A joint partnership between the Government of Fiji and SPREP featured photography of Pacific island landscapes and seascapes by photographer Stuart Chape. The photo exhibition brought "Our Pacific islands, Our Ocean, Our Home" to the heart of the United Nations, linking the essence of SDG 14 and the intrinsic value of the Pacific Ocean to the Pacific way of life.

The images that graced the halls of the UN headquarters were then gifted to the Co-Chairs of the UN Ocean Conference as well as to the different Pacific island missions and partners whose countries were featured in the images, ensuring that a view of the Pacific Ocean remains in New York.

"Let us send a clear message to the whole world. That time is running out to save our seas and ocean, just as it is running out to decisively tackle the fundamental causes of climate change."

Prime Minister of Fiji Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Co-Chair of the UN Ocean Conference and Chair of the UNFCCC COP23.

Images of the Pacific Islands graced the halls of the UN headquarters in New York, in the 'Our Pacific islands, Our Ocean, Our Home' Photo Exhibition, and were gifted to different Pacific island missions. Left: Samoa. Right: Palau.





The Hon John Silk, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Marshall Islands presented at the special SPREP side event.

A high-level panel presented at the special side event hosted by SPREP at the UN Ocean Conference.



Framed images captured by photographer Stuart Chape were presented to both co-chairs of the UN Ocean Conference: Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate of Sweden Hon. Isabella Lövin, and the Prime Minister of Fiji Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama.

The Pacific Voyage – Our Ocean, Our People, Our Pacific

SPREP hosted a special side event with partners at the UN Ocean Conference, featuring both co-chairs of the UN Ocean Conference Prime Minister of Fiji Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama and Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate of Sweden Hon. Isabella Lövin. They were joined by the Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi; Hon. John Silk, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; Hon. F. Umiich Sengebau, Minister of Environment of Palau; the Ulu o Tokelau, Aliko Faipule Siopili Perez and Mr Elliot Harris, UN Assistant Director General of UN Environment. At the side event SPREP presented framed images of Pacific island environments to the Prime Minister of Fiji and Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate of Sweden as the co-chairs of the UN Ocean Conference.

Held on World Oceans Day, 2017, the special high-level side event allowed presenters to raise the Pacific voice in their call to protect and conserve our ocean. Topics addressed included the important roles of partnerships, climate change, large Marine Protected Areas, nuclear contamination, World War 2 wrecks and Pacific regionalism.

“We recognise that genuine and durable partnerships will play an important role in advancing sustainable development by harnessing the full potential between governments at all levels with all other partners from private sector, to civil society.”

Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi

Protecting, conserving and restoring Pacific whale populations. Photo courtesy Niue Tourism.



Bringing the Pacific to the UN headquarters with the blowing of a conch shell at the opening of the UN Ocean Conference.



Pacific stories from the UN Ocean Conference

News from the UN Ocean Conference was shared across the Pacific islands with the help of Senior Editors from two regional news organisations, PACNEWS Agency and Islands Business. Working with SPREP, around 20 stories focussed on the Pacific islands region were developed during the week-long conference. The stories highlighted the range of important issues for SPREP Members at the UN Ocean Conference.



The opening of the UN Ocean Conference for which Fiji was a co-chair.



Fijian cultural performances in the General Assembly of the UN headquarters at the opening of the UN Ocean Conference.



Fiji opens the World Ocean Day celebrations at the UN headquarters during the UN Ocean Conference.



H.E. Baron Waqa, President of Nauru presenting to plenary at the UN Ocean Conference.



Delegates from the Kingdom of Tonga adorned in traditional wear at the UN Ocean Conference.



Pacific visibility was high at the UN headquarters as delegates don flowers behind their ears in support of a healthy ocean.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management

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

Importantly, biodiversity conservation in the Pacific islands region is a complex issue encompassing social, political and cultural dimensions. Pacific islanders are dependent on natural ecosystems and their resources for livelihoods and national economic development. These natural ecosystems are also a critical component of Pacific island cultures, providing the basis of traditional cultural practices, myths and legends.

Araucaria Forest, New Caledonia. Photo © Stuart Chape

Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation supports ocean conservation agenda

Over 1420 voluntary commitments to conserve our global oceans were made at the United Nations Ocean Conference, including those made from the Pacific island countries and territories. In 2017 the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) and Protected Areas met in Honiara, Solomon Islands to identify how the

work of PIRT members can help countries meet these commitments, resulting in a charter of actions. The theme of the 2017 PIRT meeting was “Oceans at a tipping point – from global commitments to regional action.”

This event also marked the twentieth birthday of the PIRT. Established in 1998 at the request of Pacific island countries and territories, PIRT

enables those organisations working on nature conservation in the Pacific to improve their collaboration and coordination towards effective conservation action.

PIRT provides a framework and drives action through its working groups, which meet yearly on more specific topics and then report back to the annual meeting. In connection with PIRT is the Pacific

Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas which has been held every few years since 1975.

It is at this conference that government agencies, NGOs, community based organisations, donor agencies and experts concerned with conservation science and practice in the Pacific islands region meet to discuss the agenda for the next few years.

Twentieth Annual Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation Protected Areas. Photo SPREP/A.Wheatley



Pacific islands work towards ratifying the Nagoya Protocol

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) UN Environment SPREP Regional Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS) Project began in June 2017 with an inception workshop and training on establishing measures to implement the Nagoya Protocol in the Pacific. The project will support Pacific island countries to ratify the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilisation, as well as help implement key measures to make it operational in the region.

Adopted in 2010, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu are Pacific island Parties to the Nagoya Protocol which is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The three year project is funded by the GEF, implemented by the UN Environment and is executed by SPREP. Partners include the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and 14 Pacific island governments.

Village elder describing traditional plant use in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia, one of the five Pacific island Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. Photo © Stuart Chape



Progressing invasive species management in the French territories

To promote collaboration of the French territories with Pacific countries in the management of invasive species, Fonds Pacifique provided funds to SPREP to conduct a workshop to align French territories with the implementation of the “Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the

Pacific”. This followed work funded by Fonds Pacifique in 2015 to complete a Wallis and Futuna Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan which was also aligned with the guidelines.

The workshop was assisted by Conservation International and Island Conservation and hosted

by the Secretariat for Regional Cooperation in Noumea, New Caledonia. The Government of France opened the meeting which was attended by the New Caledonia Conservatory of the Natural Environment, Wallis and Futuna and representatives from the provinces of New Caledonia.



Killing African Tulip Tree *Spathodea campanulata*, an invasive species in the Pacific. Photo SPREP/J.Key



Participants attending the workshop to align the Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific to French territories. Photo Conservation International





The Oceania Group at the CMS COP12.



Members of the Samoa delegation with mascots at the CMS COP12. Samoa and Sri Lanka lobbied to place blue sharks on Appendix II under the CMS.

Blue Sharks make conservation listing

In 2017, Samoa and Sri Lanka successfully lobbied to place blue sharks on Appendix II under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals to help ensure their conservation. An estimated take of 20 million blue sharks are caught each year.

Samoa attended the Twelfth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP12) with Pacific Parties comprising the Cook Islands, Fiji and Palau. They make up the Oceania regional grouping along with Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines.

SPREP helped to raise the Pacific Profile at the CMS COP12 through several activities one of which saw SPREP featured during the High-level Segment as part of the discussion panel to provide a Pacific island perspective.

SPREP also coordinated a Pacific Voyage Campaign distributing Pacific resources at a special exhibition booth, facilitated two different side events showcasing Pacific actions in marine conservation, and developed a range of media stories which were featured across the Pacific islands region. The Pacific Voyage to CMS COP12 Campaign was supported by the ACP MEA2 project funded by the European Union.



Samoa and Sri Lanka successfully lobbied to place blue sharks on Appendix II under the CMS.



Blue shark. Photo Jim Abernethy

Tanna community vote to establish a marine protected area



Sign at entrance to Port Resolution, Tanna Island, Vanuatu. Photo SPREP/J.Shem

The community of Port Resolution on the eastern coast of Tanna island in the southern Vanuatu province of Tafea, have voted unanimously to establish a protected area covering more than five kilometres of coastline.

The coastline includes some significant features, including the most southerly mangrove forest in Vanuatu, seagrass meadows which occasionally attract dugongs, white and volcanic sand beaches, which support nesting turtle populations, and one of the best kept surfing breaks on the island.

The communities have been experiencing decreasing protein sources as their fish stocks are increasingly depleted, and their natural environment is changing. Coastal trees are disappearing due to human and climatic stressors and plastic waste is increasingly common along the coastline.

The Pacific Ecosystem Based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) project is supporting the community in their drive to buffer themselves against these changes, and where possible ensure that they can maintain sustainable benefits from their ecosystems.

Miss Nature pageant, 2017 in Solomon Islands

The first ever Miss Nature pageant was hosted in Honiara, Solomon Islands in October, 2017 to help inspire a pollution-free and sustainable Pacific environment. Seven high school students participated in the event which promoted good environment practices.

The student contestants delivered speeches with an environment focus, modelled apparel created from nature-based materials, and performed dances highlighting the importance of our environment.

The pageant was won by a Form Four student of St Nicholas school.

The event was organised by the Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment Climate Change Disaster Management and Meteorology, and PEBACC, as part of the National Resource Management Symposium.

The symposium allowed for environmental stakeholders to share scientific information and lessons learnt to strengthen natural resource management efforts in the country.



Miss Nature at the crowning ceremony, Solomon Islands.
Photo SPREP/J.Shem

“We need an environment that allows for good and healthy living, an environment free from pollution and harm.”

Miss St Nicholas, the 2017 Miss Nature, Solomon Islands

Regional and National Alien and Invasive Species Data and Information Mobilisation and Capacity Building in the Pacific

The “Regional and National Alien and Invasive Species Data and Information Mobilisation and Capacity Building in the Pacific” Project commenced in 2017. The European Union funded project is implemented under the Biodiversity Information Development Programme led by the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).

The project aims to mobilise data through data sharing agreements, build the capacity of the region to publish data, integrate data into safe depositories and build capacity to utilise the data for policy and decision making.

SPREP coordinates the project which includes organisations from 14 SPREP Members including nine Pacific island countries and three territories. Regional project partners include SPREP and the Pacific Community (SPC), and global partners include the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group.

Outcomes of the project in 2017 included SPREP becoming the first Pacific Internet Publishing Tool for GBIF which allows members and other Pacific organisations to publish data directly to

GBIF through the SPREP GBIF Node. The regional and global project partners met to map out existing invasive species data available for use and to work through data sharing agreements. Each country partner is holding a national meeting to inventory national data holders and data sets which will then be published at a regional data mobilisation workshop in Apia in 2018.

In September a Memorandum of Understanding was successfully negotiated and signed between GBIF and SPREP. This agreement establishes a mandate for the first Participant Node in the



Pacific, which is based at SPREP. This will enable Pacific island countries to submit their biodiversity data to GBIF.

Crown of Thorns, an invasive species, amongst dead coral. Photo J.Ward

L-R: Regional organisations meet in Suva; Participants at the invasive species data sharing workshop; Taro leaf blight. Photo SPREP/P.Donohoe



SPREP and French Territory members advance coastal management capacity

Under the EU BEST 2.0 Initiative funding, the Pacific Biodiversity Blue Belt project helped SPREP territory members in 2017 to implement coastal conservation and management action with government and local stakeholders.

New Caledonia completed a comprehensive public consultation and produced its Draft Management Plan for the Coral Sea Nature Park, providing a plan for its whole Exclusive Economic Zone ensuring community ownership as part of the process. The Pacific French Territories also received training for implementing marine spatial planning processes. A draft review and guidelines for surveillance technologies appropriate for use in Pacific islands Marine Protected Areas has commenced. French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna have designed coastal marine educational trails with government and local stakeholder input, and will involve local tourism industry and community during construction, implementation and management training.

The Pacific Biodiversity Blue Belt is implemented by SPREP in partnership with the French Agency for Biodiversity and benefits from a European Commissions BEST 2.0 Medium-sized Grant.



Stakeholder consultations were critical to the design of the draft New Caledonia Marine Park Management Plan. Photo Direction des Affaires Maritimes, New Caledonia



GPS and GIS training took place for the Samoa MNRE team.

SPREP and MACBIO support spatial information training and Protected Areas mapping for Samoa

Training in real-world data collection using Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and data analysis using Geographical Information Systems was completed by staff of the Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE). The training was organised and implemented under the Biodiversity and Protected Areas programme of SPREP and the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries Project (MACBIO), as part of SPREP's efforts to promote regional uptake of lessons and outcomes in MACBIO.

MACBIO aims to strengthen institutional and individual capacity to manage and conserve biodiversity in marine and coastal ecosystems, to support economies and livelihoods of Pacific island states. It is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety to GIZ and jointly implemented by SPREP, IUCN and GIZ.

The training provided MNRE staff with specific skillsets for a range of activities, including integrated coastal zone planning, accurately mapping their protected areas and updating their national protected area dataset. Participants received field training to apply theoretical knowledge about GPS, capturing data for monitoring of three nature reserves in the Apia area, including boundaries, important features and associated assets.

Integrating Biodiversity and Climate Change Action

In October 2017, the Fiji Government in partnership with the PEBACC Project, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Centre, organised a Regional Dialogue and Learning Mission on "Integrating Biodiversity and Climate Change Action" in Suva, Fiji.

The purpose of the event was to explore the potential of ecosystem-based approaches in addressing climate change threats including ecosystem-based adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction in the Pacific.

"We all appreciate that ecosystems form the very foundations of our lives, our social and economic activities and our lives are intricately tied to the well-being of ecosystems. These ecosystems can either make or break our future."

Mr. Joshua Wycliffe, Permanent Secretary for Local Government, Housing and Environment of the Government of Fiji



Participants of the Biodiversity and Climate Change Dialogue at Narocivo Village, Fiji. Photo SPREP/J.Shem

Shark survey successfully completed in Samoa

Surveys were completed around the Aleipata and Falealili areas to determine the presence and species of sharks and rays and the health of the coral reefs. The survey is part of the Global FinPrint project that has sampled more than 100 reefs around the Caribbean, Coral Triangle, Indian and Pacific Ocean using baited remote underwater video systems. The overall objective of the project is to combine large-scale efforts to obtain information and data on the human impacts, habitat use and baseline abundance that would be used to develop management and conservation measures for sharks and rays. Results of the surveys showed the presence of grey reef sharks, blacktip sharks and whitetip sharks as well as the several rays and turtles. It also provided an opportunity to document the state and health of the coral reefs that were heavily impacted by the 2009 tsunami, outbreak of the crown of thorns starfish and mass coral bleaching.

This survey was in collaboration with the MNRE, Australian Institute of Marine Science, AquaSamoa and the Fisheries Division of Samoa.



Shark survey successfully completed in Samoa. Photo L.Currey, AIMS

Tree ferns in cave, New Caledonia. Photo © Stuart Chape



Climate Change



All Pacific island countries and territories are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, climate variability and other natural disasters. The level of vulnerability depends on their exposure and sensitivity to climate change impacts and their capacity to respond. Some of the territories and bigger countries have stronger environmental diversity, and social and economic capacity, while others are very fragile and limited. Although the impacts of climate change are already evident globally, our region is one of the most vulnerable to the threats of climate change and related disaster risks including tropical cyclones, typhoons, drought and earthquakes. Our isolation, location, size, geological formations and limited capacity, combined, leave us particularly exposed to the impacts of climate change. Increased awareness and understanding of climate change impacts on Pacific communities and livelihoods are essential, as are activities that foster island resilience to changing weather extremes and climatic conditions. SPREP is the lead coordinating agency on climate change responses and mainstreaming in the Pacific islands region. One of our key strategic goals is to strengthen the capacity of our Members to respond to climate change. We will achieve this through institutional strengthening, implementation of practical adaptation measures, strengthening applications of weather and climate information and knowledge management and access to climate finance. Low carbon development and emission reduction will be achieved by enhancing ecosystem resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Aniwa Island, Vanuatu. Photo © Stuart Chape

Samoa holds first national climate finance forum

The first Samoa Climate Finance Forum was held in Apia and brought together key national government stakeholders, development partners, regional technical agencies, the private sector, civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations and stakeholders to collectively discuss issues, share lessons learnt and forge solutions to address challenges in climate finance.

The event was a week-long series of activities that focussed on highlighting and documenting Samoa's national climate change financing priorities and key challenges that constrain Samoa's ability to effectively implement national and regional climate change initiatives. A joint work plan was developed to address the priority actions that strengthen the resilience of key

stakeholders in government, private and community sectors.

Held in May, the forum helped to map priorities for climate finance support and strategies to address persistent issues faced by Samoa. The forum also took part in project planning with technical guidance provided by the following regional climate change projects: United States Agency for International

Development (USAID) Climate Ready; USAID and the Pacific Community (SPC) Institutional Strengthening in Pacific Island Countries to Adapt to Climate Change Project; and the Climate Change Finance Readiness for the Pacific Project supported by the Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

Samoa's first national climate forum.

What are some of your key challenges?



The Pacific journey to the UNFCCC COP23



H.E. Hilde Heine President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands presents during the Ocean Pathway Partnership launch at COP23.

Pacific island meetings to help prepare for the Twenty-Third Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework

to the Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP23) provided the platform for a united Pacific stance on a number of key negotiation issues. Supported by the Climate Analytics IMPACT Project, SPREP was able to

coordinate and lead a high-level negotiations workshop for the Pacific islands as part of the preparatory assistance. SPREP also led the development of a range of briefs to assist Pacific island countries in the lead up to the UNFCCC COP23.

At the event itself, presided over by Fiji, the very first time a Pacific island nation has led the global climate conference, the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) united to support Pacific delegations.

Dubbed the CROP-plus the support team was coordinated by SPREP in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), SPC, and the University of the South Pacific (USP), Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and GIZ.

Helping to bring the Pacific flavour to COP23, the Pacific islands were showcased through a traditional double-hulled Fijian Canoe on display to serve as a powerful symbol of resilience and unity. Flowers were distributed by SPREP and the Pacific Climate Change Warriors for delegates to wear to raise Pacific visibility and indicate their support for the Pacific islands, with the Pacific way of life demonstrated during the Talanoa Dialogues.

The UNFCCC COP23 was held in Bonn, Germany from 6–17 November 2017.

UNFCCC COP23 adopts gender action plan

COP23 agreed to a gender action plan aimed at increasing the participation of women in the United Nations Framework on the Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as promoting gender inclusiveness in climate change planning and projects.

Parties to the UNFCCC have recognised the importance of involving women and men

equally in UNFCCC processes and in the development and implementation of national climate policies that are gender-responsive.

Parties have established a dedicated agenda item under the Convention addressing issues of gender and climate change and have included overarching text in the Paris Agreement.

This COP decision will provide the impetus for further funding to be made available for practical work in the Pacific region.

SPREP promoted the Pacific Gender and Climate Change Toolkit in the lead up to the COP23, which was developed by a range of partners including SPREP and is available online.



New Meteorological Office established in Tokelau

SPREP through the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership presented meteorological instruments to assist with climate monitoring activities for Tokelau. The presentation of meteorological instruments followed a

request from Tokelau to help re-establish meteorological observations on the island.

The equipment included daily manual rain gauges, rain gauge measuring cylinders, Met06 Stevenson

screen including stand, and thermometer mounts and temperature modules.

Also presented were 10-year supplies of fieldbooks for weather and climatological observations, which will

allow Met officers to record and store climatological observations in line with New Zealand Meteorological Services standards and those of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

New Meteorological instruments presented to help re-establish Meteorological observations on the island. Photo SPREP/S.Seuseu

Tokelau supported with new equipment to help re-establish Meteorological observations.



Breakthrough in climate prediction modelling

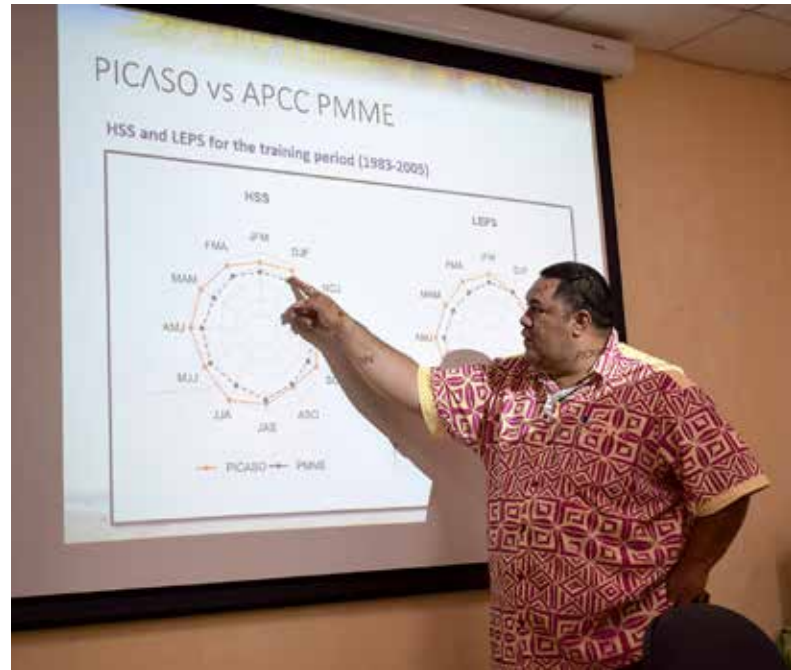
The Pacific Islands Countries Advanced Seasonal Outlook (PICASO) model was made available to Pacific Meteorological Services in 2017.

A team from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Climate Centre (APCC) in South Korea have been working with SPREP over the past three years to develop the model. APCC is the largest collector of climate models in the world.

Climate seasonal forecasting models from across the world

are electronically sent by APCC each month to a server located at SPREP, this information is then translated through the PICASO model to provide seasonal forecasts for each Pacific island.

The PICASO has overcome the deficiency in existing seasonal prediction models, particularly when trying to work around the ambiguity that the El Niño weather phenomenon presents to climate projects.



The PICASO model was made available to the Pacific Met Services. Photo SPREP/P.Malsale

“I think it’s one of the best systems that I have seen. I think it’s going to revolutionise the way we do things in weather forecasting in this region. It’s been very, very well done. I really look forward to seeing it work across the Pacific.”

Dr Andrew Tait, Chairman of the Pacific Islands Climate Services Panel

Sustainable Weather, Climate, Ocean and Water Services for a Resilient Pacific

The Fourth Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-4) and Second Pacific Meteorological Ministerial Meeting (PMMM-2) took place in August 2017 under the theme "Sustainable weather, climate, ocean and water services for a resilient Pacific".

The Council and Ministerial Meetings are an opportunity to strengthen Pacific Meteorological and Hydrological Services as they work toward the safety of Pacific people and their

properties as well as a more economically vibrant society.

Hosted by Solomon Islands, the conferences drew strong high-level representation from both regional and international organisations with over 170 participants attending the biannual event. The delegates undertook a stocktake of work in the region and formed goals to be achieved over the next two years.

It was the first Partners and Donors Roundtable

to be featured as part of the PMC-4 which saw National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS's) share priorities with donors and partners to seek support in accelerating weather and climate services in the region. Donors and partners who attended included representatives from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), DFAT, WMO, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and UNDP amongst others.

Samoa will host the Fifth Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-5) in 2019.



The Partners and Donors Roundtable event allowed for networking and strengthening partnerships through a range of activities.

Sustainable Weather, Climate, Ocean and Water Services for a Resilient Pacific was the theme of the PMC-4.

Solomon Islands hosted the PMC-4 and PMMM-2.

A Partners and Donors Roundtable was held during the PMC-4.





Training on how to use the tools took place in Suva, Fiji. Photo SPREP/B.Chan Ting

Pacific Climate Change Portal Decision Support Tools launched

The Climate Finance Navigator Tool and the Adaptation Planning Tool had a soft launch in 2017 at the Climate Finance Regional meeting in Fiji in July. The tools are complementary and provide guidance and relevant information to users in both effective adaptation planning and how to access climate finance in the Pacific region.

Training on the use of the tools was held in Suva, Fiji, and in Port Vila, Vanuatu, to ensure the Pacific Climate Change Portal and the tools were developed based on user needs and feedback, as well as to help build capacity among climate change practitioners.

The tools were also demonstrated at the PCCR

during the Pacific Resilience Week.

These tools were developed in consultation with stakeholders in Fiji, the Kingdom of Tonga and Vanuatu, with the support of the DFAT funded Pacific iCLIM project currently implemented by SPREP and Griffith University with support from GIZ.

Pacific Climate Change Portal Decision Support Tools.



Seasonal Climate Outlook tool used by the Pacific islands

Pacific climate officers of the National Meteorological Services underwent specialised training on the use of the Seasonal Climate Outlooks in Pacific Island Countries (SCOPIIC) tool.

SCOPIIC is a decision-making support tool that generates

seasonal outlooks for rainfall, temperature and other climate-related factors relevant to the Pacific region.

SCOPIIC aims to provide the Pacific islands with accessible, stand-alone seasonal climate prediction systems and was developed

by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology together with the NMHS's. The software uses a statistical method to determine forecast probabilities, based on historical data. It also provides graphics and texts to support the outlooks, including skill tests, hindcasts, data-browsing, statistical analyses,

scatter plots, and drought monitoring.

The training was supported by the Australian Aid funded Climate and Oceans Support Programme for the Pacific (COSPPac) project, which is jointly implemented by SPREP and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology.

The SCOPIIC helps generate seasonal outlooks for rainfall, temperature and other climate-related factors relevant to the Pacific region. Photo SPREP/C.Iacovino

Weather station in Abaiang, Kiribati. Photo SPREP/C.Iacovino





Environmental Monitoring and Governance

Strengthening the capacity of our Pacific island Members for environmental monitoring and governance is crucial to achieving sustainable development. One of SPREP's 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 goal is achieved through facilitating stronger legislation, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

These targeted capacity building activities also assist our members in mainstreaming environmental issues as well as in meeting their national environmental and sustainable development priorities.

EMG Partners with numerous Countries and Donors

In 2017, EMG had many successful partnerships with 14 Pacific island countries, UN Environment, Global Environmental Facility (GEF), and the European Union (EU). The EU African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States Multilateral Environmental Agreements 2 (ACP MEA 2) Project was instrumental in leveraging co-financing for the Inform project. Both ACP MEA 2 and the Inform

project complement each other, enabling EMG to jointly deliver on the projects' shared activities. Acknowledging the added value of working closely with partners, which is important to EMG to provide the necessary financial, technical and other resources to implement Pacific island Member priorities, EMG also works closely with key partner organisations. This work includes collaborating with

the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA) on protected areas, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) on marine bioregions, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) agency through the Biodiversity Management

in Pacific Island Countries (MACBIO) Project, the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO), and other organisations as discussed in this Annual Report section.

Through these collaborations with regional and international partners, research institutions, NGOs, and UN agencies, EMG achieves impacts for the coordination and facilitation of delivering monitoring and governance-specific outcomes.

Environmental Impact Assessment Coastal Tourism Guidelines

In 2017, the SPTO and SPREP partnered to endorse the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development for all 21 Member countries. The guidelines will help Pacific island environmental and tourism managers conduct EIAs and integrate environmental considerations for coastal developments related to tourism – one of the fastest-growing sectors for economic benefit in the region. This is the first time EIA guidelines have been integrated into a regional organisation's programme to support sustainable tourism in the Pacific islands region. The guidelines are needed because most tourism developments are in coastal areas, which are often within or close to areas of ecological significance. This complex mix of development pressures and conservation issues highlights the need for robust sustainable development and planning approaches, such as EIAs. The guidelines were endorsed at the Twenty-Eighth SPREP meeting (28SM) and will be implemented in collaboration with SPTO.



The EIA Coastal Tourism Guidelines will help conduct EIA's and integrate environmental considerations for coastal development related to tourism. Photo SPREP/C.Iacovino

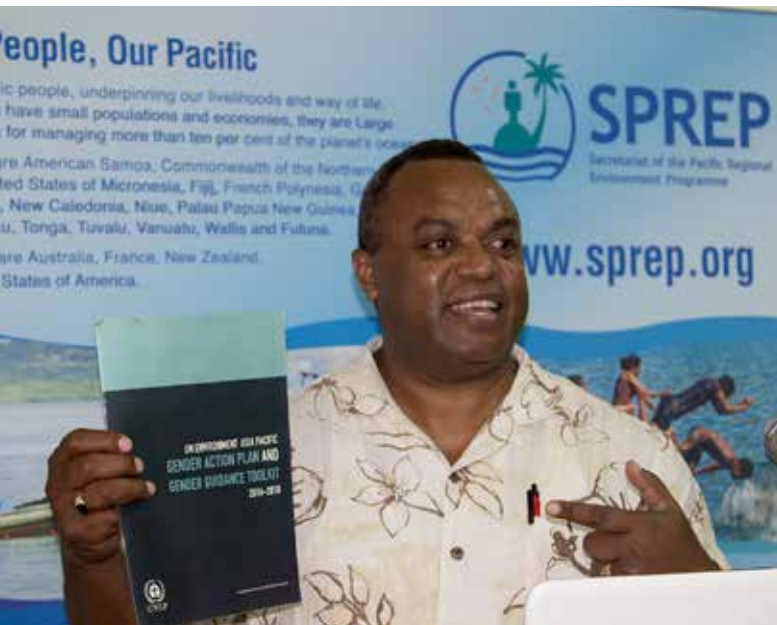
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Sustainable Development Goals Roadmap for the Pacific Islands



EMG represented SPREP on the Pacific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) taskforce, which developed the SDG Roadmap, endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders at its meeting held in September 2017 in Apia, Samoa. The taskforce stressed the importance of a country-led, open and inclusive process to identify a regional set of indicators that account for national priorities. The indicators would be used to jointly monitor the region's progress in meeting the SDGs' 2013 agenda, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities for Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, and other reporting requirements. This is in line with SPREP's work on environmental indicators and the State of Environment reporting process. The Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development and corresponding implementation strategy were prepared by the Pacific SDG taskforce to guide regional responses for achieving the 2030 SDG Agenda within the context of national plans, the SAMOA Pathway and the Framework.

Faleata Sports Complex and golf course, Upolu, Samoa 2009. Photo © Stuart Chape



Mr Jope Davetanivalu of SPREP presents on gender with the UN Environment Gender Toolkit. Photo SPREP/W.Isenhower

SPREP hosts Gender Mainstreaming Workshop

The UN Environment, in partnership with SPREP and the Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), designed and delivered a workshop to build the capacity of staff from SPREP, UN Environment, and the Samoa Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSO) to mainstream gender in environment and climate change work. The objectives of the workshop were to raise awareness on the importance and value of considering gender in environment and climate change projects; increase the capacity of Samoa Government Officials, SPREP and UN Environment staff on gender mainstreaming for environment and climate change programmes; and establish good partnerships and networks for ongoing gender mainstreaming efforts in policies and planning. The workshop in September in Samoa established that an understanding of gender roles, needs, capacities, and the vulnerability of communities and societies in relation to climate change and the environment is needed to plan sustainable, efficient and equitable programmes. The workshop also fostered closer networking and partnerships.

State of Environment Reporting

Governments in the Pacific have compiled environmental data and information in State of Environment (SoE) reports to assess current environmental conditions and plan the way forward for maintaining and improving the environment. In 2017, both the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the Cook Islands launched their SoE Reports at the SPREP Pacific Environment Forum, while Solomon Islands and Niue are in the process of developing their SoE Reports. These documents are useful for environment sector planning, such as with National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS) and National Sustainable Development Plans (NSDPs), as well as to reduce the reporting burden for international commitments, including the SDG's and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). The RMI SoE Report also was used to streamline the process of submitting the fifth national report to the Convention on Biodiversity. This SoE Report work in 2017 was supported under the ACP MEA 2 Project.



State of Environment Reports launched during the Pacific Environment Forum.

National Environmental Management Strategies Developed



Solomon Islands October 2017 State of Environment Reporting and National Environmental Management Strategies Workshop participants outside the venue. SPREP/W.Isenhower

The development of NEMS and their alignment to NSDPs, MEAs, SDGs and regional frameworks indicates national commitments to pursue sustainable development and support regional and global environmental agreements. In October 2017, a joint workshop to begin the 2018 Solomon Islands SoE Report and NEMS was hosted in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology. NEMS work, all supported by the ACP MEA 2 project, also commenced in Niue and RMI. Through the NEMS, governments can take a more holistic and integrated approach in mainstreaming and addressing environmental priorities across other relevant sectors and within overall national planning processes.



Inform Project launched with inception workshop.



Ms Katrina Solien, Infrastructure, Utilities and Convention Officer in Papua New Guinea and Mr Rontexstar Mogeror, Pollution Control Officer in Vanuatu discuss their key takeaways from the Inform Project Inception Workshop held in November 2017. Photo SPREP/W.Isenhower

Inform Project Launched with Inception Workshop

Helping the Pacific islands region make informed decisions for improving our environment is at the core of the GEF-UN Environment Project, Building National and Regional Capacity to Implement Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA) by Strengthening Planning, and State of Environment Assessment and Reporting in the Pacific. Also known as the Inform project, it will establish a network of national and regional databases for monitoring, evaluating and analysing environmental information to support environmental planning, forecasting and reporting requirements at all levels. The project, scheduled from 2017–2021, is the first time Pacific island countries are working to collect environmental information to house in national and regional databases.

The project launched with an inception workshop in Samoa in November. Attendees came from all 14 project partner countries: the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

“The focus of the project is very much on environmental information management and its use for informing planning and decision making, for reporting at the national and regional levels, and also for reporting to the global environmental conventions and environment-related indicators of the sustainable development goals.”

Mr Jochem Zoetelief, Portfolio and Task Manager of UN Environment

EMG Hosts the Pacific Island Environment Forum

EMG hosted the Pacific Islands Environment Forum with the theme of "Connecting the dots: environment, knowledge and governance". The forum, hosted before the 28SM, raised awareness on the important role environmental data plays in environmental governance through sharing experiences, case studies, achievements, tools, systems and processes, and lessons learnt. Session topics varied from data for strengthening environmental governance, mapping environmental priorities with Geographic Information Systems and spatial planning tools, and planning with nature at home.

The forum also discussed important issues to strengthen environmental monitoring and reporting, planning, assessment, and policy processes for improved environmental governance in the Pacific islands region. The forum was well attended by representatives of SPREP Member countries, NGOs, the private sector, development partners and academic institutions, including individual experts. The forum was first established in response to a longstanding member request for an informal setting to facilitate discussion amongst officials and other stakeholders on key environmental, technical and institutional issues.

Participants attending the field trip for the 2017 Pacific Environment Forum. The Samoa Planning and Urban Management Agency of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment organised the field trip to observe the Environmental Impact Assessment process through a proposed extension to the Vaisigano Bridge in Apia, Samoa. Photo SPREP/W.Isenhower

Kiribati takes the floor at the Pacific Environment Forum.



South-to-south Cooperation between CNMI and FSM takes place for EIA Capacity Building

A major outcome of SPREP's participation in the Twenty-Ninth Pacific Islands Environment Conference was the engagement of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Division of Environmental Quality to support SPREP in EIA trainings in FSM, specifically in Pohnpei in November and Kosrae in December. The workshops informed participants of the EIA process, raised participants' capacity to practically apply the EIA process, strengthened networking and monitoring systems for existing developments, and applied the EIA process to assist in planning and decision making on planned development. Participants reviewed both states' guidelines, with technical support and guidance from SPREP.

Marine Spatial Planning Workshop Hosted in Kiribati



On the water in Abaiang, Kiribati. Photo SPREP/C.Iacovino

The Kiribati Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) workshop, hosted in July, reviewed the MSP process with representatives from the Kiribati government and communities to strengthen the national and sub-national application of key MSP principles and tools. This review also assisted in the development of an MSP process and governance structure for Kiribati. A specific focus was made on opportunities to provide management options for the sustainable use of Kiribati's

ecosystems and species. The workshop demonstrated a process that can be easily adapted to meet the specific needs of communities and the government at any level of marine resource management.

The workshop enhanced the technical capacity and skills of participants on the use of open-source GIS and mobile applications for marine data collection to support MSP. The workshop was conducted under the MACBIO Project, which is jointly implemented by GIZ, SPREP and IUCN.

Hosted New Environmental Enforcement and Compliance Trainings

EMG hosted two training activities on Environmental Enforcement and Compliance in October in Suva, Fiji and Vailima, Samoa. The training enhanced participants' capacity, skills and confidence in investigating violations of environmental laws using the appropriate regulatory tools. They also explored the possibility of establishing a regional environmental enforcement network. The training was delivered in partnership with IUCN, BIOPAMA and the Australian Centre for Financial and Environmental Compliance, with participants coming from environmental ministries and

others with law enforcement responsibilities. The training was conducted in response to a need for environmental and law enforcement staff to use and enforce existing legislation to conserve biodiversity, protected areas and ecosystem services in Pacific island countries. The training also addressed the challenge of ensuring consistent compliance and effective enforcement of environmental and natural resources management policies and legislation in the region. Future training is expected to be held following the success of the Fiji and Samoa workshops.

"I've been fortunate to deliver this training in Fiji and now here in Samoa, and there's a lot of similarities with the officers and the keenness of those officers to get out and do a really good job."

Mr Rodney Warren, Senior Facilitator for the Australian Centre for Financial and Environmental Compliance



Two compliance inspectors record their interview with the owner of fishing gear suspected of illegal fishing during an EMG Compliance and Enforcement Training. Photo SPREP/C.Peteru



Waste Management and Pollution Control



Pollution and the growing volumes of solid and hazardous wastes are major threats to the environment 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. Consequently, these changing consumption patterns generate increased quantities of wastes which, if left unmanaged, increase the risk of coastal and marine pollution. The lack of controls on imported goods and the lack of national capacity for managing waste, chemicals and pollutants threaten to undermine the quality and health of vulnerable ecosystems on which Pacific people depend.

Improved waste and pollution management was a priority focus for SPREP in 2017. SPREP continued to assist countries through the provision of technical advice and institutional support as well as assistance in securing funding through regional programmes to deliver better practices.

Ship wreck, Lunnga River mouth, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. Photo © Stuart Chape.

PacWaste 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

A milestone meeting for a milestone project

The European Union funded Pacific Hazardous Waste Management Project, known as PacWaste, held its fifth and final steering committee meeting in May in Samoa bringing together representatives from 12 Pacific island countries, the European Union, representatives from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Pacific Community, University of the South Pacific and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

PacWaste continued to make the Pacific safer and cleaner through its four focus areas: asbestos, E-waste, healthcare waste and integrated atoll waste management.



“From 2013 to the present, PacWaste has helped to improve the regional and national management of asbestos, healthcare waste and E-waste as well as providing a model for integrated solid waste management.”

Ulu Bismarck Crawley, Chief Executive Officer of Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

THE STATE OF ASBESTOS IN THE PACIFIC

- 13** Number of Pacific island countries surveyed for asbestos by the PacWaste project.
- 187,891[±]** Quantity of confirmed non-residential asbestos identified in the survey. Of this, 82% was found in just four countries.
- 78%** Percentage of confirmed non-residential asbestos that poses a high or moderate risk to human health.
- 73** Number of proposed PacWaste interventions to remove asbestos materials and waste.
- 56** Number of countries that have banned asbestos globally.
- 0** Number of Pacific island countries where asbestos is banned.

The Pacific region has a serious, but unevenly distributed, asbestos problem. The risk of exposure is heightened by the incidence of natural disasters and extreme weather events, which can damage asbestos materials and release airborne fibres. Evidence is now available that building products that contain asbestos continue to be imported into the region.

Asbestos is a naturally occurring rock fibre that it is harmful to humans. When products containing asbestos are damaged or wear down over time, small fibres are released and become airborne. Breathing in asbestos fibres can cause a range of diseases including cancer. Globally, more than 100,000 people die each year from illnesses related to asbestos exposure. But until recently, there has been little information available about the prevalence of asbestos in the Pacific islands region. Following the recent completion of a regional asbestos baseline survey, detailed information about the location and relative risk of asbestos materials on 25 different islands across 13 Pacific island countries is now publicly available. The regional survey was undertaken by the PacWaste (Pacific Hazardous Waste Management) project – a €7.85 million, four year project funded by the European Union and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to improve regional hazardous waste management across the Pacific.

PacWaste PACIFIC HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT | **SPREP PROE** | **EUROPEAN UNION** | **World Health Organization**

Asbestos

At the Eighth Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (RC COP-8), one of the meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions held in Geneva, Switzerland from 24 April to 5 May, 2017, the Pacific island Parties comprising the Cook Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Samoa and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, spoke with one voice on the issue of asbestos.

In their statement, Pacific island nations highlighted the

low levels of awareness of the dangers posed by asbestos in the Pacific region and urged Convention delegates to include chrysotile asbestos on the Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention, which would mean it cannot be imported without prior informed consent. New

building materials containing chrysotile asbestos are currently being imported into the Pacific.

The RC COP-8 was unable to reach consensus on the listing of chrysotile asbestos on Annex III of the Convention.

“Pacific island Parties to the Rotterdam Convention want to know and need to know when materials containing chrysotile asbestos are coming into our islands so that we can take appropriate measures to protect our communities.”

Ms Lupe Matoto from the Kingdom of Tonga, representing the Pacific island Parties at the RC COP-8.



Pacific island delegates calling for a #Detox. Photo SPREP/A.Carvan

E-waste

Transforming E-waste into valuable E-scrap has been at the core of a joint initiative between the Cook Islands National Environment Service and Recycle Cook Islands Ltd. The initiative explored the financial viability of dismantling collected E-waste on the island in preparation for export and sale to wholesalers, who then negotiate for the best possible price.

In 2016 the scheme was launched with a free household E-waste collection across Rarotonga. Training supported by PacWaste taught a team how to safely strip and dismantle the collected E-waste into its component parts such as circuit boards, keyboards, metal cases and screens.

As the container used for export must be filled to

capacity with the E-scrap components, the initiative has also seen E-waste from the outer island of Mauke transported to Rarotonga on a returning barge to help fill the container.

This builds on existing experience with the Cook Islands to develop a financially sustainable model for E-waste collection and disposal.



E-waste work undertaken in the Cook Islands through PacWaste aims to develop a financially sustainable model for E-waste collection and disposal.

Atoll waste

A number of initiatives in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands are underway to address the waste challenges the atoll nation faces.

PacWaste supports a Used Lead Acid Battery buy-back scheme through which community members can take old batteries to a central site and be paid for them by weight.

Work to shift public attitudes towards waste is also happening through different activities, one of these being the Clean Schools Programme which conducts educational talks, participates in clean-ups and encourages schools

to submit an Action Plan for improving waste management on campus.

In March, 2017, the island nation also passed legislation bringing into effect a ban on plastic bags and Styrofoam.

“Our new legislation, in tandem with other waste management activities being implemented, is tackling the issue of waste at every available level.”

Ms Moriana Philip, Director of the Environment Protection Agency



A Used Lead Acid Battery buy-back scheme is underway in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands. Photo SPREP/T.Hartley



▲ Pacific high-level delegates advocating for a “future detoxified” L-R Mr Kosi Latu of SPREP, H.E Amatlain Kabua the Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the UN, and former Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga, Hon. Siaosi Sovaleni.
▶ #Detox my lagoon.
Photos: SPREP/A.Carvan



Working for a “a future detoxified”

The Pacific island Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions attended the joint Conference of the Parties in 2017. Known as the BRS Triple-COPs, the two week meeting comprised back-to-back running of the three conventions which, together, provide international guidance on the sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste. The theme of the meetings was “A future detoxified: sound management of chemicals and waste”.

The former Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga, Hon. Siaosi Sovaleni, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands Ambassador to the UN, H.E Amatlain Kabua, participated in the High-level Segment of the BRS Triple-COP.

The Cook Islands, Kiribati, Kingdom of Tonga, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Samoa participated in the BRS Triple-COPs held in Geneva, Switzerland from 24 April to 5 May, 2017.

SPREP represents the Pacific on the Global Partnership in Marine Litter



SPREP was recognised as the Pacific regional node for the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) coordinated by UN Environment, helping to minimise duplication of marine litter-related projects and foster partnerships as part of the framework of the Cleaner Pacific 2025. This initiative will lead to the development of an information clearinghouse for regional studies, ongoing projects and information on marine litter to be made available in 2018.

The GPML aims to reduce and enhance management of marine litter to protect human health and the world’s environment.

The GPML aims to reduce and enhance management of marine litter to protect human health and the world’s environment. Photo SPREP/L.Curry



Inaugural Rugby 7’s tournament in Fiji committed to a plastic-free event

Over 80 teams across Fiji participated in the very first Raka 7’s tournament, a plastic-free rugby 7’s event. Supported by SPREP the tournament showcased the impacts of plastic in our ocean and sought over 70 pledges from people committed to reducing their use of plastic. The event also organised a range of educational displays. Spectators were encouraged not to bring plastic with them but to use environmentally friendly alternatives such as reusable bags, and reusable drink bottles. Congratulations to the Ratu Filise 7’s Team winners of the first Raka 7’s title.

Pledges for better waste environment practices were made at the Raka 7’s tournament. Photo SPREP/E.Arsi

The Marist Seahawks, winners of the Women’s competition call for recycling, reusing and refusing. Photo SPREP/E.Arsi



Marine debris high on the 2017 agenda

The impact of marine debris on our ocean was the key focus of several high-level events in 2017. Marine debris is one of the most pressing ocean issues across the planet. A hundred years ago, plastics barely existed. Today, most marine debris is plastic. This threat harms wildlife, changes ecosystems, and can hurt humans as well. Plastics have been found in fish caught for food. Plastics have also been found in phytoplankton, which produce almost half of the oxygen we breathe.

The Clean Seas for a Cleaner Pacific event was held at the Pacific regional preparations

to the UN Ocean Conference in Fiji, highlighting the work undertaken from Solomon Islands through the Mataniko River Project, and in the Republic of the Marshall Islands through the banning of plastic bags and Styrofoam.

The issue was also featured during the National University of Samoa Science Conference 2017: Science and Technology for Sustainable Development. This highlighted the work of Pacific island countries gradually moving towards banning plastic bags following the continued discovery of plastics in marine wildlife.



A river boom was laid across the Mataniko River in 2015 as part of the river clean-up project. Photo SPREP/L.Curry

The Cape Town Agreement in the Pacific, making our ocean safer and healthier for all

The Cook Islands hosted a one week Pacific regional workshop helping to increase understanding and strengthen opportunities to ratify the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Safety of Fishing Vessels. This is yet to enter into force.

Studies by the International Labour Organization (ILO) point to at least 24,000 deaths of fishermen at sea each year. A global review conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) found a 49% increase

in marine species being entangled in, and ingesting, marine debris between 1997 and 2015.

The Cape Town Agreement will help to enhance the safety of fishermen and fishing vessels as well as address abandoned and lost fishing gear, which is a key threat to marine migratory species.

As of 2017, no Pacific island countries had ratified the Agreement, which required 15 more States to ratify it and bring it into force.

“It will work well for Papua New Guinea to ratify the Agreement, and will be beneficial for the industry as a whole. Fishing vessels are often found with poor safety standards and to ensure a better standard in line with the convention guide lines strict safety measures may be imposed. However, it all will depend on the stakeholder dialogue and their views on this.”

Capt. Naziful Hossain, Acting Executive Manager of Marine Operations in Papua New Guinea.

Support for countries to ratify the Agreement is on offer from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), SPREP and the Pacific Community (SPC).

The workshop was coordinated by SPREP, in partnership with the Government of the Cook Islands, IMO and SPC.

Mr Laurence Edwards, Legal Advisor of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority receives his certificate from Ms Amelia Fukoka of the Cook Islands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration.

The Cape Town Agreement in the Pacific Workshop participants.





Left: Delegates from Kingdom of Tonga attend the Waigani Meeting. Centre: Ninth Waigani Meeting participants support the Protect the Pacific Whale Campaign. Right: L–R: Mr Roger Cornforth, Mr Joseph Brider (Cook Islands, Chair of the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention), Dr Frank Griffin, SPREP.

Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention

The Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention) was held in Apia, Samoa.

The Parties to the Waigani Convention are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kingdom of Tonga, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Several key outcomes included the approval of the Waigani Convention draft work programme for 2018 and 2019 as well as the 2018–2019 Business Plan for the Pacific Regional Centre. The meeting also approved the development of a convention specific technical assistance programme.

Present at the Ninth Meeting were Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kingdom of Tonga, Kiribati, New Zealand, Samoa and Tuvalu. The Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention was held on 15 September, 2017.

SPREP Members make strong calls on waste at Twenty-Eighth SPREP Meeting

A PACIFIC WIDE BAN ON ASBESTOS



Asbestos rope lagging found during the PacWaste asbestos survey. Photo SPREP/E. Vanderburg

The Cook Islands presented a paper on the need for a Pacific wide ban on asbestos seeking endorsement and commitment from Members to develop and implement a Pacific wide ban on the importation, re-sale and re-use of products containing asbestos.

In 2013–14 the PacWaste project conducted the first Pacific Regional Asbestos Baseline Survey across 26 islands in 13 Pacific island countries. The results from the Regional Asbestos Baseline Survey concluded that over

USD 150 million would be needed to remove and replace all the asbestos identified in the locations surveyed, and that new asbestos materials are now being imported into the Pacific region, primarily from Asia.

The Twenty-Eighth SPREP Meeting (28SM) endorsed initiatives by countries to ban or restrict the importation, re-use and re-sale of products and wastes containing asbestos with the exception of importation for the purpose of safe disposal. The Secretariat

“It’s a fantastic outcome for the health and wellbeing of communities across the Pacific region, and an effective recognition of the work undertaken through PacWaste and planned for PacWaste Plus.”

Mr Christoph Wagner, Head of Cooperation at the European Union Delegation for the Pacific.

was directed to work with countries and territories to ban or restrict the importation, re-use and re-sale of products and wastes containing asbestos to be resourced through Cleaner Pacific 2025 and PacWaste Plus.

A CALL FOR ACTION ON PLASTIC MICROBEADS

France presented a paper seeking endorsement of the 28SM for a “Call for Action by SPREP Members” on plastic microbeads. These are tiny particles usually smaller than two millimetres most commonly used in personal

care products such as cleansers and exfoliants.

Each year at least eight million tonnes of plastic is leaked into our ocean. It is estimated that at least 51 trillion microplastic particles are already in our oceans with a recent study

showing that by 2015 an estimated 99% of birds will have ingested plastic.

Support was provided for the Call for Action with the 28SM endorsing the “Call for Action on plastic microbeads” in SPREP Member countries.



“Each of us can choose to avoid products that contain microbeads, often listed as polyethylene or polypropylene. It’s true we need global action to completely solve the problem, but we can start at home and Wallis et Futuna have banned plastic bags.”

Mrs. Falai Taofifenua, Deputy Director for the Environment, Wallis et Futuna

Memorandum of Cooperation for J-PRISM2 Project

SPREP and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) officially signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on the Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase II (J-PRISM II) in October, 2017.

The MOC sets out to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each party for the cooperative implementation of J-PRISM II regional project activities.

It also promotes mutual understanding of the project design and objective, facilitates exchange of information and achievements between both parties, and enhances SPREP's delivery of its solid waste management work programme.

J-PRISM II is a five year multi-million dollar project funded by JICA in partnership with SPREP. It follows on from the success of the J-PRISM project which concluded in September 2016. The project's overall goal is the sustainable management of solid waste in the Pacific region covering nine countries: Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kingdom of Tonga, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.



MOC for JPRISM II signed with SPREP.

Samoa on track to addressing waste issues

A two-day training workshop on Effective Scrap Metal Management for recyclers in Samoa led to the establishment of the Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association (SRWMA) consisting of businesses committed to recycling. Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Aiono Sialele Malielegaoi is Patron of the SRWMA.

The workshop was funded through a grant from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and

allowed for stakeholders to share experiences and good practices, as well as learn handling and management standards to ensure a more effective and safe process of recycling.

Over 70 containers of scrap metal is shipped out of Samoa each year which frees up significant space in the landfill.

The SRWMA was established with support from JPRISM II and SPREP, and aims to tackle items difficult to recycle such as plastics and glass.

“The Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association is the first of its kind in the Pacific island countries, and we hope it will be one step towards realising a Pacific Region Recycling Association.”

Mr Mahmoud Riad, 3R+Return JICA Expert at SPREP

A two day training workshop on Effective Scrap Metal Management for recyclers in Samoa.



Setting the scene for Tuvalu's EDF11 bilateral Waste Project

Tuvalu underwent a major review of the waste sector in 2017 to prepare itself for the Eleventh European Development Fund (EDF11) bilateral Waste Project totalling 6.85 million Euro. This included a progress review of the implementation of the Tuvalu Integrated Waste Policy and Action Plan from the time it was endorsed in July 2016 until December 2017.

Based on solutions to issues raised by key stakeholders, the

review of the Tuvalu Integrated Waste Policy and Action Plan found that a number of good interventions had taken place during the period which reflects Tuvalu's commitment to undertake reforms in the waste sector. These included the establishment of a centralised Recycling Station, development of a new Waste Management Act and Regulation, restructure of the Solid Waste Agency of

Tuvalu now the Department of Waste Management, a planned rehabilitation of the Funafuti Landfill, investigations of the outer island disposal sites, and the facilitation of a feasibility study on a Waste Levy.

The review also saw the prioritisation of issues allowing the Tuvalu Department of Waste Management (DWM) to programme activities through a more refined Action Plan.

Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association was established in 2017.



Corporate Services



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

Nu'ulua and Nu'utele Islands, Aleipata, Samoa. Photo © Stuart Chape

Communications and Outreach

As well as providing strategic support to projects and programmes within SPREP, the Communications 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.

SPREP in partnership with the Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Conservation International, Samoa Conservation Society and the Youth Climate Action network of Samoa carried out a number of outreach and awareness campaigns in Samoa to raise the awareness on the importance of sharks in the marine environment and the threats that have impacted their population. These saw special activities happen during the Lalomanu half marathon event and the International Alo Paopao canoe festival in which over 150 people pledged to protect sharks.

The "Pacific Voyage Campaigns" coordinated by SPREP led to a raised Pacific profile at three key international events in 2017. Support for the Pacific Voyage to Twelfth Conference of the Parties to the Conservation of Migratory Species, the United Nations Ocean Conference and the Twenty-Third Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, saw side events, exhibition booths, resources and news items shared, bringing a Pacific flavour to the meetings while

ensuring Pacific audiences were kept informed of Pacific activities happening at the events.

Media and communications support for key regional events of the Pacific including the Whales in a Changing Ocean Conference in the Kingdom of Tonga and the Pacific Resilience Week in Fiji saw several environmental training events take place in Tonga for media and information workers as well as the mentoring of a young Tongan journalist. A special session with media and information was held as part of communications activities for Pacific Resilience Week.

Regional media training held in Solomon Islands brought together 30 Pacific island journalists to learn about Meteorology in the Pacific and to provide media coverage on the Fourth Pacific Meteorological Council and the Second Pacific Meteorological Ministerial Meeting. Over 60 news items were developed and showcased across the Pacific region with support from Pacific media organisations. The media activity was a partnership between SPREP, the Climate and Ocean Support Program for the Pacific (COSPPac) funded by Australian Aid and the United Nations Development Programme Disaster Resilience for Pacific Small Islands Developing States Project.

Pacific regional media training before the PMC-4 and PMMM-2 in Solomon Islands.

The Pacific Voyage Campaign underway at the CMS COP12.



Finance and Administration: Fiscally sound and credible SPREP

SPREP's finance and administration section is responsible for managing funds efficiently and transparently through effective financial, risk management and audit systems, integrated with programme management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems. It looks after a wide variety of essential services ranging from financial reporting, procurement, funds management, travel, property and facilities maintenance and the overall financial management of the organisation.

During the year the Secretariat expended USD 3.7 million dollars and achieved income totalling USD 4.2 million – a net surplus for the period of USD 445,982 after factoring in net finance income and foreign exchange exposure, an increase in surplus relative to USD 346,898 in 2016 demonstrating continued improvement in financial performance for the Secretariat. SPREP's reserves, improved from a deficit of USD 443,762 in 2016, to be in credit of USD 5,123 as at 31 December 2017.

The on-going challenge for the Secretariat is to maintain a collective effort by Members and Executive Management to



SPREP's increasing portfolio now almost doubled to a budget of USD 29 million for 2018 and approximately USD 30 million for 2019.

rebuild the total reserves through a stable level of income whilst controlling costs. SPREP's increasing portfolio, now almost doubled to a budget of USD 29 million for 2018 and about USD 30 million for 2019, reaffirms the need for a strong and financially sustainable position. This will enable the Secretariat to support its regional and organisational goals and vision of a resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Human Resources: One Va'a, One Team Charting an onward course

The Human Resources team continues to provide strategic advice and planning on all HR matters to ensure the recruitment and retention of highest quality of staff at SPREP and that staff work in a performance oriented culture within a safe and healthy work environment.

The SPREP journey under its new Strategic Plan continued with the focus of the Staff Advance and other staff development workshops to develop and implement the new Performance Implementation Plan and the new Organisation Structure. Staff input and involvement in all key institutional arrangements for SPREP remain a significant requirement of SPREP policies, systems and procedures.

Efforts to respond to the diverse needs of our members and to capitalise on key funding opportunities led to the establishment of the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) and recruitment of its Manager and staff. SPREP continued to strengthen its partnerships and engagement with various institutions and it welcomed five Peace Corp Response Volunteers, two of whom helped to strengthen capacity of the PCU.

With the many challenges and pressures associated with the new Strategic Plan, institutional changes and growth of SPREP, staff performance remained high with 86% of staff performing at the "Fully Effective level and above" while 13% were On Track as new staff. Enhancing a high performing culture continues to be a priority for SPREP, which will review its Performance Development System in 2018.



SPREP staff commemorated for 25 years of service. L-R: Ms Monica Tupai, Ms Apiseta Eti, Ms Lupe Silulu, Mr Kosi Latu.

The HR Team of SPREP.



SPREP Advance in March, 2017.





SPREP's Information and Resource Centre offers plentiful resources and hosts school visits.

Information Resource Centre and Archives: Vessel of knowledge

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 through the virtual library catalogue or by visiting the campus at Vailima.

Over 6,000 resources related to Protected Areas are now available on the Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal (PIPAP)

with support from BIOPAMA who 'tagged' information available on the Pacific Environment Information Network Library repository. This will make it easier to search for protected areas information through the PIPAP.

Four school visits and tours were hosted by the SPREP Library and Resource Centre in 2017. The Centre also had over 1,000 visitors, students, Members and professionals who used the library as a learning centre as part of research. IRCA continues to help empower visitors and raise awareness of

environmental issues across the Pacific region.

An online information system to enhance the storage of SPREP's institutional knowledge was incorporated in SPREP. The Electronic Document and Records Management System helps to strengthen systems that support information and knowledge management, providing secure and robust IT solutions. This helps to meet the growth of SPREP since it was established in Samoa in 1993.

Social Media is a strong communications tool which



is being effectively used by SPREP to help enhance the awareness of environment issues. The organisation managed a YouTube Channel, Twitter Handle and Facebook page with over 62,000 followers. SPREP held a special session with the information officers of the Government of Tonga on the best practices of social media.



SPREP's Internal Audit

SPREP's governance function includes an Internal Audit unit comprising one Internal Auditor, which assists the Secretariat to strengthen and improve organisational governance, risk management monitoring, and internal controls.

The Chair of the Audit committee (AC) is Mr Tupuola Oloiali'i Koki Tuala and comprises Mr Mike Walsh, Deputy High Commissioner of New Zealand to Samoa;

Ms Amanda Jewel, Deputy High Commissioner of Australia to Samoa; Ms Rosita Matalavea, representing the Ministry of Finance of Samoa, and Mr Seiuli Aleta, Acting General Manager for the Tokelau Office of Apia.

The AC met four times in 2017 to monitor the financial performance of the Secretariat. It noted the positive result of SPREP in respect of total reserves is a reflection of the

hard work by the Secretariat to control expenditure in the core funding as well as managing its foreign exchange exposure. The AC also noted progress by the Secretariat to complete its risk register in the Project Management Information System.

Internal Audit advice was also provided to 2017 external audits.

SPREP's Internal audit committee.





The SPREP Information and Technology Team.



Commemorating Girls in ICT Day at SPREP.

Information and Communications Technology Walking the Talk at SPREP

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.

The COSPPac Climate Services tools were transitioned to SPREP with a successful transfer of technical support to the SPREP IT team from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. The Climate

Bulletin and Online Climate Outlook Forum is now hosted on the new Pacific Meteorological Desk and Partnership Portal developed and hosted at SPREP with technical support provided for Pacific Met Services. This will sustain the tools for SPREP Members beyond the life of the COSPPac Project.

Six SPREP Members have improved their meteorological services through ICT training delivered by the SPREP IT

team. This is the third year of training to help national met service officers to better understand the climate services software they are using.

Close to 20 young girls and women attended a special SPREP activity to support the Girls in ICT Day on 27 April. SPREP partnered with the Young Women's Christian Association of Samoa (YWCA) to host female students from Apia schools to share the linkages between environment

and Information and Communication Technology hoping to inspire career paths in these areas.

A staff member from the Tonga Meteorological Service spent two weeks with SPREP in 2017 as part of a work attachment funded by the Australian Aid COSPPac Project. This is part of an ongoing effort to help build the IT capacity of the Pacific Met Services, allowing for maintenance at the national level.



ANNUAL STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2017

Scope of responsibility

I as the Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP); I am accountable for maintaining a sound system of internal control as specified in Regulation 25 of the Financial Regulations. I also have responsibility for ensuring that funds are safeguarded and properly accounted for, and that they are used economically, efficiently and effectively.

Purpose of the system of internal control

Internal control is designed to reduce and manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve the Organisation's aims, objectives and related policies. Therefore, it can provide reasonable but not absolute assurance of effectiveness. It is based on an ongoing process designed to identify the principal risks, evaluate the nature and extent of those risks and manage them efficiently and effectively.

The key elements of the internal control environment include:

SPREP has an Internal Control Framework Guideline – that is based on the COSO model of internal control¹ which is the best known basis for understanding an Internal Control Framework (ICF) within an organisation. It sets out five inter-related components of internal control and 17 principles that are required in order to have an integrated and effective internal control system. For each of these components and principles the Guideline elaborates on the significant controls that are in place for SPREP.

Ensuring compliance with established policies and procedures – SPREP has Financial Regulations that were last amended by the SPREP Meeting in 2012, an updated Financial Procedures Manual 2017 and Financial Delegations, which together with a comprehensive framework of human resources regulations and policies are reviewed at regular intervals. These arrangements promote compliance with norms and best practices in order to ensure that member funds are properly safeguarded and are used economically, efficiently and effectively and in accordance with the authority which governs their use.

Organisational Values and Code of Conduct – The principles which must be respected by all staff are stated explicitly in the SPREP's Organisational Values and Code of Conduct that is widely displayed in the SPREP campus. This is supplemented by a Fraud Prevention & Whistle-blower Protection Manual Policy and provisions in the SPREP Procurement Manual. The Internal Auditor is tasked with overseeing and coordinating the investigations of all allegations.

Financial Management – The Financial and Administrative Advisor is responsible for the accounting and has staff for record keeping, financial reporting, procurement and project accounting.

There is adequate segregation of critical duties and the Financial Delegation ensures that commitments are made by authorized staff. SPREP staff uses an enterprise software solution called Tech One which has been in operation since 2014. It produces the data for the financial statements that are prepared in accordance with International Financial reporting Standards (IFRS) and Internal Auditing Standards (IAS). The system also produces the budget, facilitates the procurement and bank reconciliations. The system is now linked to the project management information system (PMIS).

¹ Committee of Sponsoring Organisations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) Internal Control – Integrated Framework, May 2013

Risk Management – SPREP initiated in 2011 a risk management plan and updated this in 2014 and more frequent updates are anticipated and will be linked to the SPREP’s new Strategic Plan and to the projects and programmes managed by SPREP. A SPREP revised Risk Management policy was approved in December 2016 and includes a Risk Committee terms of reference that is chaired by the Deputy Director General and a monitoring task by the Audit Committee. SPREP’s approach to risk management is an integral and systematic process that is identifying, mitigating, monitoring and communicating top risk events to the Organisation.

Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Control

I as the Director General have the responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review is informed amongst others by the following sources.

External Audit – the external auditor provides an annual certification of the financial statements that are in accordance with IAS which guarantees a high degree of transparency. In the 2017 annual management letter, the External Auditors highlighted significant areas of risks and provided recommendations for improvements.

Audit Committee – The Audit Committee has five independent experts and is complemented by the TROIKA members consisting of the past, current and future Chair of the SPREP Meeting. It advises the Director-General on the effectiveness of: the integrity of the Secretariat’s financial operations and statements; whether operations are conducted within an adequate internal control framework; whether there is compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; the effectiveness of the performance of the external and internal audit functions; whether corporate and project risks, including procurement, are adequately considered and managed; and whether there is an effective fraud prevention system.

Internal Audit Function – An Independent Internal Audit function has been in place since 2012. The Head is functionally responsible to the Audit Committee and reports to the Director General on operational matters. This area was also highlighted in the management letter in 2017 for strengthening in terms of human resources capacity. The Secretariat in its new organisation structure has factored an additional position to support this function and is part of an organisation wide prioritized list of positions which will require funding.

Accreditation – SPREP is accredited to implement projects for the Adaptation Fund and for the Green Climate Fund. The accreditation exercise involved a detailed study of SPREP’s fiduciary and project management capabilities as well as of its social, environmental, fraud prevention abilities.

Both accreditations demonstrate that SPREP has a strong and effective internal control framework. Through the Medium Size-project (MSP) support from UNDP, SPREP has gone through a change management process which has enabled it to further strengthen and enhance its internal processes and policies in compliance with the requirements of the GEF. Training for staff has been completed and these new policies and processes are now being rolled out and incorporated as part of business as usual for SPREP. SPREP will undergo a fast track re-accreditation process with the Adaptation Fund sometime this year, and is also progressing a GCF upgrade to ESS Category B projects.

Based on these sources, I consider that the internal controls listed above and further elaborated upon in the SPREP Internal Control Framework are adequate for SPREP to carry out its core functions and operate effectively. Improvements needed and identified in this framework are being addressed, as SPREP prepares to serve its members under the new Strategic Plan 2017–2026.



Leota Kosi Latu
Director General
Apia Samoa

Date: 9th April 2018

Introduction

The Audit Committee submit this Statement of Internal Control for the financial year 2017 in compliance with SPREP's Governance Policy and resolutions of SPREP Members.

The Audit Committee operated according to SPREP's Governance Policy that is elaborated upon in the Audit Committee Charter. Together both documents give adequate and clear guidance as mandate for the work of the Audit Committee.

Composition of the 2017 Audit Committee

For the financial year 2017 the Audit Committee consisted of the following members:

Chairman	Mr. Tupuola Oloialii Koki Tuala, Koki Tuala Chartered Accountant Firm (KTCA)
Member	Mr. Mike Walsh, Deputy High Commissioner, New Zealand High Commission
Member	Mr. Seiuli Aleta, Acting General Manager of the Tokelau Office, Apia
Member	Ms Amanda Jewell, Deputy High Commissioner, Australia High Commission
Member	Mrs. Rosita Matalavea, ACEO Ministry of Finance, Samoa

The following TROIKA members were present at the Audit Committee meeting on the 11th of April 2017:

TROIKA members	Ms. Gwendalyn Sisor, Senior Projects Manager, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism
	H.E. David Nicholson, High Commissioner, New Zealand High Commission
	Mr. Michael Appleton, Manager and Unit Manager for the Pacific Regional institutions, Pacific Regional Division, MFAT
	Dr. Josie M.M.M. Tamate, Director-General, Ministry of Natural Resources, Government of Niue

Audit Committee Meetings in 2017

The Audit Committee is required to meet at least three times per financial year and in 2017 the Audit Committee met four (4) times in March; April, August; and November 2017. The special meeting in November focused on the financial results for the year, review of the outcome in relation to the recommendations presented to Management in the beginning of the year; and determined the appropriate actions for improvement of the financial position of SPREP moving forward. The outcomes of the November meeting were crucial to the final audited results for the year 2017 and have been fully implemented by the end of the first quarter of 2018.

Effectiveness of Internal Control

The Audit Committee has reviewed the Statement signed by Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP. The information is consistent with the documents and reports reviewed and the presentations made to the Audit Committee. During February 2017 the following Policies, Charters; and Guideline Manuals were endorsed by Senior Management and implemented which contributed to a strong internal control framework:

- Audit Committee Charter
- Child Protection
- Cost Recovery Procedures
- Environment and Social Safeguards Management Systems
- Financial Procedures Manual
- Foreign Exchange Policy and Operational Guide

- Fraud Prevention and Whistle-blower Manual
- Gender Policy
- Governance Policy
- Grant Mechanism Procedures
- Guidance Note on Implementing and Executing Functions
- Internal Audit Charter
- Internal Control Framework Guideline
- Procurement policy
- SPREP Risk Management Manual
- SPREP Travel Policy
- SPREP Sub-Delegation Guidance Note
- SPREP Operations Manual

Nevertheless, the Audit Committee wishes to underline the importance of the following matters:

- Having an appropriate accounting software system for efficient reporting compliance, an up to date and continuous risk management system that has a strong focus on operations including projects and programmes. The Secretariat has developed the project management Information System (PMIS) to further enhance project monitoring and reporting.
- The Internal Audit Function to focus on the core tasks of carrying out internal audit assignments so that its annual audit program is completed. In 2017 the number of key tasks was restricted to two audits that were rolled over to 2017 and were completed in the first quarter; one investigation and additional three project audits were completed which affected completion of other planned Audits. Two of those audits continued to the first quarter for 2018. The challenge remains in the human resources capacity due to the available financial resources in the core funding for the Secretariat.
- The Secretariat is continuing its excellent efforts to improve the overall financial position of SPREP by actively implementing measures; in controlling operating costs and foreign exchange fluctuations as well as exploring possible opportunities to increase revenues. The Foreign Exchange Exposure has been reduced from USD\$ 98,258 in 2016 to USD\$15,245 in 2017. A net surplus of USD\$445,982 in 2017 has resulted in a positive balance USD\$ 5,123 in 2017 at year end for the total reserves account. This is a substantial improvement in terms of the Secretariat eliminating the negative total reserves that existed over the past three years.
- The Secretariat will continue to prioritise a review of SPREP's core revenue base and other possible income options for the short and long term future of SPREP. The Secretariat will also continue to build up the total reserves from the positive results of 2017.
- Making greater use of the reporting module of the Tech One enterprise software by Finance and project Officers.

Financial Statements for 2017

The Audit Committee is satisfied with the content and quality of the internal quarterly statements and the project statements prepared and issued by the Financial and Administration Advisor and the Finance Team relating to the financial year 2017.

The Audit Committee has discussed the 2017 audited financial statements and the relevant accounting policies with the Finance and Administration Advisor and the External Auditors, KPMG. It also reviewed the report of the external auditor on the financial statements and the related management letter.

On this basis the Audit Committee concludes that the 2017 audited financial statements and the audit opinion by the external auditor be accepted by the SPREP members.

This **Statement of Internal Control for the Financial Year 2017** is submitted for the consideration and approval by the SPREP members.



Tupuola Oloialii Koki Tuala
Chairman of the Audit Committee

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Executive Management's Report For the year ended 31 December 2017

The Executive Management present the annual report together with the financial statements of the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2017 as set out on the following pages and auditors' independent report thereon in accordance with the Secretariat's Financial Regulations.

Executive Management:

The Executive Management in office as at the date of this report are:

Leota Kosi Latu – Director General
Roger Cornforth – Deputy Director General
Stuart Chape – Director, Biodiversity & Ecosystem Management
Vicki Hall – Director, Waste Management & Pollution Control
Easter Galuvao – Director, Environmental Monitoring & Governance
Clark Peteru – Legal Adviser
Simeamativa Vaai – Human Resource Adviser
Petra Chan Tung – Finance & Administration Adviser

Principal Activity:

The purposes of SPREP is to promote co-operation in the Pacific region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.

Operating Results:

We are pleased to present the following operating results of the Secretariat for the financial year as at 31 December 2017:

- During the year the Secretariat expended US\$3.7 million dollars compared to expenditure of US\$3.3 million in 2016. Although this is an increase of US\$400,000, it is actually less than the budget for 2017 expenditure of US\$4.2 million dollars which was evidence of active controls by management which resulted in cost savings for the period.
- The net surplus for the period was \$445,982, which was an increase compared to the net surplus of \$346,898 in 2016.
- Foreign exchange exposure continues to be controlled and minimized as evident from the reduction in foreign exchange losses from (US\$98,258) in 2016 to (US\$15,245) in 2017.
- As a result of the net surplus of US\$445,982, the negative balance in Total Reserves was resolved from a negative balance of US\$443,762 in 2016 to a positive balance at year end of US\$5,123 in 2017 which is a noticeable improvement.
- Management recognizes that there is still a need to maintain sustainability of funding with a view to rebuilding reserve funds and avoiding any further deficient positions in the future to ensure a strong financial position for the Secretariat moving forward.
- The challenge remains for the Secretariat to ensure a collective effort by Members and Executive Management to rebuild the Total Reserves. Hence, the Secretariat must focus on areas of generating sufficient funds from both Member Countries and Donors to resolve this issue over reserves as well as control costs, and thus strengthen the overall financial position and sustainability of SPREP in the long term.

**Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
Executive Management's Report
For the year ended 31 December 2017**

Responsibility for Financial Reporting and State of Affairs

The accompanying financial statements are the responsibility of management. The financial statements have been prepared according to International Financial Reporting Standards and include amounts based on management's best estimates and judgments.

Management has established and had been maintaining accounting and internal control systems which include clearly stated policies and procedures. These systems are designed to provide reasonable assurance that our financial records are reliable and form a proper basis for the timely and accurate preparation of financial statements, and that our assets are properly safeguarded.

SPREP Members oversee management's responsibilities for financial reporting. The financial statements have been reviewed and approved by the SPREP Members on recommendation from management.

Our independent auditors (KPMG, Fiji), having been appointed by the SPREP Members, have audited our financial statements. The accompanying independent auditors' report outlines the scope of their examination and their opinion.

In our opinion:

- a. The accompanying statement of comprehensive income is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results of the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2017;
- b. The accompanying statement of financial position is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of the Secretariat's affairs as at 31 December 2017;
- c. The accompanying statement of movement in reserves is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the movement of funds and reserves of the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2017; and
- d. The accompanying statement of cash flows is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the cash flows for the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2017.

We are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorize the attached financial statements for issue on behalf of the Executive Management of the Secretariat.



Kosi Latu
Director General



Roger Cornforth
Deputy Director General

29th March 2018

AUDITOR'S REPORT



Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme ("the Secretariat"), which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2017, and Core Fund Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Funds and Reserves, and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes as set out in notes 1 to 21.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Secretariat as at 31 December 2017 and of its financial performance, its changes in equity and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Secretariat in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) and the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Members and Management

Members and Management are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and for such internal control as Members and management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making estimates that are reasonable in their circumstance.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Secretariat's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Secretariat or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Members are responsible for overseeing the Secretariat's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Secretariat's internal control;



Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (continued)

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements (continued)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (continued)

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management;
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Secretariat's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Secretariat to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.


We communicate with Members and management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

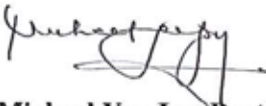
Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

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.

In our opinion:

- i) proper books of account have been kept by the Secretariat sufficient to enable financial statements to be prepared, so far as it appears from our examination of those books; and
- ii) to the best of our knowledge and according to the information and explanations given to us the financial statements give the information required by the Secretariat's Financial Regulation in the manner so required.


KPMG
29 March, 2018
Suva, Fiji


Michael Yee Joy, Partner

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2017

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Core Fund Statement of Comprehensive Income For the year ended 31 December 2017

		USD 2017	USD 2016
Income		\$	\$
Member contributions	5	1,350,062	1,005,105
Programme management charges	20	1,227,455	953,541
Other donor fund income	6	1,322,651	1,519,341
Amortisation of deferred income		124,628	83,275
Other income	7	147,274	191,218
Total income		4,172,070	3,752,480
Expenses			
Advertisements		29,067	13,919
Consultancies		29,599	23,731
Depreciation and amortisation expense	12/13	252,702	253,961
Donation & Sponsorship		35,914	250
Electricity & Water		65,446	77,683
Freight and Postal Expenses		8,684	2,410
Insurance		89,618	107,309
Licences & Registration		28,084	3,554
Printing, Stationery and Office Supplies		75,064	81,309
Professional Services		91,209	132,117
Program Support Costs		71,795	24,589
Repairs & Maintenance		17,567	20,429
Salaries and wages		2,231,537	1,855,197
Superannuation expense		155,720	111,312
Other employee expenses		153,537	150,691
SPREP Meeting		94,640	139,348
Telephone and Internet		91,772	87,845
Travel		95,971	141,082
Workshops & Trainings		38,782	77,909
Other Expenses		67,906	10,238
Total expenses		3,724,613	3,314,881
Surplus / (Deficit) before net finance income and foreign exchange		447,456	437,599
Net finance income	10	13,771	7,558
Foreign exchange gain/(loss)		(15,245)	(98,258)
Net Surplus		445,982	346,898

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the above financial statement.

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2017

	Notes	USD 2017 \$	USD 2016 \$
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property and equipment	12	2,936,529	3,085,988
Intangible assets	13	187,547	281,322
Total non-current assets		3,124,076	3,367,310
Current assets			
Cash at bank and on hand	14	6,935,388	7,285,880
Term deposits	15	6,678	6,366
Receivables and prepayments	16	61,887	13,532
Total current assets		7,003,953	7,305,777
TOTAL ASSETS		10,128,029	10,673,088
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES			
Reserves			
Core funds		(684,065)	(1,130,047)
General		501,425	501,425
Specific fund	17	187,763	184,860
Total reserves		5,123	(443,762)
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred income	8	2,667,341	2,790,846
Total non-current liabilities		2,667,341	2,790,846
Current liabilities			
Programme/Donor funds	20	4,857,807	7,296,887
Payables and accruals	19	725,783	169,815
Provision for employee entitlements	18	789,823	776,026
Deferred income	8	82,151	83,275
Income received in advance	9	1,000,000	-
Total current liabilities		7,455,565	8,326,003
TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES		10,128,029	10,673,088

Signed on behalf of the SPREP Members



Kosi Latu
Director General



Roger Cornforth
Deputy Director General

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the above financial statement.

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
Statement of Changes in Funds and Reserves
For the year ended 31 December 2017

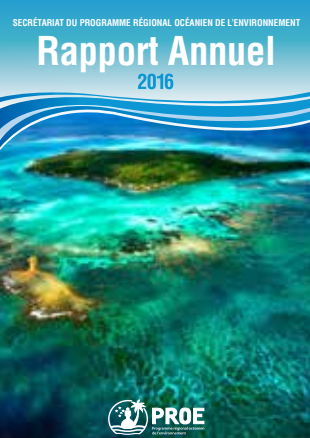
	Core fund	General reserve	Specific reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1st January 2016	<u>(1,501,343)</u>	<u>501,425</u>	<u>221,806</u>	<u>(778,112)</u>
Net surplus for the year	346,898	-	-	346,898
Reserves used during the year	-	-	(36,946)	(36,946)
Add: Prior Period Adjustment	24,398			24,398
Balance at 31st December 2016	<u>(1,130,047)</u>	<u>501,425</u>	<u>184,860</u>	<u>(443,762)</u>
Balance at 1st January 2017	(1,130,047)	501,425	184,860	(443,762)
Net surplus for the year	445,982	-	-	445,982
Reserves during the year	-	-	2,903	2,903
Balance at 31 December 2017	<u>(684,065)</u>	<u>501,425</u>	<u>187,763</u>	<u>5,123</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the above financial statement.

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 31 December 2017

		2017	2016
	Notes	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Member contributions		1,350,062	1,005,105
Interest received		15,383	22,158
Non programme donor funds received	6	1,322,651	1,519,341
Other receipts		98,919	229,739
Personnel costs - Corporate Services		(2,352,563)	(2,210,629)
Corporate Services costs		479,226	(1,085,521)
Programme Expenditure		<u>(1,242,047)</u>	<u>2,767,816</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities		<u>(328,369)</u>	<u>2,248,008</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Reserves used during the year		2,903	(36,946)
Purchase of property and equipment	12	<u>(9,468)</u>	<u>(91,175)</u>
Net cashflows for investing activities		<u>(6,565)</u>	<u>(128,121)</u>
Net change in cash held		(334,935)	2,119,887
Cash at beginning of the year		7,292,246	5,270,617
Effects of foreign exchange		<u>(15,245)</u>	<u>(98,258)</u>
Ending cash balances	14	<u>6,942,066</u>	<u>7,292,246</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the above financial statement.



Publications 2017

TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	PAGES	TECHNICAL REPORTS cont.		
TECHNICAL REPORTS			TECHNICAL REPORTS cont.		
Comparative investigations of combustion emissions from paper briquettes	978-982-04-0597-4 (print) 978-982-04-0598-1 (e-copy) https://bit.ly/2onv1qL	18 p.	The PNG-METT: a method for assessing effectiveness in Papua New Guinea's protected areas	978-982-04-0725-1 (print) 978-982-04-0726-8 (e-copy) https://bit.ly/2LkBA0c	44 p.
Cost benefit analysis of coastal zone management in Kosrae	http://bit.ly/2u3ErDQ	62 p.	The Republic of the Marshall Islands: State of Environment Report 2016	978-982-04-0619-3 (print) 978-982-04-0620-9 (e-copy) https://bit.ly/2wqj0vC	160 p.
Funafuti green waste management program: risk management assessment	http://bit.ly/2Kudkga	6 p.	Tuvalu community biogas project: risk matrix assessment	http://bit.ly/2iVJvjm	6 p.
Green waste management in Funafuti: cost-benefit analysis report	http://bit.ly/2Nnm1Xr	46 p.	Use of biogas as an alternative energy source in Tuvalu: preliminary cost-benefit analysis report	http://bit.ly/2KI6DTJ	42 p.
Improving the effectiveness of overseas development assistance in Kosrae: cost benefit analysis workplan tool	http://bit.ly/2iVbZAm	14 p.			
Improving the effectiveness of overseas development assistance in Tuvalu: guidance note for assessing and appraising policy risk	http://bit.ly/2NIDEXE	24 p.	SERIES		
Improving the effectiveness of overseas development assistance in Tuvalu: guidance note for developing a monitoring and evaluation framework	http://bit.ly/2KutKp1	32 p.	Climate Change Matters (Issues 52–61)	2227-6947 http://bit.ly/2KAiIPv	11 p.
Monitoring and evaluation framework for green waste management in Funafuti, Tuvalu	http://bit.ly/2iSkLin	50 p.	PacWaste News (Issues 6–7)	http://bit.ly/20qPJeE http://bit.ly/2AIVDiZ	4 p. 4 p.
Monitoring and evaluation framework for the Tuvalu community biogas project	http://bit.ly/2MG5WVC	30 p.	Rapport annuel du PROE 2016	1990-3561 https://bit.ly/2fUSeq0	70 p.
Monitoring and evaluation framework for the Malem-Utwe inland road and relocation initiative	http://bit.ly/2u2z2bjK	34 p.	SPREP Annual Report 2016	1562-675X https://bit.ly/2y2yCIRw	70 p.
Pacific Islands Meteorological Services in Action: a compendium of climate services case studies	978-982-04-0633-9 (print) 978-982-04-0634-6 (e-copy) https://bit.ly/2o4EjQ7	110 p.	SPREP Tok (Issues 31–40)	2311-861X http://bit.ly/1cMbbGT	4 p.
Pacific Islands whales in a changing climate	978-982-04-0789-3 http://bit.ly/2MqoXY3	20 p.	Vox Pops (Issue 2)	2414-5092 http://bit.ly/2o2HRS4	4 p.
PROE Plan Strategique 2017–2026	978-982-04-0664-3 (print) 978-982-04-0665-0 (e-copy) https://bit.ly/2Lhyh9W	30 p.	MEETING REPORTS		
Reforcement des études d'impact environnemental: directives pour les États et Territoires insulaires océaniques	978-982-04-0658-2 (print) 978-982-04-0659-9 (e-copy) https://bit.ly/2iP0tnB	72 p.	Report of the Twenty Eighth (28 th) SPREP Meeting, 19–21 September 2017, Apia, Samoa	978-982-04-0745-9 (print) 978-982-04-0746-6 (e-copy) https://bit.ly/2sxhrwX	68 p.
State of Environment Report Guidelines	978-982-04-0729-9 (print) 978-982-04-0730-5 (e-copy) https://bit.ly/2Jgut8B	6 p.	Rapport de la 28 th Conférence des représentants vint-huitième officiels du PROE 19–21 Septembre, 2017, Apia, Samoa	978-982-04-0745 (print) 978-982-04-0746-6 (e-copy) https://bit.ly/2JgDghb	68 p.
State of Conservation in Nauru: country report	978-982-04-0621 (print) 978-982-04-0622-3 (e-copy) https://bit.ly/2kRW8Ch	62 p.	First Pacific Ministerial meeting on Meteorology and Third meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council: report of proceedings and outcomes, 20–24 July 2015	978-982-04-0668-1 (print) 978-982-04-0669-8 (e-copy) https://bit.ly/2JjDoWN	92 p.
State of Conservation in Fiji: country report 2013	978-982-04-0631-5 (print) 978-982-04-0632-2 (e-copy) https://bit.ly/2kPN8NT	86 p.	Second meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-2), 1–5 July, 2013	978-982-04-0670-4 (print) 978-982-04-0671-1 (e-copy) https://bit.ly/2Ja4zr8	50 p.
SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026	978-982-04-0660-5 (print) 978-982-04-0661-2 (e-copy) https://bit.ly/2qhlhqa	30 p.	FACT SHEETS		
			Blue carbon: carbon capture by Pacific marine ecosystems	http://bit.ly/2iDYdIB	2 p.
			Climate and weather hazards: Pacific Island and ocean perspective	http://bit.ly/2lRXEF	2 p.
			Climate change, carbon emissions and the ocean	http://bit.ly/2iKKsVR	2 p.
			Creating a community based organization: organising your community for conservation	http://bit.ly/2Kzb8Uy	4 p.



FACT SHEETS *cont.*

How to protect areas on your land and sea under the Protected Areas Act 2010 (Solomon Islands)	http://bit.ly/2KP7v7i	4 p.
Marine debris, microplastics and pollution	http://bit.ly/2MvFHqG	2 p.
Mercury (Hg) in Pacific Ocean Ecosystems	http://bit.ly/2lwAexJ	2 p.
Ocean acidification in the Pacific	http://bit.ly/2N5FXhA	2 p.
Our Ocean, Our Pacific, Our Islands: SPREP working with Members and partners for Sustainable Development Goal 14	http://bit.ly/2NsZc4v	4 p.
Pacific coastal and marine development	http://bit.ly/2lBY3iV	2 p.
Pacific deep-sea mineral activities	http://bit.ly/2MstNOp	2 p.
Pacific fisheries: general overview	http://bit.ly/2Kl5AXP	2 p.
Pacific islands meteorology strategy (PIMS) 2017–2026	http://bit.ly/2lSW5Xl	4 p.
Pacific Islands and sea-level rise	http://bit.ly/2MvzV80	2 p.
Pacific marine and coastal tourism	http://bit.ly/2lJ4Sjy	2 p.
Pacific biodiversity, including marine and coastal life	http://bit.ly/2KlXXHy	2 p.
Pacific coastal wetlands: marshes, mangroves, seagrasses, coral reefs	http://bit.ly/2lBOJAR	2 p.
Pacific coral reefs	http://bit.ly/2KlJBU	2 p.
Pacific Ecosystem-based management (EBM) and adaptation (EbA)	http://bit.ly/2lAasmq	2 p.
Pacific environmental impact assessments	http://bit.ly/2KqP6CQ	2 p.
Pacific marine invasive species	http://bit.ly/2MzuK1X	2 p.
Pacific marine knowledge and research	http://bit.ly/2Kl8dJb	2 p.
Pacific marine managed areas (MMAs)	http://bit.ly/2KpMK7b	2 p.
Pacific renewable energy (RE) including marine energy key points	http://bit.ly/2lAu5fn	2 p.
Pacific roadmap for strengthened climate services	http://bit.ly/2lV3bdM	4 p.
Pacific women in meteorology: Samoa	http://bit.ly/2z8lvZn	5 p.
Protection and management of underwater cultural heritage (UCH) for sustainable development in the Pacific	http://bit.ly/2lAHYTW	2 p.
Protecting Pacific environments from pollution	https://bit.ly/2LirM6X	2 p.
Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in the Pacific	http://bit.ly/2MwHQTp	2 p.
Sustainable Pacific shipping: environmental considerations	http://bit.ly/2yR2Q52	2 p.
Temperature and the Pacific ocean	http://bit.ly/2lB1fwD	2 p.
The minerals rights acquisition process for landowners	http://bit.ly/2u5Tlsv	6 p.
The timber rights acquisition process for resource owners	http://bit.ly/2KvBOpf	4 p.
Threatened, mobile and migratory species in the Pacific	http://bit.ly/2N1ZNIU	2 p.
Valuing the ocean: Pacific blue economy	http://bit.ly/2lGv4pY	2 p.

BROCHURES

Ceinture bleue de biodiversité du Pacifique	http://bit.ly/2z83F9G	2 p.
Pacific biodiversity blue belt project	http://bit.ly/2KOPTdJ	2 p.

VIDEOS

Climate change in the Pacific	https://bit.ly/2LobABf
Dr. Wendy Watson-Wright speaking at the “Healers of Our Ocean” event.	https://bit.ly/2JhFuGL
Examining our Environment through Data for Decision-Making	https://bit.ly/2HjeaWE
Highlights from the “Healers of Our Ocean” event	https://bit.ly/2HKVcPp
Hon. Karolina Skog speaking at “Healers of Our Ocean” event	https://bit.ly/2lVyeln
Ms. Cristelle Pratt speaking at “Healers of Our Ocean” event	https://bit.ly/2HmXn4W
Ms. Tarusila Veibi–Ratu speaking at “Healers of Our Ocean” event	https://bit.ly/2K0igxh
Ms. Rindah Melsen speaking at the “Healers of Our Ocean” event	https://bit.ly/2swNZax
Ms. Carol Phua speaking at “Healers of Our Ocean” event	https://bit.ly/2HKVaXN
Stop the POPs	https://bit.ly/2eFGVvd

STAFF PODCASTS

Calls to stop dumping by fleets supported by Pacific leaders	https://bit.ly/2Jjk0V7
Fishing commission’s moves on conservation praised	https://bit.ly/2JhhvqZ
Pacific pins hopes on new declaration to save whales	https://bit.ly/2swKsJg
Small Pacific countries seek to improve weather services	https://bit.ly/2M0ba4X
SPREP marks start of new environmental action plan	https://bit.ly/2sH5MLg
Tiny plastics cause big problems in Pacific food chain	https://bit.ly/2kPo5dW

Staff List

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE
SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM			
1 Kosi Latu	Director General	Samoa	31-Dec-19
2 Roger Cornforth	Deputy Director General	New Zealand	05-Jun-19
3 Stuart Chape	Director Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management	Australia	31-Mar-18
4 Easter Galuvao	Director Environmental Monitoring and Governance	Samoa	07-May-20
5 Vicki Hall	Director Waste Management and Pollution Control	Australia	12-Jun-20
6 Clark Peteru	Legal Adviser	Samoa	31-Dec-19
7 Petra Chan Tung	Finance and Administration Adviser	Samoa	24-Jul-19
8 Simeamativa Vaai	Human Resources Adviser	Samoa	28-Feb-20
9 <i>Vacant</i>	Director Climate Change		
EXECUTIVE SUPPORT			
10 Audrey Brown-Pereira	Executive Officer	Cook Islands	31-Dec-18
11 Rosanna Galuvao-Ah Ching	Executive Assistant to the Director General	Samoa	30-May-19
12 Apiseta Eti	Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director General	Samoa	31-Dec-18
13 Ruth Solano	Risk Management Specialist (Peace Corp Response Volunteer)	USA	11-May-18
14 <i>Vacant</i>	Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser		
SUBREGIONAL OFFICES			
15 Kilom Ishiguro	Technical Expert (Water Sector) and Liaison Officer – Republic of the Marshall Islands	RMI	05-Feb-18
16 <i>Vacant</i>	Solid Waste Management Expert, Federated States of Micronesia	FSM	
INTERNAL AUDIT			
17 Selesitina Reti	Internal Auditor	Samoa	25-Jun-18
BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT			
18 Makerita Atiga	Secretary to Division Director/ Division Assistant	Samoa	01-Aug-20
19 Warren Lee Long	Coastal and Marine Adviser	Australia	28-Jun-18
20 Michael Donoghue	Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser	New Zealand	15-Mar-18
21 Juney Ward	Shark and Ray Conservation Officer	Samoa	31-Mar-18
22 David Moverley	Invasive Species Adviser	New Zealand	13-Oct-18
23 James Atherton	Biodiversity Adviser	Samoa	17-Dec-20
24 Amanda Wheatley	Ecosystem and Biodiversity Officer	Australia	13-Jun-20
25 Vainuupo Jungblut	Protected Areas Officer	Samoa	13-Dec-20
26 Herman Timmermans	PEBACC – Project Manager	South Africa	19-May-18
27 David Loubser	PEBACC – Vanuatu Country Manager	New Zealand	04-Jul-18
28 Fred Patison	PEBACC – Solomon Islands Country Manager	Solomon Islands	30-Sep-18
29 Jilda Shem	PEBACC Communications Officer	Vanuatu	16-Jul-19
30 Allan Dan	PEBACC Vanuatu Project Officer	Vanuatu	14-Aug-19
31 Filomena Serenia	PEBACC Fiji Project Officer	Fiji	31-Jul-19
32 Roneel Prasad	PEBACC Finance and Administration Officer	Fiji	24-Jul-19
33 Ofa Kaisamy	ABS – Legal Adviser	Tonga	10-Sep-20
34 Rahul Chand	ABS – Capacity Building Officer	Fiji	20-Oct-20
35 Isabel Rasch	ABS – Technical and Finance Assistant	Samoa	22-Aug-20
36 Faasipa Lemalu	Shark Outreach Campaign Assistant (Temp)	Samoa	30-Jun-18
37 David Sakoda	Invasive Species Specialist (Peace Corp Response Volunteer)	USA	26-Aug-18
38 Akiko Hamada-Ano	Coastal and Marine Management Specialist (Peace Corp Response Volunteer)	USA	13-May-18
39 <i>Vacant</i>	Marine and Conservation Specialist		
40 <i>Vacant</i>	Ecosystem-based Adaptation Officer		
41 <i>Vacant</i>	Turtle Database Officer		
42 <i>Vacant</i>	Coral Reef Management Officer		
43 <i>Vacant</i>	Invasive Species Officer		
CLIMATE CHANGE			
44 Foinjancey Fesolai	Secretary to Division Director/ Division Assistant	Samoa	1-Oct-20
45 Espen Ronneberg	Climate Change Adviser	Norway	31-Mar-18
46 Tagaloa Cooper-Halo	Climate Change Institutional Strengthening Adviser	Niue	18-Aug-19
47 Salesa Nihmei	Meteorology and Climate Officer	Vanuatu	18-Jan-19
48 Tommy Moore	Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System Officer	USA	31-Dec-17
49 Sunny Seuseu	Climate Prediction Services Coordinator	Samoa	29-Mar-18
50 Azarel Mariner	COSPPac Capacity Development Officer	Samoa	30-Jun-18
51 Siosinamele Lui	COSPPac Climate Traditional Knowledge Officer	Samoa	30-Jun-18
52 Philip Malsale	COSPPac Climatology Officer	Vanuatu	30-Jun-18
53 Sela Simamao	Pacific Met Desk Project Assistant	Tonga	30-Jun-18
54 Makelesi Gonelevu	Knowledge Management Officer	Fiji	30-Jun-18
55 Priscilla Olano	Pacific Climate Change Portal Technical Assistant	Samoa	31-Dec-17
56 Filomena Nelson	Climate Change Adaptation Adviser	Samoa	8-Oct-20
57 Philip Marsden	Climate Information Knowledge Specialist (On Secondment from GIZ)	Germany	27-Jul-18
58 Patrick Pringle	Climate Analytic Consultant (On Secondment from Climate Analytics)	UK	30-Sep-19
59 Alexander Montoro	Technical Expert on Climate and Weather Services (Peace Corp Response Volunteer)	USA	09-Mar-18
60 <i>Vacant</i>	Pacific Islands Global Climate Observing System Officer		
61 <i>Vacant</i>	Oceanography Officer		

STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE			
62	Pauline Fruean Secretary to Division Director/ Division Assistant Environmental impact assessment for landowners http://bit.ly/2ITJv2N	Samoa ^{4 p.}	24-May-18
63	Joep Davetanivalu Planning and Capacity Development Adviser	Fiji	30-Sep-19
64	Paul Anderson Inform Project Manager	USA	24-Sep-20
65	Whitney Isenhower Environmental Reporting Specialist (Peace Corp Response Volunteer)	USA	13-May-18
66	<i>Vacant</i> Environmental Monitoring Officer		
67	<i>Vacant</i> Environmental Assessment and Planning Officer		
68	<i>Vacant</i> Sustainable Development Adviser		
69	<i>Vacant</i> Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Adviser		
70	<i>Vacant</i> Inform Project, Environmental Monitoring and Reporting – GIS Specialist		
71	<i>Vacant</i> Inform Project, Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Specialist		
72	<i>Vacant</i> Inform Project, Finance and Technical Assistant		
73	<i>Vacant</i> Spatial Planning Officer		
WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL			
74	Adi Tamanikaiyaroi Secretary to Division Director/ Division Assistant	Samoa	23-Jul-20
75	Anthony Talouli Pollution Adviser	Fiji	31-Jul-20
76	Ma Bella Guinto Solid Waste Management Adviser	New Zealand	16-Sep-20
77	Frank Griffin Hazardous Waste Management Adviser	PNG	20-Sep-19
78	Stewart Williams PacWaste Project Manager	Australia	31-Dec-17
79	<i>Vacant</i> PacWaste Communications Officer		
CORPORATE SERVICES			
Project Coordination Unit			
80	Simon Wilson Manager, Project Coordination Unit	Australia	18-Jun-18
81	Meapelo Maiai Global Environment Facility Support Adviser	Samoa	31-Oct-18
82	Christina Tierno Project Management Specialist (Peace Corp Response Volunteer)	USA	16-May-18
83	Hakan Thyer Project Management Specialist (Peace Corp Response Volunteer)	USA	16-May-18
Information Resources and Archives			
84	Miraneta Williams-Hazelman Information Resources Centre and Archives Manager	Samoa	9-Aug-18
85	Angelica Salele Information Management Officer	Samoa	17-May-20
86	Lupe Silulu Registry and Archives Officer	Samoa	31-Dec-18
87	Emma Arasi Assistant Registry and Archives Officer	Samoa	11-Jan-18
Communications and Outreach			
88	Nanette Woonton Media and Public Relations Officer	Cook Islands	06-Aug-20
89	Leanne Moananu Communications Support Officer	Samoa	31-Dec-18
90	<i>Vacant</i> Communications and Outreach Adviser		
91	<i>Vacant</i> Publications Officer		
92	<i>Vacant</i> Outreach Support Officer		
Information Technology			
93	Christian Slaven IT Manager	Samoa	02-May-18
94	Epeli Tagi IT Network and Systems Support Engineer	Fiji	30-Apr-20
95	Billy Chan Ting Web Applications Developer Specialist	Samoa	30-Apr-20
96	Ainsof So'o Systems Developer and Analyst	Samoa	05-May-19
97	Tavita Su'a IT Support Officer	Samoa	11-Jan-20
Finance and Administration			
98	Veronica Levi Financial Accountant	Samoa	10-Apr-19
99	Maraea Slade-Pogi Procurement Officer	Samoa	05-Jan-20
100	Siniva Tuuau-Enosa Project Accountant	Samoa	26-Jun-19
101	Alvin Sen Project Accountant	Fiji	16-Jun-19
102	Rachel Levi Finance Officer	Samoa	24-Jun-19
103	Dannicah Chan Finance Officer	Samoa	22-Oct-20
104	Atitoafaiga Tau Finance Officer	Samoa	06-Nov-20
105	Naoafioga Feu'u Finance Officer	Samoa	10-Sep-20
106	Foisagaosina Eteuati Finance Officer	Samoa	09-Oct-20
107	Hetta Fuimaono Finance Officer	Samoa	19-Jun-19
108	Anuilagi Tyrell Finance Officer	Samoa	26-Jun-19
109	Lawrence Warner Property Services Officer	Samoa	4-Dec-18
110	Faamanatu Siliti Driver/ Clerk	Samoa	05-Dec-20
111	Amosa To'oto'o Cleaner/ Teaperson	Samoa	31-Dec-19
112	Cynthia Ah Loo Cleaner/ Teaperson	Samoa	05-Mar-20
113	Tagiilima Enele Groundsman	Samoa	12-May-20
114	Isaia Talaitau Groundsman	Samoa	11-Sep-19
115	<i>Vacant</i> Administration and Conference Officer		
116	<i>Vacant</i> Procurement Assistant		
Human Resources			
117	Luana Chan-Jamieson Human Resources Officer	Samoa	05-Jan-20
118	Marion Chan Chui Assistant Human Resources Officer	Tonga	08-May-20
119	Jolynn Managreve-Fepuleai Assistant Human Resources Officer	Fiji	08-Jul-18
120	Monica Tupai Corporate Services Assistant	Samoa	21-May-19
Young Professionals / Attachments			
121	Flora Artzner Blue Belt Project Coordinator	France	31-May-19
SPREP-based Consultants			
122	Bradley Myer Invasive Species Consultant	New Zealand	31-Jul-18
123	Shannon Donato Project Management Assistant	New Zealand	30-Jun-19

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABS	Access and Benefits Sharing	JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
ACP MEA2	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States Multilateral Environmental Agreements 2 Project	J-PRISM II	Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase II
ADB	Asian Development Bank	MACBIO Project	Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in the Pacific Project
AFB	French Agency for Biodiversity	MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science	MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States	MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Government of Samoa
APCC	APEC Climate Centre	MOC	Memorandum of Cooperation
BECQ	CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality	MWCSO	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development of the Government of Samoa
BID	Biodiversity Information Development Programme	NMHS's	National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
BIOPAMA	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme	NEMS	National Environment Management Strategies
BRS Triple COP	Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	NSDP	National Sustainable Development Plan
CEN	New Caledonia Conservatory of the Natural Environment	NOAA	U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CEPA	Conservation and Environment Protection Authority	PACWASTE	Pacific Hazardous Waste Management Project
CI	Conservation International	PEBACC	Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change
CNMI	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	PNG-METT	Papua New Guinea Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
COSPPac	Climate and Oceans Support Programme for the Pacific	PIEC	Pacific Island Environment Conference
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific	PIRT	Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	PMC-4	Fourth Pacific Meteorological Council
DFAT	Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade	PMMM-2	Second Pacific Meteorological Ministerial Meeting
DWM	Department of Waste Management	RC COP-8	Eighth Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention
EDF11	Eleventh European Development Fund	RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	SCS	Samoa Conservation Society
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	SCOPIIC	Seasonal Climate Outlooks in Pacific Islands Countries (SCOPIIC)
EMG	Environmental Monitoring and Governance	SREEM	Sustaining Renewable Energy Efficiency Measures
ESRAM	Ecosystem and Socio-economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping Reports	SRWMA	Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association
EU	European Union	SAMOA Pathway	Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities for Action
FRDP	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific	SoE	State of Environment Report
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia	SDG	Sustainable Development goals
GEF	Global Environment Facility	SPC	The Pacific Community
GEF-PAS	Global Environment Facility – Pacific Alliance for Sustainability	SPTO	South Pacific Tourism Organisation
GPS	Global Positioning System	TCF	Technical Cooperation Facility
GBIF	Global Biodiversity Information Facility	28SM	Twenty-Eighth SPREP Meeting
GIS	Geographic Information Systems	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	UN Environment	United Nations Environment
GPML	Global Partnership on Marine Litter	UNFCCC COP23	Twenty-third Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
IKI	International Climate Initiative	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework on the Convention on Climate Change
ILO	International Labour Organization	UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
IMMA	Important Marine Mammal Areas	WB	World Bank
IKI	International Climate Initiative	WMO	World Meteorological Organization
IPT	Internet Publishing Tool	YCAN	Youth Climate Action Network of Samoa
IMO	International Maritime Organization		
ISSG	Invasive Species Specialist Group		

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:

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



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.

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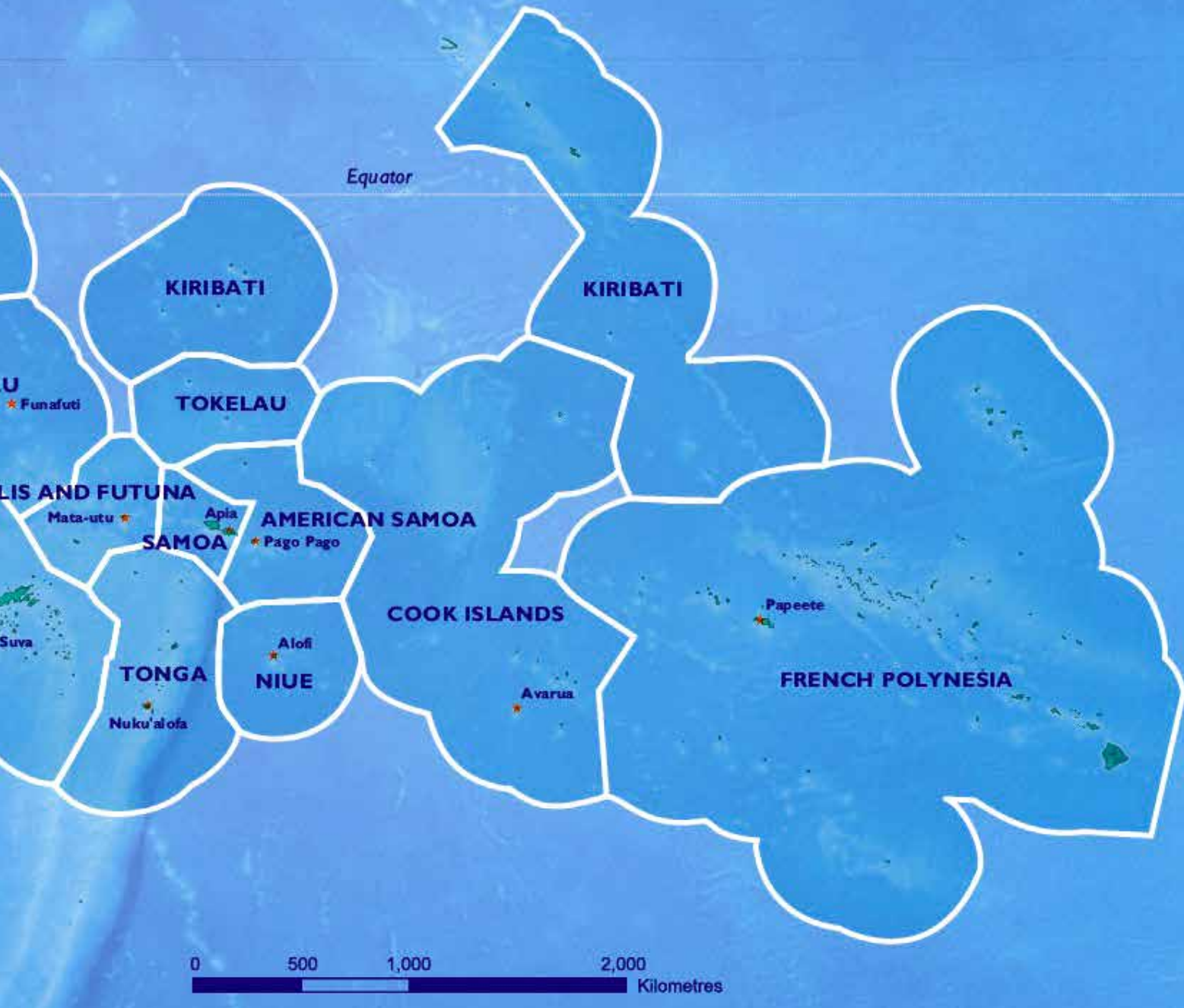


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