

SPREP MARINE SPECIES ACTION PLAN REVIEW

PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS

8 – 14 MARCH , 2012

HEXAGON INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, NADI, FIJI ISLANDS.





SPREP Regional Marine Species Action Plans Review Participants (Fiji, 2012) ©SPREP

ACRONYMS:

- ASEAN SEAFDEC: Association of Southeast Asian Nations - Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre
- AS CC: American Samoa Community College
- AS DOC: American Samoa Department of Conservation
- AS DWMR: American Samoa Department of Wildlife and Marine Resources
- AS EPA: American Samoa Environment Protection Agency
- CBO: Community Based Organisation
- CF-MAC: Commercial Fisheries Management and Advisory Committee
- CI: Conservation International
- CITES: Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wildlife Flora and Fauna
- CMM: Conservation Management Measure
- CMS: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wildlife
- DAP: Dugong Action Plan
- DNV: Dau ni Vonu
- EEZ: Exclusive Economic Zone
- EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment
- FFA: Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
- FP: French Polynesia
- FSM: Federated States of Micronesia
- FSTSC: Fiji Sea Turtle Steering Committee
- GEF: Global Environment Facility
- IGO: Intergovernmental Organisation
- LMMA: Locally Managed Marine Area
- MEA: Multilateral Environmental Agreements
- MC: Micronesia Challenge
- MELAD: Ministry of Environment, Lands and Development
- MFMRD: Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development
- MES: Mamanuca Environment Society
- MIMRA: Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority
- MNRE: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
- MSAP: Marine Species Action Plans
- MTAP: Marine Turtle Action Plan
- NBSAP: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- NC: New Caledonia
- NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation
- NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- PICTs: Pacific Island Countries and Territories

- PIR: Pacific Island Region
- PoWPA: Programme of Work on Protected Areas
- PYoD: Pacific Year of the Dugong
- QEPA: Queensland Environmental Protection Agency
- RMI: Republic of the Marshall Islands
- RPOA: Regional Plan of Action
- SAP: Shark Action Plan
- SI MECDM: Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology.
- SI MFMR: Solomon Islands Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
- SI NECDAP: Solomon Islands National Environment Capacity Development Action Plan
- SPC: Secretariat of the Pacific Community
- SPREP: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
- SPWRC: South Pacific Whale Research Consortium
- TNC: The Nature Conservancy
- TREDS: Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System
- UOG: University of Guam
- WCPFC: Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
- WDAP: Whale and Dolphin Action Plan
- WDCCS: Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society
- WPRFMC: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
- WSB: Wan Smolbag Theatre
- WWF SPPO: Worldwide Fund for Nature South Pacific Programme Office
- UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme
- USP: University of the South Pacific

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1. OVERVIEW

The review of the SPREP Regional Marine Species Action Plans (MSAP) 2008 – 2012 was conducted from the 8 – 14 March, 2012, at the Hexagon International Hotel, Nadi, Fiji Islands. The SPREP MSAPs are a composite of individual plans for whales and dolphins, marine turtles and dugongs.

The meeting was opened by the Fiji Minister of Environment, Hon. Samuela Saumatua who called upon the participants to work toward the *“formulation of a comprehensive regional strategy that has national relevance and resonance, and most critically, be a sign post for reversing the decline of these iconic marine species.”*

At the 2007 meeting which resulted in the 2008 – 2012 MSAPs, a discussion held around identifying other priority species generated the highest country / organisation votes for sharks. Additionally, in 2009 SPREP, FFA (Forum Fisheries Agency) and SPC (Secretariat of the Pacific Community) collaboratively developed the Regional Plan of Action for Sharks. This meeting therefore capitalized on member country representation to develop a supplementary Sharks Action Plan building on identified areas of concern including awareness and education while mirroring the structure of the existing species action plans.

The 2011 Pacific Year of the Dugong was also formally closed at the review meeting, through the launching of the video titled *“The Dugong: Respect and Protect.”*

The review of the SPREP MSAPs was financially and technically supported by the following organisations, for which they are gratefully acknowledged:

- CITES Secretariat
- Conservation International - Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
- CMS Secretariat
- Government of Australia
- Government of New Zealand
- South Pacific Whale Research Consortium
- UNEP / CMS Dugong MoU
- Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society
- WWF South Pacific Programme Office

2. REVIEW OBJECTIVES and EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

The key **objectives** of the meetings were to:

1. Review the status of the implementation and lessons learned of the regional Marine Species Programme Action Plans (MSPAPs) 2008-2012 - Whale & Dolphin Action Plan (WDAP); Marine Turtle Action Plan (MTAP) and Dugong Action Plan (DAP);
2. Update members on available information on Whales and Dolphin (Cetaceans), Marine Turtles and Dugongs in the Pacific Islands region;

3. Develop new regional Marine Species Programme Action Plans for Whales & Dolphins, Marine Turtles and Dugongs, providing priority actions for marine species conservation work in the Pacific Islands region to guide regional and national activities for the next 5 years (2013-2017).

The **expected outcomes** of the meetings were:

1. A summary of the status of the implementation of the regional MSPAPs 2008-2012.
2. Updated technical information on cetaceans, marine turtles and dugongs in the Pacific Islands region (including threats/issues)
3. Draft MSAPs 2013-2017

All objectives of the meeting were successfully met.

3. PARTICIPANTS

Overall, there were a total of 37 participants represented across the three reviews. A breakdown of this composition is reflected in **Table 1**. A full participants list including contact details is attached as Appendix 1.

Table 1: Representation at the SPREP MSAP Review.	Plan Review Participants			
	Overall	WDAP	MTAP	DAP
No. of SPREP member countries / territories represented	17	16	17	7
Total number of SPREP member country / territory participants	18	18	18	8
No. of Partners represented	13	9	9	5
Total number of Partner participants	16	11	12	7
No. of SPREP participants	3	3	3	3

4. FRAMEWORK REVIEW

4.1. Overall Vision:

The 2008 – 2012 Vision was proposed to the meeting delegates for review and adoption. Delegates were asked to revisit the timeline as well as whether there were elements that required inclusion or deletion based on the past five years work.

There was overall consensus that the five year timeframe was sufficient. Additionally, the delegates proposed that in understanding the urgent need to address the conservation of sharks, that this also be included in the Vision text.

Thus, the meeting endorsed the Vision statement for the 2013 – 2017 plan which reads:

“A healthy Pacific Ocean that sustains populations of whales, dolphins, marine turtles, dugongs and sharks, and meets the aspirations of Pacific Island peoples and protects their natural and cultural heritage.”

4.2. Strengthening the Framework text:

It was recognized that in the development of the 2013 – 2017 Marine Species Action Plans, that the content of overarching framework would reflect new directions based on lessons learned and achievements made during the life of the 2008 – 2012 plans.

Strong recommendations were made to:

- develop a paragraph in the ‘**Introduction**’ section to illustrate the ‘aspirations of Pacific Island peoples’ so as to make the Vision more meaningful;
- include a section titled ‘**Key achievements of the 2013 – 2017 MSAPs**’ based on country / partner reports prior to going into ‘**CHALLENGES**’;
- develop language that makes more explicit the challenge of enforcement capacity constraints;
- include under ‘**Strategic Approach**’ additional points that reflect:
 - the science based approach to the development of the plans;
 - recognition of cultural and traditional considerations in conservation plans;
 - opportunities for multi-species approaches to be fostered.
- reflect under ‘**Implementation and Coordination**’:
 - the very important role for SPREP to work alongside countries / territories in developing proposals;
 - a stronger call for producing annual progress reports, as opposed to end of plan reporting;
 - other relevant species conventions / MEAs (eg: CITES).

5. ACTION PLAN REVIEWS

Prior to the meeting, SPREP members and partners implementing the Action Plans were sent review documents to complete. These have since been compiled and are being used as a progress indicator for the implementation of the action plans.

The implementation review matrix is attached as Appendix 2. This is a rapid review of implementation status of the three action plans and a more detailed analysis will be undertaken and attached to the 2013 – 2017 Marine Species Action Plans as a background document when presented at the Annual SPREP Meeting (September 2012) for endorsement.

At the meeting, the three action plans were all reviewed using the same structure whereby:

- i. SPREP members, NGOs / IGOs / CBOs delivered brief presentations on progress made toward the implementation of the 2008 – 2012 Action Plans, including lessons learned, gaps and key issues;

- ii. presentations were delivered by technical experts as background to developing the new action plans;
- iii. the Action Plan Vision, Goal and Strategic Approach were reviewed and updated;
- iv. key thematic areas to form the 2013 – 2017 Action Plans were reviewed and updated;
- v. actions and progress indicators for the 2013 – 2017 Action Plans were drafted using the 2008 – 2012 actions / indicators as a guide;
- vi. draft actions and progress indicators were refined via a plenary feedback session;
- vii. working groups tasked with finalizing the development of the 2013 – 2017 Action Plans were determined.

The meeting agenda is attached as Appendix 3.

5.1. WHALE and DOLPHIN ACTION PLAN (WDAP):

5.1.1. PROGRESS UPDATES.

Participants and technical experts delivered brief presentations illustrating progress they had made against the 2008 – 2012 WDAP. Following are some key highlights, gaps / issues identified, lessons learned and recommendations made.

a. ACHIEVEMENTS / HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Australia:** In 2009, launched the Indo-Pacific Research and Conservation Fund, as a competitive annual grant program. Under that program, 4 projects have been funded in Fiji, Palau and two in PNG.
- **Cook Islands:** Inclusion of whales within the revised 2012 – 2016 National Environment Strategy Framework.
- **Fiji:** Humpback Whale Surveys (looking at estimating trends in abundance) undertaken over the last 3 years in the Lomaiviti Group.
- **FP:** In 2010, a photographic, acoustic, and genetic survey of FP's cetaceans undertaken by Dr. M. Poole in the Tuamotu & Gambier Islands (2010) with Government funding.
- **Niue:** Development of the National Whale Sanctuary Management Plan – first in the region.
- **Palau:** In 2011, declared its EEZ (> 600,000 km²) a marine mammal sanctuary (covering cetaceans & dugongs).
- **Solomon Islands:** 2009 - 2011 National Dolphin Surveys with results used to influence the development of dolphin trade regulations.
- **Tonga:** Signed the CMS Pacific Cetaceans MoU in 2010.
- **Tuvalu:** Signed the CMS Pacific Cetaceans MoU in 2010.
- **SPWRC:** Facilitated the first feasibility study of a whale watch industry in Palau.
- **WDCS:** Prepared first Preliminary Implementation Report of the Signatories to the CMS Pacific Cetaceans MoU.
- **USP:** Rolling out a series of lectures at both undergraduate and graduate levels to increase profile of cetacean conservation in the region.

b. GAPS / ISSUES IDENTIFIED:

While several representatives voiced similar gaps / issues including limited or ad-hoc funding; low on government priority; lack of or limited legislation to enhance protection of cetaceans; isolated / scattered geography of the island archipelagos; lack of technical knowledge / expertise; information gaps; lack of local / traditional knowledge and sharing / use of it to support conservation / management efforts, some were specific to countries / territories / organisations as shown below.

- **COOK ISLANDS:**

- Not currently sure which Government department is responsible for CMS;
- Limited observers on fishing vessels.
- **FRENCH POLYNESIA:**
 - While legislative measures specific to commercial whale watching activities are being implemented (including acquisition of operator permits), unfortunately, these measures are not properly enforced;
 - No assessment of impact of whale watching activities with operators having insufficient knowledge of laws and animals.
- **MARSHALL ISLANDS:**
 - Recognized challenge to rolling out feasible whale / dolphin watching activities due to the Marshall Islands' isolation, the high cost of travel, and the difficulty of reaching the outer islands;
 - More resources are needed for additional research and monitoring efforts including surveys and data from strandings.
- **PALAU**
 - Lack of local expertise to conduct monitoring and surveys including no established programme to conduct monitoring / surveys;
 - Whales and Dolphin estimated population has not been determined
- **TUVALU**
 - Regional versus national priorities;
 - Political endorsement system including how to influence our leaders;
 - Improving implementing partnership.

c. **LESSONS LEARNED:**

Shared lessons include the following while those specific to countries are reflected individually:

- Partnership, mutual understanding and resource sharing is important for successful cetacean management, research and conservation initiatives at national level;
- Good communication skills, information dissemination, and networking fosters public support for cetacean management and conservation;
- Appropriate planning and capacity building, as well as funding allocation is important.
- Promote, support and conduct relevant research and awareness to ensure long term sustainability;
- Conservation would work if it pays - does protecting cetaceans give tangible benefits to communities (e.g. can we develop alternative livelihood such as whale and dolphin watching or swim with the dolphins);
- Monitoring and surveillance is expensive and difficult in some instances;
- Identify appropriate support/approach.
- **COOK ISLANDS**
 - Use of fishing community to support whale programs or monitoring

- **FIJI:**
 - Need legislation, regulation and enforcement (new Fisheries Management Decree should completely protect whales and dolphins in Fiji waters/EEZ).
- **FRENCH POLYNESIA**
 - Establish and support training program for cetaceans watching operators (trained boat operators help avoid harassment and collisions with cetaceans);
 - All stakeholders have to collaborate closely and work together to market the best practice guideline.
- **MARSHALL ISLANDS**
 - Whales and dolphins are not targeted in RMI commercial or subsistence fisheries, but beached animals are sometimes consumed.
- **PALAU**
 - Strengthen the collaboration, cooperation and information sharing between countries within the region and internationally.
- **TUVALU**
 - Mainstreaming of information and knowledge
 - Maintain momentum (awareness, monitoring, communication, etc)
 - Simplify Monitoring tools

d. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WDAP 2013 - 2017:

There were many similar recommendations made including:

- Continued annual whale and dolphin research and survey works, and consolidate sighting database;
- Undertake where necessary baseline surveys;
- Capacity building and training on: species identification, behavioral studies, field survey techniques (including acoustics), population assessments and identification; mapping of migratory corridors and hotspots, research proposal writing, data collection and analysis, whale watch tour operators etc.
- Assessments of cetacean and fisheries interactions and mitigation.
- Assessment of effect of climate change on whales and dolphins
- Strengthening collaborations with all stakeholders including local communities, WW operators, researchers, NGOs, other government departments;
- Producing materials about cetaceans for teachers in schools;
- Ensuring feedback of relevant research is provided to all stakeholders.

Some recommendations specifically mentioned by countries are listed below:

- **COOK ISLANDS:**
 - Find ways to make cetaceans a government priority or how do we address the issue of making cetaceans a priority in countries. Can this be done by providing funds for the work?

- **FIJI:**
 - Further consultation toward finalizing Cetacean / Whale Sanctuary Management Plan;
 - Continue on further species specific research such as on Humpback whales, Sperm whales, Shortfin Pilot whales, and other dolphin species.
- **FRENCH POLYNESIA:**
 - Promote, support and conduct relevant multidisciplinary research to ensure long-term sustainability;
 - Encourage meeting and workshops with the Pacific Islands countries.
- **MARSHALL ISLANDS:**
 - In the future, MIMRA plans to increase educational and awareness campaigns in the RMI in order to inform residents of issues related to whale and dolphin conservation.
 - MIMRA records information related to strandings and collects photos where possible.
- **PALAU:**
 - Utilize results of baseline surveys, when available, to establish policies and management in regards to whales and dolphin protection and management.
- **TUVALU**
 - Mixture of strategic and long term planning combined with increasing effort to coordinate networking effort.
 - Encourage locally generated best practice and use accepted rules which is now considered best solution.

5.1.2. DEVELOPING THEMES, PRIORITY ACTIONS, INDICATORS FOR WDAP 2013 - 2017.

Using a process called ‘mind mapping’ the facilitator took the participants through identifying what thematic areas should form the WDAP 2013 – 2017.



Participants undertaking ‘mind mapping’ process to establish themes for WDAP 2013 – 2017 as reflected in second image.

The nine identified themes of the 2008 – 2012 WDAP were felt to be relevant still and so were maintained. Two additional themes were identified and these were ‘Strandings’ and ‘Recovery Plans’

although these were later reflected as objectives under Themes 7 (Research and Monitoring) and 5 (Legislation, Policy and Management / Recovery Plans) respectively.

Participants expressed interest as to which theme they would like to develop and were assigned accordingly. **Table 2** illustrates the 2013 – 2017 WDAP themes and associated working groups. These working groups developed priority actions and indicators under each theme and the results are attached as Appendix 4.

Table 2: Drafted themes of the WDAP with the Working Groups and members responsible for their development.

THEME	AREA	Working Group and Members
1	National, Regional and International Collaboration and Cooperation.	1: Batibasaga (Fiji); Lui (SPREP); Alfred (WWF SPPO); Josef (SI); Akanisi (WWF SPPO); Thea (NC)
2	Threat reduction	3: Cara (WDCS); Angela (Aust); Juney (Samoa); Alden (A. Samoa); Milani (WPRFMC)
3	Ecosystem / Habitat Protection	4: Olive (WA); Liz (CI); Huggard (Niue); Luisa (Tokelau); Miri (FP)
4	Capacity building	2: Valentin (FSM); Jacob (RMI); Scherryl (Palau); Sani (SeaWeb); Aloahi (Tonga); Semese (Tuvalu); Tekimwau (Kiribati); Penina (SPREP)
5	Education and Awareness (Information)	2: Valentin (FSM); Jacob (RMI); Scherryl (Palau); Sani (SeaWeb); Aloahi (Tonga); Semese (Tuvalu); Tekimwau (Kiribati); Penina (SPREP)
6	Cultural significance and value	1: Batibasaga (Fiji); Lui (SPREP); Alfred (WWF SPPO); Josef (SI); Akanisi (WWF SPPO); Thea (NC)
7	Legislation and Policy	1: Batibasaga (Fiji); Lui (SPREP); Alfred (WWF SPPO); Josef (SI); Akanisi (WWF SPPO); Thea (NC)
8	Research and Monitoring	3: Cara (WDCS); Angela (Aust); Juney (Samoa); Alden (A. Samoa); Milani (WPRFMC)
9	Whale and dolphin based tourism	4: Olive (WA); Liz (CI); Huggard (Niue); Luisa (Tokelau); Miri (FP)
10	Recovery plans	4: Olive (WA); Liz (CI); Huggard (Niue); Luisa (Tokelau); Miri (FP)

The WDAP review concluded on the evening of the 9th March with an event hosted by the South Pacific Whale Research Consortium, Conservation International, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society and SPREP titled “Ocean Voices”.

Presentations were delivered by Ms. Olive Andrews, Dr. Cara Miller and Howard Foster.



Olive Andrews presenting at ‘Ocean Voices’ event during WDAP review.



Cara Miller and Jay Bau presenting at ‘Ocean Voices’ event during WDAP review.

5.2. MARINE TURTLE ACTION PLAN (MTAP):

5.2.1. PROGRESS UPDATES

Participants and technical experts delivered brief presentations illustrating progress they had made against the 2008 – 2012 MTAP. Following are some key highlights, gaps / issues identified, lessons learned and recommendations made.

a. ACHIEVEMENTS / HIGHLIGHTS:

- **A. Samoa:** **1)** Have completed 78 in-water surveys at 11 sites and flipper tagged 88 individuals while deploying 12 satellite tags that show migrations to the Cook Islands and Pitcairn Islands.
2) Conducted 29 necropsies with humerus bones collected for future skeletochronological analysis.
3) 20% observer coverage on tuna longliners to address turtle bycatch issues where numbers have increased from 6.43% in 2008 to 33.33 % in 2011.
- **Cook Islands:** **1)** Turtle by-catch management plan developed for oceanic fisheries;
2) Ensured that EIAs consider impacts on turtle habitats.
- **Fiji:** **1)** The Government declared a 10 year Moratorium in 2009 prohibiting the killing of turtles except for when permitted by the Minister of Fisheries for traditional purposes.
2) A Fiji Sea Turtle Steering Committee was established to oversee the implementation of Fiji's Sea Turtle Recovery Plan.
- **Kiribati:** **1)** Implementation of the PoWPA project provides opportunities for an 'enabling environment for relevant species action plans to be developed at national, island and village levels (particularly in the relevant islands that may host biological diversity of global significance).
- **New Caledonia:** **1)** Increased monitoring capacity on poaching / harvesting incidences including: 2010 – 2011: 30 nests poached; 2011 – 2012: 5 nests poached; Southern Province: received 54 requests for 332 turtles – only allowed 261.
2) 6 training sessions for 62 tourism operators related to the marine ecosystem/marine turtles have been completed since 2008.
- **Palau:** **1)** In December, 2010, the government declared a 5 year moratorium that prohibits the harvesting of Hawksbill turtles with an increase in violation penalties to a fee of USD 500 or up to 12 month imprisonment for each individual turtle taken / killed.
- **RMI:** **1)** A science curriculum focused on marine turtles was developed in 2010 and 2011;
2) In 2010 the Just Act Natural Program at Youth to Youth in Health developed a turtle conservation skit in collaboration with MIMRA.
- **Samoa:** **1)** Banned the importation of non-biodegradable plastics except when issued with a permit and license.

- 2) Developed in consultation with stakeholders such as SPC, FFA, the Commercial Fisheries Management and Advisory Committee (CF-MAC) a 5 years Tuna Management and Development Plan 2011 – 2015 which includes provisions for the by-catch of sea turtles.
 - 3) Development of a Marine Turtle Management Plan inclusive of measures to mitigate bycatch in commercial fisheries.
- **Solomon Islands:**
 - 1) Developed National MTAP 2008-2012 for implementation at the national level.
 - 2) Documentation of Arnavon Marine Conservation site in 2010;
- **Tokelau:** 1) Commercial harvesting prohibited in Tokelau waters. Part of license condition.
- **Tuvalu:**
 - 1) Delivered open talk over the radio during environment week, 2009;
 - 2) Through LMMA process, have established community based management plans.
- **Vanuatu(Wan Smolbag):**
 - 1) The Moso Community Turtle Project is a successful case of a community based turtle watching eco-venture. Since its establishment in 2006, there have been an estimated 85,000 hatchlings released and approximately VT12,000,000 raised by and for the community.
 - 2) Long term monitoring conducted at 5 index beaches annually.
 - 3) George Petro was awarded one of the International Sea Turtle Symposium Champion Award (2012) for his contributions to turtle conservation globally.
- **WWF:**
 - 1) In 2010 established the first community based turtle monitors network in Fiji modeled on that of the Vanua Tai Resource Monitors of Vanuatu. This was done in partnership with SPREP, Wan Smolbag and the Department of Fisheries. To date, there are now 10 sites with at least 25 turtle monitors (or *dau ni vonu*) who are also licensed fish wardens with the authority to enforce the Moratorium regulations.
 - 2) Working with partners to roll out project in Fiji that looks to assess the impacts of climate change on index nesting beaches and develop / implement adaptation measures.
- **SPREP:**
 - 1) Completed the assessment of the status of turtles in captivity (Samoa);
 - 2) Analysis complete for 12 SPREP members on national threats to marine turtles;
 - 3) Supported the participation of Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and PNG in Colin Limpus' dugong / turtle research training in Shoalwater Bay, Australia;
 - 4) Undertook a PI regional turtle meeting at the International Sea Turtle Symposium (2008);
 - 5) Conducted national turtle nesting monitoring training in Kiribati, Tonga and Tuvalu;
 - 6) Conducted a sub-regional training for satellite tag deployment involving representatives from Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Mamanuca Environment Society and WWF;
 - 7) Collaborated to establish the community monitors network in Fiji which included a community representative's exchange (Fiji → Vanuatu) in 2010;

- 8) Published in the Marine Turtle Newsletter 130 (Nov. 2011) a joint SPREP / MNRE article on the turtles stranded during the tsunami that hit Samoa in 2009;
- 9) Developed and presented compilation of post-nesting green turtle migrations in the PIR;
- 10) Completed marine turtle legislation review for 7 SPREP member countries;
- 11) TREDIS Information Sharing Policy and Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDIS) User Manual approved;
- 12) Distributed a total of 3,472 flipper tags to 11 PICTs;
- 13) Initiated turtle programmes in Kiribati, Tonga, and Tuvalu;
- 14) Supported PNG Department of Environment and Conservation to conduct a marine turtle market survey in Port Moresby;
- 15) Facilitated / supported deployment of satellite tags in the region including in Fiji (several – involving green, hawksbill and loggerhead turtles), Tuvalu (1 green turtle), Vanuatu (1 green turtle); Samoa and French Polynesia;
- 16) Continue to establish and maintain partnerships to support the implementation of the MTAP;
- 17) Continue to maintain the PI-turtle list serve that currently has over 80 members.
- 18) Developed marine turtle profile for Kiribati;
- 19) Developed marine turtle factsheets.

b. GAPS / ISSUES IDENTIFIED:

While several representatives voiced similar gaps / issues including limited or ad-hoc funding; low on government priority; lack of or limited legislation to enhance protection of turtles; isolated / scattered geography of the island archipelagos; lack of technical knowledge / expertise; information gaps; lack of local / traditional knowledge and sharing / use of it to support conservation / management efforts - some were specific points made by countries / territories / organisations as shown below.

Additionally it was recognized that some degree of political influence; inconsistent commitment which could be a factor of high staff movement and a lack of enthusiasm and initiative, were also considerable gaps and issues affecting the implementation of the MTAP.

- **FIJI:**
 - Sustainable Funding Mechanism – need to plan and coordinate efforts to tap into avenues such as GEF Biodiversity funding allocation;
- **KIRIBATI:**
 - Coordination and collaboration issues amongst key relevant Ministries (for example: MELAD and MFMRD) – in most cases, similar programs may run at sector level rather than national level;
 - Prolonged in administration matters with regard to legislation endorsement
- **NEW CALEDONIA:**

- TREDIS not being used as individual stakeholders have their own;
- Challenged by lack of information to properly determine quotas.
- **PALAU:**
 - No centralized data system where all conducted research results and surveys data can be stored.
- **TOKELAU:**
 - Becoming common in the islands to keep turtles as pets (from hatchlings) that are then released into lagoon when bigger.

c. **LESSONS LEARNED:**

Shared lessons include the following listed while those specifically pointed out by countries / territories / partners have been recorded individually:

- Partnership, mutual understanding and resource sharing is important for successful turtle management, research and conservation initiatives at national level.
- Community involvement and participation need to be strengthened, especially in setting up community based protected areas and other related conservation initiatives
- Good communication skills, information dissemination, and networking fosters public support for turtle management and conservation.
- Appropriate planning and capacity building, as well as funding allocation is important.
- Promote, support and conduct relevant research and awareness to ensure long term sustainability;
- Conservation would work if it pays - does protecting turtles give tangible benefits to communities (e.g can we expand on alternative livelihoods such as that modeled by Moso community in Vanuatu);
- Monitoring and surveillance is expensive and difficult;
- Identify appropriate support/approach
- **PALAU :**
 - Needs to finalize a turtle management plan to better manage its remaining turtle population.
- **NEW CALEDONIA:**
 - As there is no MTAP being implemented, efforts are not being harmonized.
- **USP:**
 - Seek more support for research and learn lessons from cetaceans work.

d. **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MTAP 2013 - 2017:**

There were many similar recommendations made by the participants including:

- Improve and strengthen information, awareness, protection, management (including policies / legislation) and sustainable utilization of marine turtles;

- Undertake where necessary baseline surveys while continuing annual monitoring surveys on index nesting beach / foraging grounds;
- Capacity building and training on: field survey techniques; population assessments and identification and mapping of migratory corridors and hotspots, research proposal writing, data collection and analysis etc.
- Assessments of marine turtles and fisheries interactions and mitigation;
- Assessment of effect of climate change on marine turtles;
- Strengthen collaborations with all stakeholders including local communities, researchers, NGOs, other government departments;
- Produce materials about marine turtles for teachers in schools;
- Ensure feedback of relevant research is provided to all stakeholders;

However, some recommendations were specific to countries and are listed below:

- **NEW CALEDONIA:**
 - Increase collaboration with other Pacific Island Countries / Territories;
 - Regional monitoring protocol should be developed / implemented.
- **PALAU:**
 - Establish a centralized data storage system at the national level.

5.2.2. DEVELOPING THEMES, PRIORITY ACTIONS, INDICATORS FOR MTAP 2013 - 2017.

Similar to the WDAP, the ‘mind mapping’ process was used to identify thematic areas for the MTAP 2013 – 2017

The nine identified themes of the 2008 – 2012 MTAP were felt to be relevant still and so were maintained.



The MTAP Review Chair, Mr. Aisake Batibasaga (Fiji) and facilitator, Mr. Lui Bell (SPREP).



The MTAP Review participants determining themes for the 2013 – 2017 MTAP.

Participants expressed interest as to which theme they would like to develop and were assigned accordingly. **Table 3** illustrates the 2013 – 2017 MTAP themes and associated working groups. These working groups developed priority actions and indicators under each theme and the results are attached as Appendix 5.

Table 3: Drafted themes of the MTAP with the Working Groups and members responsible for their development.

THEME	AREA	Working Group and Members
1	Collaboration and Partnership.	1: Batibasaga (Fiji); Lui (SPREP); Alfred (WWF SPPO); Josef (SI); Valentin (FSM); Luisa (Tokelau); Tekimwau (Kiribati)
2	Threat reduction / Hazard Mitigation	2: Elizabeth (Cook Is.); Angela (Aust.); Vagi (PNG); Hoifua (Tonga); Semese (Tuv.); Milani (WPRFMC)
3	Capacity building	3: George (WSB); Huggard (Niue); Sanivalati (SeaWeb); Penina (SPREP); Akanisi (WWF SPPO); Alfred (WWF SPPO)
4	Information, Education and Awareness	3: George (WSB); Huggard (Niue); Sanivalati (SeaWeb); Penina (SPREP); Akanisi (WWF SPPO); Alfred (WWF SPPO)
5	Policy and Legislation	1: Batibasaga (Fiji); Lui (SPREP); Alfred (WWF SPPO); Josef (SI); Valentin (FSM); Luisa (Tokelau); Tekimwau (Kiribati)
6	Traditional Knowledge and Customary Practices	1: Batibasaga (Fiji); Lui (SPREP); Alfred (WWF SPPO); Josef (SI); Valentin (FSM); Luisa (Tokelau); Tekimwau (Kiribati)
7	Sustainable Development	2: Elizabeth (Cook Is.); Angela (Aust.); Vagi (PNG); Hoifua (Tonga); Semese (Tuv.); Milani (WPRFMC)
8	Turtle Database	4: Juney (Samoa); Thea (New Cal.); Scherryl (Palau); Miri (FP); Alden (A. Samoa); Alecia (NOAA)
9	Research and Monitoring	4: Juney (Samoa); Thea (New Cal.); Scherryl (Palau); Miri (FP); Alden (A. Samoa); Alecia (NOAA)

This plan has seen strong community based initiatives for turtle management grow and influence the development of similar arrangements in other countries. As an example, WWF SPPO presented on the community based turtle monitors network (*Dau ni Vonu*) following on from a presentation delivered by Mr. George Petro of the Vanua Tai Resource Monitors network of Vanuatu . The former community based initiative in Fiji was largely modeled upon that of the latter.



Alfred Ralifo (L) of WWF SPPO and George Petro (WSB) presents to the MTAP review participants about community based initiatives in Fiji and Vanuatu respectively.

5.2.3. SPECIAL SESSIONS

i. Marine Turtle Nesting Monitoring

A special training was undertaken on nesting monitoring with the participants. The presentation (Appendix 6) was made available to all upon the conclusion of the meeting, and will also be the basis for the development of a toolkit / handbook aimed at national and community based turtle monitoring efforts.

The presentation covered aspects of conducting both “Daytime turtle track/nest survey” and “Night-time turtle nesting survey”. Specific topics that were covered include:

- Scheduling surveys
- Identifying turtle tracks above high water mark
- Identifying turtle species from tracks
- Identifying incoming (emerging) track and outgoing (returning) track
- Identifying turtle nests
- Identifying a successful nest and the types of “false” beach crawls
- Marking turtle nests
- Identifying turtle nesting activity
- Tagging and taking turtle measurements
- Recording of nests/tracks/turtle information/data

ii. Regional Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDS)

A presentation was delivered by the SPREP Turtle Database Officer on the Regional TREDS. The database delivers on Theme 8 of the current MTAP and was initially developed in 2003 as a collaborative effort between SPREP, WPRFMC, QEPA, NOAA Fisheries, SPC and ASEAN-SEAFDEC.

5.3. DUGONG ACTION PLAN (DAP):

5.3.1. PROGRESS UPDATES

Participants and technical experts delivered brief presentations illustrating progress they had made against the 2008 – 2012 DAP. Following are some key highlights, gaps / issues identified, lessons learned and recommendations made.



Donna Kwan (UNEP / CMS Dugong MoU) presents to the DAP review participants.



DAP review participants developing priority actions and indicators for 2013 - 2017 .

a. ACHIEVEMENTS / HIGHLIGHTS:

- New Caledonia:**
- 1) Since 2009, seagrass habitats are fully protected in the South Province environmental code;
 - 2) Actively engaged in the 2010 / 2011 Pacific Year of the Dugong campaigns and produced materials including calendar, stickers, booklet and TV advertisement. Also conducted numerous radio and TV interviews and provided SPREP with copies of entries from drawing contest;
 - 3) Shallow seagrass mapping completed;
 - 4) In 2009, total prohibition of dugong hunting in Southern Province while Northern Province allows only for use in customary events through special permits;
 - 5) Three aerial surveys were conducted between 2008 – 2011, and an additional 2 are scheduled for 2012;
 - 6) Completed the dugong status questionnaire covering 250 fishermen across New Caledonia in partnership with SPREP and CMS/Dugong MoU;
 - 7) Test project: Two satellite tags deployed in March 2012 in order to evaluate the feasibility of implementing such studies in New Caledonia;
 - 8) Launched in March 2011, and actively implementing a 2010-2014 territorial dugong action plan covering the North Province, the South Province, the Iles Loyauté Province;

9) France signed the CMS Dugong MoU in 2007.

Palau:

- 1) Signed the CMS Dugong MoU in 2010;
- 2) Declaration of EEZ wide marine mammal sanctuary (> 600,000 km²) includes dugongs;
- 3) Some states established marine buoys to minimize impacts of anchoring on seafloor and associated habitats including seagrass;
- 4) Conducted surveys (questionnaire and aerial) that have identified dugong areas and habitats.

Solomon Islands:

- 1) Pacific Year of the Dugong launch provided some of the best opportunities for increased awareness on traditional knowledge and practices;
- 2) Signed the CMS Dugong MoU in 2010;
- 3) Results from a questionnaire based survey conducted in 2010 will provide useful information for determining distribution, abundance and trends of dugong population;
- 4) Dugong management captured under NBSAP developed in 2009.

SPREP:

- 1) Finalized the 2011 Pacific Year of the Dugong (PYoD) and launched it regionally in Palau on the 14th March. Supported national launches in PNG, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu;
- 2) Developed, printed and distributed information material including: (i) Respect and protect dugongs and the coastal environment poster; (ii) Factsheets [Pacific Dugongs; Working Together to Save Dugongs; Pacific Seagrasses]; (iii) Respect and protect t-shirts; (iv) The Dugong: Respect and Protect DVD; (v) Pacific range states dugong profile;
- 3) Launched PYoD webpage and Facebook site;
- 4) Supported national dugong projects throughout 2011 as part of PYoD;
- 5) Launched Pacific Media Award for PYoD;
- 6) Maintained the growing PI Dugong listserv with over 20 members covering all PI dugong range states and beyond;
- 7) Initiated review of legislation;
- 8) Supported the participation of Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and PNG in Colin Limpus' dugong / turtle research training in Shoalwater Bay, Australia;
- 9) Supported CMS led Pacific Island Dugong Workshop;
- 10) Supported Pacific Island dugong range states to conduct survey on national distribution and interaction with fisheries (funded under UNEP/CMS);
- 11) Supplied equipment to Vanuatu for dugong surveys;
- 12) Secured funds from UNEP / CMS Dugong MoU for CMS Pacific Officer post;
- 13) Successful submission to Australian government for PYoD campaign support;
- 14) Submission to UNEP / CMS Dugong MoU for dugong and turtle work in the region including a sub-regional dugong workshop;

15) Continue to establish and maintain partnerships to support the implementation of the DAP.

b. GAPS / ISSUES IDENTIFIED:

Several participants voiced similar gaps / issues including: limited or ad-hoc funding; low on government priority; lack of or limited legislation to enhance protection of dugongs and their habitats; isolated / scattered geography of the island archipelagos; lack of technical knowledge / expertise; information gaps; lack of local / traditional knowledge and sharing / use of it to support conservation / management efforts. Some, however, were specific points made by countries / territories / organisations as shown below.

- **PALAU:**
 - Continued poaching of animals using dynamite fishing;
 - Need to establish a centralized information system.
- **NEW CALEDONIA:**
 - Finding calves on the beach indicating that the mothers have been harvested. Difficult to enforce as quite often it is largely a cultural matter.
- **PNG:**
 - There is currently a challenge with the Daru population as an LNG site is being established and noting that this stock is a shared PNG / Australia population.

c. LESSONS LEARNED:

Shared lessons include the following:

- Partnership, mutual understanding and resource sharing is important for successful dugong management, research and conservation initiatives at national level.
- Community involvement and participation need to be strengthened, especially in setting up community based protected areas and other related conservation initiatives
- Good communication skills, information dissemination, and networking fosters public support for dugong management and conservation.
- Appropriate planning and capacity building, as well as funding allocation is important.
- Promote, support and conduct relevant research and awareness to ensure long term sustainability;
- Monitoring and surveillance is expensive and difficult.

d. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DAP 2013 - 2017:

There were many similar recommendations made by the participants including the following:

- Improve and strengthen information, awareness, protection, management (including policies / legislation) and sustainable utilization of dugongs;
- Undertake where necessary baseline surveys while continuing annual monitoring surveys;

- Capacity building and training on: field survey techniques; population assessments and identification and mapping of migratory corridors and hotspots, research proposal writing, data collection and analysis etc.
- Assessment of effect of climate change on dugongs;
- Strengthen collaborations with all stakeholders including local communities, researchers, NGOs, other government departments;
- Explore opportunities to generate income for communities (eg: dugong watching);
- Ensure feedback of relevant research is provided to all stakeholders.

Some recommendations specifically mentioned by countries however, are listed as follows:

- **PALAU:**
 - Establish a national dugong database;
 - Establish a national dugong management plan.

5.3.2. DEVELOPING THEMES, PRIORITY ACTIONS, INDICATORS FOR THE DAP 2013 - 2017.

Similar to the WDAP and MTAP, the ‘mind mapping’ process was used to identify thematic areas for the DAP 2013 – 2017 using those of the 2008 – 2012 DAP as a guide.

As the DAP review participants were small in number, it was agreed that the group would work through the process as one. **Table 4** records the 2013 – 2017 DAP themes and the team responsible for the revision of priority actions and indicators under each theme with the results attached as Appendix 7.

Table 4: Drafted themes of the DAP with the Working Groups and members responsible for their development.

THEME	AREA	DAP review members
1	Information, awareness (education) and communication.	George (Vanuatu); Vagi (PNG); Donna (CMS); Thea (New Caledonia); Angela (Australia); Gillian (Australia); Scherryl (Palau); Alfred (WWFSPPO); Juney (Samoa); Cherrie (USP); Josie (WWFSPPO); Josef (Solomon Islands); Akanisi (WWFSPPO); Penina (SPREP); Lui (SPREP)
2	Management	
3	Traditional knowledge, customary marine tenure and traditional resource management.	
4	Capacity building	
5	Threat reduction	
6	Research and monitoring	
7	National, Regional and International Cooperation	
8	Sustainable practices / interactions with dugongs	
9	Human and Financial Resources.	

5.4. SUPPLEMENTARY SHARK ACTION PLAN (SAP):

5.4.1. RATIONALE:

In 2007, at the 18th SPREP Annual Meeting, members endorsed the proposal submitted by the Secretariat for the inclusion of sharks in its regional marine species programme. The meeting directed the Secretariat to *"collaborate with other relevant regional IGOs, in particular, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), SPC, and FFA in progressing an appropriate approach in developing a Regional Action Plan for sharks."* Consequently, in 2009, SPREP along with partners SPC and FFA, launched a Regional Plan of Action for Sharks (RPOA Sharks) in response to this proposal, the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks and to the Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) for Sharks adopted by the WCPFC of which the PICTs are members. The RPOA Sharks is intended to provide guidance to PICTs for actions taken nationally or regionally to improve the long term sustainable management of sharks in the PIR.

The rationale for this SAP stems out of a response to key areas considered vital to species management, that were not clearly reflected in the RPOA Sharks. Thus, the participants endorsed the proposal to develop a plan of action for sharks supplementary to that of the RPOA Sharks. Additionally, this SAP would reflect the structure of the three other species action plans (ie) whales and dolphins, marine turtles and dugongs.

The development of this SAP was lead by the Chair – Mr. Aisake Batibasaga (Fiji) and the working group was comprised of representatives from:

- FSM (Valentin Martin);
- Tuvalu (Semese Alefaio);
- Samoa (Juney Ward);
- Sea Web (Sainivalati Navuku);
- WWF SPPO (Alfred Ralifo);
- SPREP (Lui Bell; Penina Solomona).

The proposed goal of the SAP is:

"To conserve sharks and their habitats, ensuring their long-term sustainable use, in keeping with the traditions and aspirations of the people of the Pacific Islands region."

The proposed themes of the SAP are reflected in **Table 5** below noting that they are not numbered to reflect priority or order. The priority actions developed for the SAP are attached as Appendix 8.

Table 5: Drafted themes of the SAP.

THEME	AREA
1	National, regional and international collaboration.
2	Information and awareness.
3	Capacity building.

4	Ecosystem / habitat protection e.g. sanctuary
5	Sustainable development (ecotourism / shark watching)
6	Policy and legislation.
7	Cultural aspects.
8	Threat reduction.
9	Research and database establishment / maintenance.

6. KEY OUTCOMES OF THE REVIEW WORKSHOP:

- i. Preliminary implementation status of the 2008 – 2012 SPREP Regional Marine Species Action Plans;
- ii. Draft 2013 – 2017 Regional Marine Species Action Plans for whales and dolphins; marine turtles; dugongs
- iii. Supplementary action plan for sharks;
- iv. Updated technical information on the focal species and key areas e.g.: whale watching initiatives, sanctuary / protected areas for species including associated legislation;

7. NEXT STEPS:

In consultation with the meeting representatives, SPREP will refine the work undertaken during the review period and circulate for final comments. SPREP will endeavour to undertake this by April, 2012.

SPREP will then consolidate all comments and contributions and circulate the draft 2013 – 2017 Regional Marine Species Action Plan to Member Countries and Territories for a final review by May, 2012.

By June 2012, SPREP will finalize and translate the agreed to plans and submit this to the SPREP Meeting for endorsement in September 2012. The plan will be accompanied by a more detailed reflection of the status of implementation of the 2008 – 2012 MSAPs building on the preliminary work attached to this report.

**APPENDIX 1: SPREP MARINE SPECIES ACTION
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APPENDIX 2: SPREP REGIONAL MARINE SPECIES ACTION PLANS (2008 – 2012) : PRELIMINARY IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW MATRIX

A. WHALE and DOLPHIN ACTION PLAN: IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW MATRIX

WDAP Actions	SPREP MEMBERS																	PARTNERS				TOTAL SPREP Members / Partners Implementing					
	American Samoa	Cook Islands	Federated States of Micronesia	Fiji	French Polynesia	Guam	Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Nauru	New Caledonia	Niue	Northern Mariana Islands	Palau	Papua New Guinea	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tokelau	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu	Wallis & Futuna		SPREP	SPWRC	USP	WDCS	
1.1															X ¹			X				X			X		4
1.2																											0
1.3														X	X							X	X				4
1.4																									X		1
1.5																											0
1.6														X									X		X		3
1.7					X									X													2
1.8	X	X	X ⁴	X ⁴									X ⁴	X	X ¹										X ²		8
2.1	X				X										X ¹				X								4
2.2																X			X								2
2.3				X										X		X											3
2.4															X ¹	X									X		3

WDAP Actions	American Samoa	Cook Islands	Federated States of Micronesia	Fiji	French Polynesia	Guam	Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Nauru	New Caledonia	Niue	Northern Mariana Islands	Palau	Papua New Guinea	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tokelau	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu	Wallis & Futuna	SPREP	SPWRC	USP	WDCS	TOTAL SPREP Members / Partners Implementing	
	2.5	X														X	X	X									
2.6	X		X ⁴	X ⁴										X ⁴											X ²		5
2.7	X		X ⁴	X ⁴	X					X				X ⁴	X					X ⁴		X			X ²		10
2.8					X					X					X	X											4
2.9					X										X	X									X		4
2.10					X										X										X		3
2.11																									X		1
2.12	X			X ⁴	X										X	X									X ²		6
2.13													X			X ¹											2
2.14															X	X ¹											2
2.15	X														X												2
2.16					X										X										X		3
2.17					X					X						X			X								4
2.18					X					X					X			X ⁵				X ²			X		6
2.19	X														X	X											3
2.20					X					X					X	X ¹											4
2.21	X				X					X					X												4
2.22															X										X		2

WDAP Actions	American Samoa	Cook Islands	Federated States of Micronesia	Fiji	French Polynesia	Guam	Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Nauru	New Caledonia	Niue	Northern Mariana Islands	Palau	Papua New Guinea	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tokelau	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu	Wallis & Futuna	SPREP	SPWRC	USP	WDCS	TOTAL SPREP Members / Partners Implementing
	2.23					X																				X
3.1		X		X ⁴	X							X	X ⁴	X									X		X ²	8
3.2				X ⁴	X							X													X ²	4
3.3	X				X											X			X							4
3.4	X				X									X	X										X	5
4.1					X									X					X							3
4.2			X ⁴	X ⁴									X ⁴	X											X ²	5
4.3	X			X ⁶	X									X ⁶									X ²			5
4.4															X				X						X	3
4.5	X													X												2
4.6				X	X																	X			X	4
4.7	X																								X	2
4.8	X			X	X				X										X							5
4.9					X				X	X ⁵			X ⁵	X ⁵	X ⁵			X ⁵				X ²				8
5.1			X ⁴	X ⁴	X ³								X ⁴												X ²	5
5.2	X								X				X ⁴		X							X			X ²	6
5.3			X ⁴	X ⁴									X ⁴									X			X ²	5
5.4	X	X	X ⁴	X ⁴	X									X	X					X		X			X ²	10

WDAP Actions	American Samoa	Cook Islands	Federated States of Micronesia	Fiji	French Polynesia	Guam	Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Nauru	New Caledonia	Niue	Northern Mariana Islands	Palau	Papua New Guinea	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tokelau	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu	Wallis & Futuna	SPREP	SPWRC	USP	WDCS	TOTAL SPREP Members / Partners Implementing
	5.5	X			X ⁴						X				X ⁴		X									X ²
5.6					X					X																2
5.7																X ¹									X	2
5.8										X						X ¹									X	3
6.1										X																1
6.2																X									X	2
6.3															X	X ¹										2
6.4															X	X ¹										2
6.5																X ¹										1
6.6																							X			1
6.7																X ¹										1
6.8																										0
6.9																X									X	2
6.10															X	X ¹										2
6.11															X											1
7.1																										0
7.2	X									X					X	X						X				5
7.3																										0

WDAP Actions	American Samoa	Cook Islands	Micronesia	Fiji	French Polynesia	Guam	Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Nauru	New Caledonia	Niue	Northern Mariana Islands	Palau	Papua New Guinea	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tokelau	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu	Wallis & Futuna	SPREP	SPWRC	USP	WDCS	TOTAL SPREP Members / Partners Implementing	
	7.4															X	X						X				
8.1																						X			X		2
8.2	X		X ⁴	X ⁴										X ⁴	X										X ²		6
8.3	X													X ⁴											X ²		3
8.4					X					X																	2
8.5	X																										1
8.6																X									X		2
8.7	X																								X		2
8.8	X				X					X					X										X		5
8.9	X	X		X ⁴						X		X	X ⁴	X ⁴											X ²		8
8.10	X									X															X		3
8.11	X		X ⁴							X					X		X								X ²		6
8.12	X			X ⁴										X ⁴											X ²		4
8.13	X																										1
8.14	X																										1
8.15	X																										1
9.1																											0
9.2																											0

WDAP Actions	American Samoa	Cook Islands	Federated States of Micronesia	Fiji	French Polynesia	Guam	Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Nauru	New Caledonia	Niue	Northern Mariana Islands	Palau	Papua New Guinea	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tokelau	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu	Wallis & Futuna	SPREP	SPWRC	USP	WDCS	TOTAL SPREP Members / Partners Implementing	
	9.3																										
9.4		X																									1
9.5																						X					1
9.6									X														X				2
9.7				X ⁴					X						X										X ²		4
9.8									X						X												2
9.9															X										X		2
9.10									X																		1
9.11									X																		1
9.12															X								X				2
TOTAL Actions Reporting Activity	31	5	9	19	27					24	1		4	14	41	33	5	2	8	2		13	5	2	43	288	

KEY:

- X: Activity undertaken and reported
- X¹: Activity yet to be implemented
- X²: Work conducted in country by partner organisation (eg: WDCS / SPREP / WWF etc)
- X³: Recommendations / Requests made
- X⁴: Activity undertaken by national agency in partnership with WDCS
- X⁵: Activity undertaken by national agency in partnership with SPREP
- X⁶: Activity undertaken by national agency in partnership with USP

MARINE TURTLE ACTION PLAN: IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW MATRIX

MTAP Actions	SPREP MEMBERS																				TOTAL SPREP Members / Partners Implementing			
	A. Samoa	Cook Islands	Fed. States of Micronesia	Fiji	French Polynesia	Guam	Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Nauru	New Caledonia	Niue	Northern Mariana Islands	Palau	Palau New Guinea	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tokelau	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu		Wallis & Futuna	SPREP	WSB
1.1			X	X																		X		3
1.2	X									X														2
1.3		X	X							X														3
1.4		X	X	X			X								X				X				X	7
1.5		X	X							X				X	X									5
2.1	X	X	X	X						X		X			X							X		8
2.2	X	X	X									X		X										5
2.3		X	X	X						X						X		X						6
2.4	X	X	X	X			X					X		X										7
2.5		X	X	X			X		X			X		X	X ¹	X								9
2.6	X	X	X	X										X	X				X					7
2.7	X	X	X	X			X		X					X					X			X		9
2.8	X	X	X	X			X		X			X			X	X			X					10
2.9	X	X	X	X			X		X					X	X	X			X				X	11
3.1		X	X	X			X							X ³	X									6
3.2	X	X	X	X					X							X						X		7
3.3			X ³																					1

MTAP Actions	Geographic Regions																						SPREP	WSB	TOTAL SPREP Members / Partners Implementing
	A. Samoa	Cook Islands	Fed. States of Micronesia	Fiji	French Polynesia	Guam	Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Nauru	New Caledonia	Niue	Northern Mariana Islands	Palau	Palau New Guinea	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tokelau	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu	Wallis & Futuna				
3.4			X ³											X		X							X	X	5
3.5	X	X	X	X				X		X			X		X				X				X	X	11
3.6			X ¹											X	X				X						4
3.7	X	X	X	X						X			X						X					X	8
3.8		X	X													X									3
4.1	X	X	X ³	X						X				X											6
4.2	X	X	X							X			X	X					X					X	8
4.3	X	X	X	X				X		X				X	X ¹									X	9
4.4	X	X	X	X				X						X	X										7
4.5		X	X	X						X					X										5
4.6	X	X	X	X				X		X			X	X	X ¹									X	10
4.7		X ¹	X	X				X		X			X	X	X ¹									X	9
4.8			X							X ³															2
4.9	X	X	X	X				X		X			X	X	X				X						10
4.10	X		X ³							X					X								X		5
4.11	X	X	X	X															X						5
4.12		X	X	X															X						4
4.13		X	X	X															X						4
4.14	X	X	X	X											X										5

MTAP Actions	TOTAL SPREP Members / Partners Implementing																									
	A. Samoa	Cook Islands	Fed. States of Micronesia	Fiji	French Polynesia	Guam	Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Nauru	New Caledonia	Niue	Northern Mariana Islands	Palau	Palau New Guinea	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tokelau	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu	Wallis & Futuna	SPREP	WSB			
4.15		X	X	X						X						X									5	
4.16		X	X	X						X						X										5
4.17		X		X				X		X ³						X							X		6	
4.18	X	X	X	X											X							X			6	
5.1		X	X ³	X				X							X	X			X			X			8	
5.2		X	X ³	X				X							X	X			X						7	
5.3		X	X	X												X ³									4	
5.4		X	X	X				X							X	X									6	
5.5		X	X	X						X						X			X						6	
5.6	X	X	X	X				X		X		X			X				X						9	
6.1			X	X											X	X ¹									4	
6.2			X												X	X ¹									3	
6.3		X	X	X											X										4	
6.4		X	X	X												X ¹									4	
7.1			X												X		X ¹								3	
7.2		X	X	X						X					X		X ¹					X			7	
7.3		X	X	X											X	X ¹			X				X		7	
7.4		X	X	X				X		X					X	X	X								8	

MTAP Actions	TOTAL SPREP Members / Partners Implementing																							
	A. Samoa	Cook Islands	Fed. States of Micronesia	Fiji	French Polynesia	Guam	Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Nauru	New Caledonia	Niue	Northern Mariana Islands	Palau	Palau New Guinea	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tokelau	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu	Wallis & Futuna	SPREP	WSB	
7.5		X	X	X						X ³				X	X ³	X ³							X	8
7.6		X	X	X								X		X		X ³						X	X	8
7.7		X ¹		X												X ³						X		4
7.8			X	X								X		X	X ³	X ³								6
7.9			X	X										X	X									4
8.1	X											X				X ³		X ³				X		5
8.2			X ³	X								X		X	X	X ³						X		7
8.3	X	X												X	X									4
8.4	X			X						X				X	X	X ³							X	7
8.5		X								X		X		X	X ³							X		6
8.6															X ³									1
8.7		X	X	X						X		X		X	X								X	8
8.8		X	X							X														3
9.1	X	X	X	X						X						X ³		X						7
9.2		X	X	X						X				X		X ³								6
9.3			X							X						X ³								3
9.4	X	X	X	X						X		X		X	X	X ³							X	10
9.5	X	X	X	X						X		X		X		X ³		X				X		10

MTAP Actions	A. Samoa	Cook Islands	Fed. States of Micronesia	Fiji	French Polynesia	Guam	Kiribati	Marshall islands	Nauru	New Caledonia	Niue	Northern Mariana Islands	Palau	Palau New Guinea	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tokelau	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu	Wallis & Futuna	SPREP	WSB	TOTAL SPREP Members / Partners Implementing	
	9.6		X ¹	X	X						X					X		X ³		X			X	X	
9.7		X ¹		X						X ³					X	X	X ³						X		7
9.8		X ¹													X							X			3
9.9	X	X																				X			3
9.10		X																							1
9.11	X	X	X							X															4
9.12		X																							1
9.13		X	X							X															3
9.14		X ¹	X																						2
9.15		X	X							X					X	X									5
9.16			X							X													X		3
9.17	X	X	X	X ⁵				X		X			X		X	X			X ⁵	X ⁵		X ²	X		13
TOTAL Actions Reporting Activity	31	66	71	56				20		45			21		46	44	24	0	24	1		20	20		489

KEY:

- X: Activity undertaken and reported
- X¹: Activity yet to be implemented
- X²: Work conducted in country by partner organisation (eg: WDCS / SPREP / WWF etc)
- X³: Recommendations / Requests made
- X⁴: Activity undertaken by national agency in partnership with WDCS
- X⁵: Activity undertaken by national agency in partnership with SPREP
- X⁶: Activity undertaken by national agency in partnership with USP

B. DUGONG ACTION PLAN: IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW MATRIX

DAP ACTIONS	PIR DUGONG RANGE STATES					PARTNERS			TOTAL PIR Range States / Partners Implementing
	New Caledonia	Palau	Papua New Guinea	Solomon Islands	Vanuatu	CMS	SPREP	WSB	
1.1									0
1.2		X		X					2
1.3	X			X					2
1.4									0
1.5	X								1
1.6	X	X		X			X		4
1.7									0
1.8		X							1
1.9		X							1
2.1	X			X					2
2.2	X	X		X					3
2.3				X					1
2.4									0
2.5				X					1
2.6		X							1
2.7		X		X					2
3.1	X	X		X					3
3.2				X					1
3.3	X	X		X					3
3.4		X		X					2

KEY:

- X: Activity undertaken and reported
- X¹: Activity yet to be implemented
- X²: Work conducted in country by partner organisation (e.g: SPREP / WSB etc)
- X³: Recommendations / Requests made
- X⁵: Activity undertaken by national agency in partnership with SPREP

DAP ACTIONS	New Caledonia	Palau	Papua New Guinea	Solomon Islands	Vanuatu	CMS	SPREP	WSB	TOTAL PIR Range States / Partners Implementing
4.1									0
4.2				X					1
4.3				X					1
4.4	X	X							2
4.5		X		X					2
4.6				X					1
5.1		X		X ¹					2
5.2				X ¹					1
5.3	X			X ¹					2
5.4	X			X					2
5.5	X			X					2
6.1	X	X		X					3
6.2									0
6.3		X		X					2
6.4		X		X					2
6.5				X					1
7.1	X	X		X					3
7.2	X								1
7.3	X								1
7.4									0
7.5				X					1

DAP ACTIONS	New Caledonia	Palau	Papua New Guinea	Solomon Islands	Vanuatu	CMS	SPREP	WSB	TOTAL PIR Range States / Partners Implementing
8.1				X					1
8.2		X		X					2
8.3		X		X					2
8.4	X	X		X					3
9.1				X					1
9.2		X		X ¹					2
9.3				X					1
9.4									0
9.5									0
TOTAL Actions with reported activity	16	21		34			1		72

APPENDIX 3:

**Agenda: REVIEW OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIONAL MARINE SPECIES PROGRAMME ACTION PLANS
2013-2017:**



- WHALE AND DOLPHIN ACTION PLAN;
- MARINE TURTLE ACTION PLAN;
- DUGONG ACTION PLAN

8-14 March 2012

Venue: Hexagon International, Nadi, Fiji

Objectives:

- 1). To review the status of the implementation and lessons learned of the regional Marine Species Programme Action Plans (MSPAPs) 2008-2012 - Whale & Dolphin Action Plan (WDAP); Marine Turtle Action Plan (MTAP) and Dugong Action Plan (DAP);
- 2). To update members on available information on Whales and Dolphin (Cetaceans), Marine Turtles and Dugongs in the Pacific Islands region;
- 3). To develop new regional Marine Species Programme Action Plans for Whales & Dolphins, Marine Turtles and Dugongs, providing priority actions for marine species conservation work in the Pacific Islands region to guide regional and national activities for the next 5 years (2013-2017).
- 4). Building partnerships beyond 2012 for marine species conservation.

Expected Outcomes:

- Summary of the status of the implementation of the regional MSPAPs 2008-2012.
- Updated technical information on cetaceans, marine turtles and dugongs in the Pacific Islands region (including threats/issues)
- Draft MSPAPs 2013-2017
- Plan for building partnership beyond 2012.

Output:

- Revised Marine Species Programme Action Plans 2013-2017
- Workshop Report and any recommendations from the meeting.

DAY 1 - THURSDAY, 8 MARCH 2012

SPREP REGIONAL MARINE SPECIES PROGRAMME (MSP)

Time	Session	Responsible	Notes
8.30am	Registration (at Venue)		
09.00-10.00am	<p>SESSION SPECIAL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction and welcome ▪ Prayer ▪ Opening ▪ SPREP opening remarks ▪ Host country opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The SPREP Regional MSPAPs and reviews of the Species Action Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPREP (MSO) • Participant • SPREP: Stuart Chape, Director-BEM • SPREP (MSO) 	<p>Introduction to the SPREP Regional MSPF containing the Whale & Dolphin Action Plan, Marine Turtle Action Plan and the Dugong Action Plan, duration, process for endorsement etc</p>
10.00-10.30am	MORNING TEA		

I. WHALE AND DOLPHIN ACTION PLAN REVIEW

1.1: INTRODUCTIONS AND ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

10.30-11.00 am	<p>SESSION I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction of Participants ▪ Election of Chairperson ▪ Meeting Objectives/Outcomes and Procedures ▪ Adoption of Agenda 	<p>Facilitator (SMT)</p> <p>Facilitator (SMT)</p> <p>SPREP (MSO)</p> <p>Chair</p>	
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1.2: STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WDAP 2008-2012

11-12.30	<p>Session 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WDAP 2008-2012 Implementation: Regional Overview ▪ Main partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CMS Pacific Cetacean MoU - SPWRC ▪ MEMBERS OVERVIEW ON WDAP NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ▪ OTHERS OVERVIEW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IGOs, NGOs, Researchers/Institutes, Private 	<p>SPREP (MSO)</p> <p>CMS SPWRC</p> <p>3-minute presentations by member countries and territories</p> <p>3-minute presentations by collaborators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achievements - Issues arising - Key lessons learnt; gaps; - Key issues and recommended actions for new WDAP
12.30-1.30	LUNCH		

1.3 CETACEANS CURRENT STATUS, INCOME GENERATION & CONSERVATION			
1.30-2.00	<p>SESSION 3:</p> <p>CURRENT STATUS OF AND THREATS TO CETACEANS IN PIR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stocks, populations, migration, species distribution/ occurrence in the Pacific Islands region 	Cara Miller	<p>Presentations for background information</p> <p>Presentation: Includes global/regional stocks status and listings in IUCN, and CITES & CMS Appendices</p>
2.00-2.30	<p>SESSION 4:</p> <p>INCOME GENERATING (CETACEAN WATCHING) IN PIR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trends & opportunities, potential impacts of cetacean watching 	Olive Andrews	<p>Presentation: recent information in the Pacific Islands region</p>
2.30-3.00	<p>SESSION 5:</p> <p>CURRENT STATUS OF CETACEAN PROTECTION IN PIR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanctuaries, national legislation and policies, relevant International Conventions/Instruments 	SPREP	
3.00-3.30	AFTERNOON TEA		
1.4 NEW WHALE & DOLPHIN ACTION PLAN 2013-2017			
3.30-5.00	<p>SESSION 6:</p> <p>NEW WHALE & DOLPHIN ACTION PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal(s) Vision Framework (Key Areas/Themes with Actions listed under each, Lead and partner agencies, Priority, as per current APs) 	All-Chair/Facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate approach to adapt for formatting the Action Plan

<p>SESSION 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KEY AREAS/THEMES [to be in-line with other regional strategies e.g. SPREP's Strategic Plan, Oceanscape, Biodiversity etc] ▪ Working Groups (4?) allocation ▪ Allocation of Key Areas/Themes to each Working Group [2 Key Areas per WG] 	<p>All-Chair/Facilitator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify Key Areas/Themes of priority to use in the Revised Action Plan; ▪ Working groups properly represented
<p>SESSION 8: GENERAL DISCUSSION; OUTLINE FOR LAST DAY</p>	<p>All-Chair/Facilitator</p>	<p>- Guidelines for Working Groups</p>
<p>Launches of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oceania Humpback Whale Recovery Plan • Pacific Dugong Video and Range States Dugong Profiles 		

DAY 2 - FRIDAY, 9 MARCH 2012

8.30-12.00	<p>WHALE & DOLPHIN ACTION PLAN 2008-2012 cont</p> <p>SESSION 9: WORKING GROUPS (WG)</p>	<p>Four WGs working on 2 Key Areas/Themes each.</p> <p>Each WG chose Chair/ rapporteur</p>	<p>For each Key Area/Theme, identify</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key objectives - Priority actions under each objective - Lead and collaborating partners responsible for each action - Action priority (high, medium or low).
12.00-1.00	LUNCH		
1.00-3.00	<p>SESSION 10: WORKING GROUP REPORTING & DISCUSSION</p>	<p>Chair and each WG report on results of discussion</p>	<p>Discussion involving all on report and agree on objectives and priority actions etc</p>
3.00-3.30	AFTERNOON TEA		
3.30-5.00	WORKING GROUP REPORTING & DISCUSSION cont	As above	As above
5.00	<p>SESSION II: WRAP-UP AND CLOSING</p>	Facilitator/Chair	Wrap-up & agreement next steps to finalize new WDAP
	DRAFT WORKING GROUP		To pull main components and actions together for consideration

2. REVIEW OF THE MARINE TURTLE ACTION PLAN

DAY 3 – SATURDAY, 10 MARCH 2012			
2.1: INTRODUCTIONS AND ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON			
08.30-10.30	SESSION I: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction of Participants ▪ Election of Chairperson ▪ Meeting Objectives/Outcomes and Procedures ▪ Adoption of Agenda 	Facilitator Facilitator SPREP (MSO) Chair	
2.2: STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARINE TURTLE ACTION PLAN 2008-2012			
	Session 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MTAP 2008-2012 Implementation: Regional Overview ▪ MEMBERS OVERVIEW ON MTAP NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ▪ OTHERS OVERVIEW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IGOs, NGOs, Researchers/Institutes, Private 	SPREP 3-minute presentations by PICTs 3-minute presentations by observers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achievements - Issues arising - Key lessons learnt; gaps; - Key issues and recommended Actions for new MTAP

2.3 MARINE TURTLES: CURRENT STATUS & CONSERVATION

11.00-12.30	<p>SESSION 3: CURRENT STATUS OF AND THREATS TO MARINE TURTLES IN PIR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stocks, Populations Status ▪ Migration in the Pacific Islands region (flipper and satellite tagging), Threats and Challenges 	tba SPREP	<p>Presentations for background information</p> <p>Presentation: Includes global/regional stocks status and listings in IUCN, and CITES & CMS Appendices etc</p>
	<p>SESSION 4: INCOME GENERATING (MT WATCHING) AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES IN TURTLE CONSERVATION IN PIR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initiatives, opportunities, potential impacts etc 	tba SPREP/WWF SPPO	<p>Presentation: on community monitors</p>
	<p>SESSION 5: CURRENT STATUS OF MARINE TURTLES PROTECTION IN PIR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sanctuaries, national legislation and policies and relevant International Conventions/Instruments 	SPREP	
<p>LUNCH ½ DAY OFF</p>			

DAY 4 – MONDAY, 12 MARCH 2012

2.4 MARINE TURTLE ACTION PLAN 2013-2017

08.30-10.30	<p>SESSION 6: NEW MARINE TURTLE ACTION PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Goal(s) ▪ Vision ▪ Framework (as adopted for WDAP) 	All-Chair/Facilitator	- appropriate approach to adapt for formatting the Action Plan
	<p>SESSION 7: KEY AREAS/THEMES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working Groups (4?) allocation ▪ Allocation of Key Areas to each Working Group [2 Key Areas per WG] 	All-Chair/Facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify Key Areas/Themes of priority to use in the Revised Action Plan; - Working groups properly represented - Guidelines for Working Groups
11.00-12.30	<p>SESSION 8: WORKING GROUPS (WG)</p>	<p>Four WGs with 2 Areas/Components Each WG chose Chair/rapporteur</p>	<p>For each Key Area/Theme, identify</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key objectives - Priority actions under each objective - Lead and collaborating partners responsible for each action - Action priority (high, medium or low).
12.30-1.30	LUNCH		
1.30-3.00 PM	WORKING GROUPS (WG) cont		
	AFTERNOON TEA		

3.00-5.00pm	SESSION 9: WORKING GROUPS REPORTING	Chair and each WG report on results of discussion	- Discussion involving all on report and agree on objectives and priority actions etc
	SESSION 10: WRAP-UP AND CLOSING	Facilitator/Chair	- Wrap-up & agreement next steps to finalize new MTAP
	DRAFT WORKING GROUP		- To pull main components and actions together for consideration

3. REVIEW OF THE DUGONG ACTION PLAN

DAY 5 - TUESDAY, 13 MARCH 2012			
3.1: INTRODUCTIONS AND ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON			
8.30-10.30	SESSION 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction of Participants ▪ Election of Chairperson ▪ Meeting Objectives/Outcomes and Procedures ▪ Adoption of Agenda 	Facilitator Facilitator SPREP (MSO) Chair	
	3.2: STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DAP 2008-2012		
	SESSION 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DAP 2003-2007 Implementation: Regional Overview and 2011 PYOD ▪ CMS ▪ RANGE STATE MEMBERS OVERVIEW ON DAP NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ▪ OTHERS OVERVIEW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IGOs, NGOs, Researchers/Institutes, Private 	SPREP (MSO) CMS (D. Kwan) 3-minute presentations by member countries and territories 3-minute presentations by observers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achievements - Issues arising - Actions Recommended - Key lessons learnt; gaps; key issues for new DAP

3.3 DUGONG CURRENT STATUS, INCOMING GENERATION & CONSERVATION

11.00-12.30	<p>SESSION 3: CURRENT STATUS OF AND THREATS TO DUGONGS IN PIR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stocks, Stock Populations, Threats 	tba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentations for background information - Presentation: Includes global stocks status and listings in IUCN, and CITES & CMS Appendices
	<p>SESSION 4: INCOME GENERATING (DUGONG WATCHING) IN PIR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opportunities, potential impacts of dugong watching 	tbc	
	<p>SESSION 5: CURRENT STATUS OF DUGONG PROTECTION IN PIR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sanctuaries, national legislation and policies, relevant International Conventions/Instruments 	SPREP	
12.00-1.30	LUNCH		

3.4 DUGONG ACTION PLAN 2013-2017

1.30-4.30PM	<p>SESSION 6: NEW DUGONG ACTION PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Goal(s) ▪ Vision ▪ Framework (as adopted for WDAP & MTAP) 	All-Chair/Facilitator	- appropriate approach to adapt for formatting the Action Plan
	<p>SESSION 7: KEY AREAS/COMPONENTS/THEMES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working Groups (4?) allocation ▪ Allocation of Key Areas to each Working Group [2 Key Areas per WG] 	All-Chair/Facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify Key Areas/Themes of priority to use in the Revised Action Plan; - Working groups properly represented
	<p>SESSION 8: GENERAL DISCUSSION; OUTLINE FOR LAST DAY</p>	All-Chair/Facilitator	- Guidelines for Working Groups

DAY 6 - WEDNESDAY, 14 MARCH 2012

8.30-12.00	DUGONG ACTION PLAN 2008-2012 SESSION 9: WORKING GROUPS (WG)	Number of WGs depending on Areas/Components Each WG chose Chair/ rapporteur	For each Key Area/Theme, identify - Key objectives - Priority actions under each objective - Lead and collaborating partners responsible for each action - Action priority (high, medium or low).
12.00-1.00	LUNCH		
1.00-4.30	SESSION 10: WORKING GROUP REPORTING	Chair and each WG report on results of discussion	Discussion involving all on report and agree on objectives and priority actions etc
5.00	SESSION II: WRAP-UP AND CLOSING	Facilitator/Chair	Wrap-up & agreement next steps to finalize new DAP
	DRAFT WORKING GROUP		To pull main components and actions together for consideration

APPENDIX 4: 2013 – 2017 WHALE and DOLPHIN ACTION PLAN: DRAFT THEMES, PRIORITY ACTIONS and INDICATORS

THEME 1: NATIONAL, REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION & COOPERATION	Lead
OBJECTIVE: Promote & enhance national, regional & international coordination, collaboration & partnership for whale and dolphin conservation in the Pacific Islands Region.	
1.1: Promote understanding by facilitating effective information sharing mechanisms to assist in addressing cross sectoral issues and migratory species conservation.	SPREP/members
1.2: Encourage & support PICTs in removing internal cross sectoral barriers in order to effectively implement the WDAP at the local, island & government levels.	SPREP/Members/Partners
1.3: Facilitate PICTs involvement & participation in relevant international and regional meetings and initiatives for whales & dolphins conservation, noting that members are responsible for selecting appropriate representatives to these meetings.	+Members
1.4: Promote cooperation and highlight achievements and lessons learned in whale & dolphin conservation at national regional and international fora.	
1.5: Ensure whale & dolphin conservation needs are integrated into the development & implementation of the SPREP Environment Ministers Regional MPA framework.	
1.6: Develop linkages and relationships with relevant regional organisations & processes, such as RFMOs (eg: MoUs, information exchange & cross sectoral integration).	
1.7: Develop partnerships/relationships with relevant private sector organisations to reduce threats to whales and dolphins such as by-catch, depredation and marine debris (such as fishing and tourism industries, NGOs).	
1.8: Effect improved integration of whale & dolphin conservation into national, regional & international initiatives including: NBSAPs; National Sustainable Development Strategies; Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Policy; Action Strategy for Nature Conservation, CROP Marine Sector Working Group; RFMOs; NBSAP Working Group). CTI, Micronesian challenge, Oceanscape, Funding opportunities e.g. GEF.	
1.9: Coordinate and facilitate the compilation of PICTs position for relevant international processes and MEAs on whales and dolphin.	SPREP, Members, partners
1.10: Assess members capacity to implement the WDAP, CMS Cetacean MoU, CITES & CBD where relevant.	
<p>INDICATORS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of national, regional and international organisations, processes and frameworks incorporating PIR whale and 	

dolphin conservation needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of national, regional and international partnerships created to support WDAP implementation. - Number of NBSAPs or equivalent strategies integrating WDAP action. - Capacity strengthened to draft, manage and enforce legislation and policy in country / territory. 	
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THEME 2: THREAT REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE 1: Minimize the impacts of the major (five) hazards listed below on whale and dolphin populations in the Pacific Islands region:

- Fisheries interactions;
- Climate change;
- Coastal development;
- Pollution/pathogens
- Direct take.

- Fisheries Interactions

Aim: to reduce threats to cetaceans from fisheries interactions

2.1: Collaborate and share information on fisheries / cetaceans interactions, and successful & unsuccessful tactics for mitigation.

2.2: Foster industry / research institution / governments partnership to develop & test mitigation techniques to reduce bycatch & depredation.

Indicators:

- Properly tested depredation / mitigation techniques
- Improved catch reporting systems
- Use of a successful technique by long-line fisheries in the region
- System of collecting data from fishing operators on by-catch and depredation developed and used

(i). Direct take

Aim: to reduce the impacts on cetaceans from direct take

2.3: Take actions to ensure a favourable conservation status of affected whale and dolphin species.

2.4: Ensure compliance with all relevant international regulations and agreements..
<p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-lethal research carried out on abundance of whales and dolphin species that are targeted in whaling, hunt and live capture (move to Research) - Adoption of (applied to any direct take and) international regulations/agreements applied to capture activities - Improved reporting and recording of direct take - Properly tested depredation mitigation - Increased adoption of mitigation techniques by fisheries - Improved catch reporting systems
(ii). Climate Change
Aim: to reduce impacts to cetaceans from climate change
2.5: Facilitate the collation and dissemination of current knowledge of the impacts of climate change on cetaceans and their habitats.
2.6: Build links into international fora addressing climate change (to Theme 1?)
2.7: Disseminate and promote information/current knowledge
2.8: Analyze information/impacts of climate change (move to Research and Monitoring)
Indicator:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Document/presentation on climate change impacts to whales and dolphins provided to SPREP members
(iii). Pollution and Pathogens
Aim: to reduce the impacts to cetaceans from pollution and pathogens
2.9: Encourage improved waste management at community & national levels (including fishing operations) to reduce plastics and other debris in the marine environment.
2.10: Reduce amount of discarded fishing gear in the ocean

2.11: Disseminate waste management guidelines to relevant Departments/Agencies for promotion.
2.12: Reduce potential impacts of underwater noise-indicate consideration of underwater noise impacts that could affect w/d ?? To w/d-incorporate into EIA processes
Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better information on the impacts of plastics and other debris to whales and dolphins - Waste management guidelines promoted at all levels
Identify potential for significant impact / localized effects from tourism activities on whales & dolphins. (to Theme 8: Research & Monitoring)
Develop management & mitigation strategies to reduce identified impact. (to Theme 8: Research & Monitoring)
(iv).Coastal Development and Tourism
Aim: to reduce the impacts of coastal development and tourism-related activities on cetaceans.
2.13: Assess the potential impacts of whale & dolphin watching and swim with activities on the animals. (fits better under Theme 9, Whale and dolphin-based Tourism (or is it Theme 8, Research and Monitoring?))
2.14: Encourage consultation / consideration of impacts on whales & dolphins in national legislative & environmental impact assessment (EIA) processes. Ensure proponents consider impacts to cetaceans through an IEA peocess.
2.15: Identify particular localised areas & populations, and develop appropriate monitoring & mitigation of any significant impacts.
Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consideration of impacts on whales and dolphins incorporated into processes such as EIA, and potential impact information made available - Monitoring and identified localized populations i
2.23: Identify any significant source of acoustic noise pollution that could affect whales & dolphins. (move to Pollution above or delete?)

Theme 3: ECOSYSTEM AND HABITAT PROTECTION	
OBJECTIVE 1: Support and encourage the designation (establishment) of national whale/marine sanctuaries, marine park, MPAs in SPREP members	
Note: for consistency, include marine sanctuary, MPA, marine park!	
3.1: Support effort to declare (establish?) EEZ wide / national whale / marine sanctuaries, MPAs and marine parks with technical / policy advice.	
OBJECTIVE 2: Support the management of whale / marine sanctuaries, MPAs and marine parks	
3.2: Support the development and implementation of management plans and strategies	
3.3: Harmonize local and national MPA's for the protection and management of cetaceans where possible	
OBJECTIVE 3: Identify and protect critical habitat and migratory pathways	
3.4: Conduct research to identify critical cetacean habitat and migratory pathways	
3.5: Link/network/elaborate with existing large scale marine habitat program regionally and nationality. Share information??	
Indicators:	
-OBJ 1: Additional SPREP members designate national EEZ-wide sanctuaries and other marine protected areas that protect cetaceans	
-OBJ 2: POM?/strategies developed, finalized and implemented for existing sanctuaries	
- OBJ 3: Critical habitat and migratory pathways are identified and protected.	

THEME 4: CAPACITY BUILDING	Lead
OBJECTIVE I: Increase in-country expertise and capacity.	
4.1: Identify and address training needs & support proposal writing to implement WDAP at country & regional level, using existing processes such as National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA).	

4.2: Develop training packages on common priorities (eg: straining, data recording, legislation, communication, etc.) based on regional priorities and convene workshops based on identified needs.	
4.3: Support internship training on whales & dolphins in existing research centers.	
4.4: Build in-country capacity to prepare relevant regulation, legislation & policy.	Partners
4.5: Conduct national and / or regional training workshops on necropsy, including collection & storage of tissues, skeletal remains & analysis.	
4.6: Conduct sub-regional training & verification of whale & dolphin sightings, reporting, abundance estimation techniques, and develop database complementary to that under the Marine Turtle Action Plan.	
4.7: Develop surveillance & enforcement capacity for implementation of national protection measures including whale & dolphin watching tourism operations.	
4.8: Conduct industry training & certification programmes for whale / dolphin watching operators and guides, which should be required to attain a whale & dolphin watching permit / license where applicable.	
4.9: Develop capacity to negotiate and advocate for regional policies and positions	
<p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Training needs identified and addressed -Training packages prepared and made available -Increase technical capacity to obtain information and assist in conservation of whales and dolphins in the region -Improved capacity to develop and implement policies and legislation. -Whale/dolphin operator training and certification programs are implemented in SPREP nations. - Number of countries providing information for the database. 	

THEME 5: Information & Awareness	Lead
OBJECTIVE 1: Develop communication strategies, training programmes & protocols for key issues within the Whale and	

Dolphin Action Plan	
5.1: Identify key issues for each member & support development of appropriate education strategies & programmes (eg: known threats; species ID; status)	
5.2: Develop appropriate education & awareness tools incorporating scientific and traditional knowledge for different target audiences at a regional & national level. (also reflect “Integrate traditional knowledge, stories & customs into education & develop awareness” [look at wording i.e. tools vs materials])	
5.3: Capacity building of government agencies & community trainers to facilitate stewardship, and to develop & deliver outreach programmes.	
<p>INDICATORS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community and school education programmes implemented - Regionally relevant factsheets to inform governments and industries on key issues are produced eg: fisheries interaction, cultural practices, regulation, biology, natural history - Training programmes carried out in country for key government agencies and identified local community stewards 	
OBJECTIVE 2: Increase awareness and understanding of whales and dolphins in the region	
5.4: Implement educational and awareness tools in schools and/or communities using relevant networks and methods.	
5.5: Provide materials & information to mass media (TV & radio stations) in-country to inform public.	
5.6: Disseminate educational materials targeted at recreational / private boaters to ensure minimum impact.	
5.7: Declare 2014 as the Pacific year of the whale and support the planning, development, and implementation of in-country and regional conservation campaigns (in support of international effort by SORP)	
<p>INDICATORS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation on whales and dolphins carried out in schools, village halls and annual festivities; - Whales and dolphins are profiled through documentaries, interviews and regular spots in local media - ID guides, factsheets and guidelines / brochures are distributed to boaters, mariners, yacht clubs, through government agencies and NGOs - Educational programmes implemented in schools, education centres and museums - Informal/ traditional methods of education are employed at community level - 2014 celebrated as the Year of Whales 	

THEME 6: CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUE	Lead
OBJECTIVE 1: Document the range of cultural practices, values and knowledge associated with whales and dolphins and encourage a more cohesive approach in policies and legislation	
6.1: Undertake a review of customary practice & knowledge related to the conservation & management of whales & dolphins	include members
6.2: Promote the adoption & integration of customary practices related to the conservation & management of whales & dolphins, where appropriate.	
6.3: Review & identify gaps and conflicts in relevant policies & legislation that supports / limits the protection & promotion of traditional resource management (TRM), traditional knowledge (TK), intellectual property rights (IPR), access & benefit sharing (ABS), and customary marine tenure (CMT).	
6.4: Encourage the need to address gaps and conflicts found in the review where required, in consultation with local communities & relevant stakeholders.	
6.5: Support & promote the introduction of appropriate formal protection of IPR, TK & ABS at a national, regional & international level.	
6.6: Support the documentation of traditional knowledge, practices, heritage & values, using existing networks,	
<p>INDICATORS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TK and other customary practices and values documented and incorporated where relevant - Review on gaps carried out and report published and disseminated - Artifacts and narratives (oral histories) documented and conserved in local museums 	
OBJECTIVE 2: Preserve and protect the traditional knowledge and values associated with whales and dolphins	
6.7: Identify & empower appropriate in-country authorities to hold, maintain & promote traditional knowledge.	
6.8: Establish documentation protocols & agreed partnerships with cultural groups / chiefly bodies and individual knowledge holders regarding appropriate use & dissemination of information.	

<p>INDICATORS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each country has identified appropriate authority to house and promote cultural information - Ongoing promoting and support for TK, ABS in national, regional and international for a; 	
OBJECTIVE 3: Ensure appropriate cultural knowledge, practices, and values inform and underpin management measures	
6.9: Assess the sustainability of cultural practices involving whales & dolphins that may represent a threat to whales & dolphins (eg:Solomon Islands dolphin drive). Reference research	
6.10: Ensure traditional protocols and Knowledge are respected in the design and implementation of biological surveys	
6.11: Ensure national & local policies & management respect & draw upon traditional knowledge.	
6.12: Support development of community (based) management plans to include conservations of whales and dolphins. (References- to policies and legislation Theme)	
<p>INDICATORS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Case studies supported on sustainability of cultural practices in countries interested in supporting sustainability assessments - Relevant whale and dolphin traditional knowledge and cultural values are used and acknowledged in scientific surveys design and execution and formulation of national management policies. 	

THEME 7: LEGISLATION and POLICY
OBJECTIVE: Develop country level legal, policy and an institutional framework to support the effective implementation of the whales and dolphins action plan
<p>7.1: Update legislative & policy review for SPREP member countries and territories & disseminate the final report. The review will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identifying legislative inconsistencies & gaps - habitat & species protection measures including sanctuary declaration, MPAs, MPs and associated management plans; - regulation of distant water & local fleets, including observer programme coverage to document commercial fishing impact and interaction with whales & dolphins.
7.2: Based on review, strengthen existing policies and legislation, develop new ones where necessary for the effective conservation management of

whales & dolphins, including measures to mitigate threat & ensure habitat protection.
7.3: Identify & respond to country / territory legal & policy - needs.
7.4: Utilise the processes & outcomes used for NCSA and other related biodiversity mechanism, to address legal & policy needs for whale & dolphin conservation needs.
INDICATORS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional legislative / management review completed and widely disseminated - Harmonisation of in country / territory policy and legal instruments

THEME 8: RESEARCH AND MONITORING (This Action Plan promotes only non-lethal techniques for research)
Objective 1: Establish abundance/distribution of all cetaceans in the Pacific Islands region
8.1: Maintain web-accessible sighting database
8.2: Improve species inventories for all PICTs, prioritizing those recognized as data deficient.
8.3 Develop a training manual that encompasses abundance survey techniques (Note: include use of platforms of opportunity e.g: fisheries patrols & observers, aerial surveillance, naval & merchant shipping, other marine research programmes, for whale & dolphin sighting]
8.4 Undertake training workshops to target delivery of training on abundance estimate techniques
8.5: Disseminate species identification & related information resources to all PICTs (eg: IFAW & SPC identification kit for observer programme).
8.4: Increase use of remote sensing device, especially acoustic.
8.9: Conduct dedicated surveys to estimate abundance & trends of whales and dolphin species.???
Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sighting database maintenance • Manula completed, training undertaken • Improved estimates of distribution/abundance

Objective 2: Estimate key demographic parameters to help diagnose trends
8.5: ??
8.5: ??
Objective 3: Undertake research and monitoring to identify hazards and develop hazard mitigation strategies
8.6: Collate all available information on the scale of depredation and bycatch from fishing operations in order to better assess level of priority and possible mitigation actions. (from Threat Reduction Theme)
8.7: Support outreach & education programmes that provide understanding of the scientific principles of the low level of competition between whales / dolphins and fisheries in this region. (from Threat Reduction Theme)
8.8: Support non-lethal research on abundance, structure, trends & assessments of impacts, particularly on humpback, minke & fin whales. (from Threat Reduction Theme)
8.9: Support research on abundance, structure, distribution, trends & assessments of harvest impacts on the whale & dolphin species targeted. (from Threat Reduction Theme)
8.10: Collect information on the potential impact of plastics & fishing gear on whales & dolphins, including from stranding networks. (from Threat Reduction Theme)
8.11: Encourage reporting of shipstrikes.
Objective 4: Improve data collection and database management systems
8.12: ??
8.13: ??
Objective 5: Undertake comprehensive habitat mapping

8.14: ??
8.15: ??
Objective 6: Improve information received on stranding events in the Pacific Island Region
8.16: Develop web accessible regional stranding database, with verification process for species identification.
8.17: Collect community records & knowledge on whales & dolphins and incorporate into the regional stranding database
8.18: Produce a regional booklet / stranding manual with species identification, forms & instructions in English, Pidgin & French.
8.19: Encourage an MoU between the University of Auckland & SPREP for processing & storage of tissue samples for genetic work.
8.20: Provide basic stranding kits (for genetic samples) to members.
8.21: Assist in funding for experts to attend national workshops in the region.
8.22: Request that necropsies, where possible, include examination for plastic ingestion.
Indicator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stranding Database and network established and operational -Stranding manual produced in three languages and distributed -Tissue archive and protocols for deposition and access established -Kits for genetic sampling
INDICATORS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online regional sighting database established and operational - Species inventories for all data deficient SPREP members improved - Species inventories for at least 3 SPRPE members improved by addition of further species - Cruise to estimate abundance of whales and dolphins species completed in at least 2 SPREP members - Species information and ID kit assembled and distributed - Incorporation of whale and dolphin expertise to conduct sightings and research activities in cruises dedicated to other purposes (eg: rapid ecological assessments)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased reporting level for whales and dolphins sighted from fisheries enforcement patrols, fisheries observers, ferries, other commercial vessels and aerial surveillance flights conducted to combat IUU fishing - At least one remote sensing device deployed in the region for at least six months
Objective 7?: Identify significance of and priorities for toxicological research????
8.23: Investigate need & opportunities for toxicological research.????
8.24: Identify suitable laboratories for toxicological analysis.????
8.25: Identify funding sources.????

THEME 9: WHALE AND DOLPHIN BASED TOURISM
Ensure that the development of whale and dolphin based tourism is sustainable and conducted responsibly through the Pacific Islands Region.
OBJECTIVE 1: Ensure the development of whale and dolphin tourism is sustainable throughout the Pacific Islands Region.
9.1: Document and share lessons learnt from countries/territories with established whale and dolphin watching industries
9.2: Maintain a regional database to document the growth and economics of whale and dolphin tourism
9.3: Assess carrying capacity of target population of whales and dolphins to manage size of the industry
Indicators: A regional database is established to assess growth of the industry Industries, governments and stakeholders (NGOs, SPREP) meet in-country as required to discuss issues and actions Baseline research on target populations is conducted
Objective 2: Ensure best practice management of whales and dolphins tourism in the PIR
9.4 Review and distribute Pacific Islands Guidelines for Whale and Dolphin Watching (PIRGWDW) as necessary
9.5 Encourage annual stakeholder meetings (Govt, industry, scientists, NGOs). To assess management of review/report

9.6 Encourage licensing and limiting of licenses permitting of operators as a tool for management
9.7 Encourage/support countries to review/develop national guidelines/regulations in line with the SPREP endorsed PIGWDW.
9.8 Regional programme to conduct national compliance and enforcement training workshops
9.10 Support countries to legislate guidelines.
Indicators: Stakeholders meetings conducted and reports developed Review a distributed guidelines
OBJECTIVE 3: Whale and dolphin based tourism watching is conducted responsibly with minimum impact and maximum education and economic values.
9.11: Develop a regional programme to conduct material whale watching training for operators and guides/stakeholders..
9.12: Develop whale watching operator reporting programme to collect useful data (tourists and animal numbers)
9.13: Support countries to develop an education kit for onboard operations.
9.14: Ensure socio-economic benefits of whale and dolphin watching in communities. .
9.15: Assist whale and dolphin watching feasibility studies to explore potential for whale watching in countries. .

APPENDIX 5: 2013 – 2017 MARINE TURTLE ACTION PLAN: DRAFT THEMES, PRIORITY ACTIONS and INDICATORS

THEME 1: COLLABORATION and PARTNERSHIP
Objective 1: Increase regional and international collaboration and partnership for turtle conservation and management.
1.1: Re-initiate negotiations or consultations for a regional marine turtle arrangement, e.g. MoU under the auspices of CMS.
1.2: Encourage and support sub-regional or bilateral arrangement between states that share the same turtle stocks as illustrated by results from research
1.3: Dr. George Balazs and Dr. Colin Limpus to continue as Marine Turtle Technical advisers to SPREP and the RMTCP and increase utilization.
1.4: Establish direct contact and formal communication with various stakeholders in turtle conservation (ie: Inter American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), WPFC, SPC, FFA, USP, US National Marine Fisheries Services, IUCN, collaborating Universities and Laboratories, collaborating NGOs, etc.)
1.5: Foster partnerships to support MTAP implementation at national and regional levels (including Governments, NGOs, private sector and local communities)
1.6: Continue to develop and strengthen regular communication exchanges with countries / territories through media, including a section on marine turtles in the SPREP newsletter and other relevant newsletters and PI-Marine Turtle list server.
1.7: Continue to identify and strengthen communication between relevant laboratories and universities to conduct genetic analysis for marine turtle biopsy samples. (Lead: SPREP)
1.8: Encourage members to abide with CITES principles and regulation concerning marine turtles trade
INDICATORS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A regional arrangement for the conservation of marine turtles in the Pacific Islands in place and signed by most members• Communications with agencies working on turtle conservation established and active• Partnership established for MTAP implementation• More than 80% of SPREP members participating and collaborating in the Regional network• Genetic analysis of marine turtle samples for member countries undertaken by a collaborative laboratory and results received by the member countries at a timely manner.

THEME 2: THREAT REDUCTION/HAZARD MITIGATION

OBJECTIVE 1: Improve the management and protection of marine turtles and their habitats by reducing threats to them, emphasizing community-based approaches.

2.1: Prioritise and address the regional threats to turtles, including harvesting of turtles and eggs, tourism, pollution and waste (plastic debris), fisheries by-catch, habitat destruction, and climate change.

Pollution and pathogens

2.2: Reduce the use of plastic bags and encourage the development of alternative materials (e.g. cloth bags)

2.3: Encourage use of alternative materials for fishing equipment (mono-filament line?)???

Direct take

2.4: Assess and document information on the amount of turtle harvesting, including those harvested for traditional ceremonies, collection of turtle eggs (as well as by-catch), at national levels, where possible.

2.5: Encourage sustainable turtle harvesting (where harvesting is allowed?) and reduce/eliminate the take of turtle eggs

Coastal development

2.6: Conduct a regional review of national environmental impact assessment processes to ensure marine turtle impacts are adequately considered

2.7: Ensure policy makers and legislators better understand the impacts of coastal development on sea turtle populations

2.8: Promote the effective protection of turtle nesting beaches and use appropriate community-based measures to mitigate the impacts.

Fisheries interactions

2.9: Continue to work with the fishing industry, fisheries authorities, regional fisheries management organisations and other IGOs / NGOs to reduce turtle by-catch in coastal and oceanic fisheries.

2.10: Encourage the adoption of observer programmes and improve documentation, identification, reporting and observer coverage for information on turtle by-catch (reference to FFA turtle by-catch action plan)

Climate change

2.11: Undertake a review of the potential impacts of climate change on sea turtles in the Pacific Island region

Indicators:

- All PICTs have prioritised threats
- At least 50% of PICTs have introduced management measures to reduce the use of plastic bags
- At least 50% of PICTs are documenting information on turtle harvesting and turtle egg collection
- At least 50% of PICTs have introduced sustainable turtle harvesting strategies
- Regional review is completed on national EIA processes
- Critical habitats for EIA assessments are identified and information is provided to decision makers
- All major nesting beaches are protected and appropriate mitigation measures are implemented
- By-catch has been reduced
- Number of PICTs involved in the observer programme has increased
- Review on climate change impacts to sea turtles is completed.

THEME 3: CAPACITY BUILDING

OBJECTIVE 1: IMPROVE CAPACITY WITHIN EACH PARTICIPATING COUNTRY AND TERRITORY FOR MARINE TURTLE PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT, POPULATION RESEARCH AND MONITORING and resourcing.

3.1: Identify and prioritize skills required by relevant government agencies and local communities for turtle management and protection, using mechanisms such as the National Capacity Self Assessment.

3.2: Build in-country capacity to develop and implement a resourcing strategy.(delete covered in broader fundraising strategy??)

3.2: Facilitate the delivery of identified training tools and materials, including attachments (e.g. Fiji/Vanuatu community exchange), , technical assistance and expertise.

3.3: Provide a regional workshop for policy and legislation drafters to build capacity in relation to turtle management.

3.4 Build in country capacity to enforce policies and legislations relating to turtle management.

3.5 Undertake a regional and sub regional training workshops focused on turtle nesting beach/foraging grounds monitoring best handling practices and

genetic sampling and climate change adaptation
3.6: Undertake in-country nesting beach/foraging grounds monitoring / survey training workshop, including survey methodologies, turtle tagging, best handling practices and genetic sampling.
3.7: Provide training in SPREP members in the use of TREDIS and in data analysis.
3.8: Encourage partnerships with tertiary institutions, researchers, government agencies, local communities, NGOS, IGOS, etc.
3.9: Provide training to relevant personnel in cultural awareness.
3.10: Foster relevant partnerships to build /strengthen regional capacity for genetics sampling, storage and analysis.
<p>INDICATORS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National reports by at least 50% of PICTs include documentation of required national skills of turtle conservation • At least 1 regional/sub- regional and 10 in-country nesting beach foraging ground monitoring/survey training workshops undertaken • Policy and legislation workshop conducted • Enforcement workshops conducted. • Tools/materials made readily available to SPREP members • All members with marine turtle programmes effectively using TREDIS

THEME 4: INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND AWARENESS
OBJECTIVE 1: PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATING MEMBER AGENCIES TO ENALBE THEM TO DELIVER EFFECTIVE AND ACCURATE INFORMATION AWARENESS EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMME TO THE PEOPLE OF THE PACIFIC ISLAND REGION
4.1: Collate and review existing available information and education materials on marine turtles, such as those available at http://seaturtle.org , to suit the needs of the region.
4.2: Encourage schools to include turtle information in school curricula
4.3: Provide relevant information and education materials in local languages.
4.4: Investigate options for providing scholarships in marine science for tertiary students.

4.5: Provide feedback to communities regarding the results of turtle research and monitoring and other activities including data sharing in accordance with adopted policies and protocols.
4.6: Review, strengthen and promote the tag recovery programme and make materials available in local languages.
4.7: Continue the regional “Turtle Talk” newsletter established under the YOST campaign for SPREP members. *Regional SWOT
4.8: Provide the materials and information to mass media in country to inform public on marine turtle issues through local media.
4.9: Develop relevant regional promotional materials (e.g. documentary) to be made available to SPREP members. (ask PS SPREP)
4.10: Develop, promote and deliver educational materials and awareness raising activities (e.g. turtle migration, biology/ecology, tagging, TK) to schools, Uni and local community,(link to 6.5)
4.11: Develop agreements with cultural groups / leaders / individual knowledge holders, regarding IPR, appropriate use and dissemination of information. (Links to 6.1 of traditional knowledge and customary practices)
4.12: Encourage the use of informal / traditional methods of education (e.g. talanoa sessions, turtle calling) using elders within communities where appropriate.
4.13: Encourage community awareness using successful models of community based networks e.g. WSB’s Vanua tai monitors network and Dau ni Vonu in Fiji.
4.14: Deliver/implement a Pacific island regional symposium on sea turtles conservation.
4.15: Distribute relevant information to members via PI listserver and upload relevant information to SPREP website under the Marine Turtle webpage
<p>INDICATORS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational materials collected, reviewed translated and disseminated • Tag recovery programme active in most member countries and territories • Educational materials available in local language in at least 50% of PICTs • Traditional knowledge and customs documented appropriately, and report produced and distributed • Traditional knowledge and customary practices incorporated informational materials • At least two students from member countries and territories in scholarships doing research on turtles in the region

- working group established for PICT regional symposium
- At least national PICT representative participate at the regional symposium.

THEME 5: POLICY AND LEGISLATION

OBJECTIVE 1: Ensure a more cohesive approach in policy and legislation in SPREP member countries and territories to support the Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme that incorporates traditional knowledge and customary marine tenure.

5.1: Complete review that identifies gaps and conflicts in current policies and legislation (in member countries and territories) that support / limit the RMTCP, including participation in conventions, treaties, MoUs, agreements etc.

5.2: Address gaps and conflicts found in the review of policies and legislation as described in action 5.1 where required.

5.3: Encourage and support compliance mechanisms that are more effective at the community level, drawing upon and supporting existing laws and controls and conflict resolution systems, and using local community members.

5.4: Amend relevant policies and legislation regarding turtle size limits to better reflect the impact of removing mature/adult females from populations and where possible, to ensure that preferences is given to using smaller sized animals at a controlled manner to ensure sustainability.

5.5: Incorporate relevant traditional knowledge, customary marine tenure and practices into policy, legislation and management plans where appropriate.

5.6: Ensure adequate protection is provided for nesting beaches and other known critical habitats for turtles through policy and legislation.

5.7: Develop and strengthen policies for recycling of plastic and proper waste management's to minimize impacts on marine turtles (noting need for changing technologies)

5.8: Develop, strengthen and enforce EIA policies to ensure that Coastal development is sustainable and critical habitats for marine turtles are protected.

5.9: Develop and implement National Marine Turtle Recovery Plans

INDICATORS:

- Review of current at national policy/legislation completed and disseminated
- Policies and legislation in PICTs amended to address gaps for marine turtles for conservation, which also includes the protection of critical habitats and application of minimum size limits that reflect the impact of removing mature female turtles
- Traditional knowledge and management practices incorporated into legislation, policies and plans
- Appropriate compliance mechanisms are put in place
- Appropriate policies are in place and enforced to reduce impact of waste and pollution on marine turtles
- National MT Recovery Plan are developed and implemented for all SPREP member countries and territories

THEME 6: TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND CUSTOMARY PRACTICES

OBJECTIVE 1: Ensure a more cohesive approach in policy and legislation in SPREP member countries and territories to support the Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme that incorporates traditional knowledge and customary marine tenure.

6.1: Review and identify gaps and conflicts in relevant policies and legislation that support / limit the protection and promotion of TRM, TK, IPR, ABS and CMT pertaining to marine turtle conservation.

6.2: Address gaps and conflicts found in the review of policies and legislation as described in action 6.1 where required.

6.3: Encourage integration of TRM, TK, CMT into national, provincial and community management plans, including National Sustainable Development Strategies, NBSAP and other development plans.

6.4: Promote awareness on the value of TRM, TK, CMT and community rights on IPR and ABS through education and awareness at the community level, including the preparation and distribution of awareness materials and facilitation of appropriate national fora and community workshops and media. (Linked 4.14)

6.5 Document TK and Customary practices on marine turtles and archived under the appropriate authority.

INDICATORS:

- Review of policies /legislation to TK and other customary management and practices completed
- TK, tenure and management practices integrated into developments plans
- Education and awareness of TK and other customary practices and materials disseminated to local communities in each PICT
- Traditional Knowledge and Customary practices documented and protected under the appropriate government authority.

THEME 7: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**OBJECTIVE 1: ENCOURAGE THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE TURTLES**

7.1: Document the extent of marine turtle eco-tourism, including head-starting programmes, and turtle related activities in the region.

7.2: Develop and apply regional guidelines for responsible and sustainable eco-tourism.

7.3: Identify, and encourage / facilitate alternative livelihoods (including income generating activities) that are not detrimental to marine turtles and their habitats, in consultation with local communities and other stakeholders.

7.4: Prohibit the commercial harvesting of marine turtles, their parts, and their derivatives.

7.5: Encourage sustainable management principles to traditional / subsistence uses of turtles permitted for food, including through community based management approaches.

7.6: Discourage the keeping of marine turtles in captivity (except through a permitting system for rehabilitation, research and educational purposes).

7.7: Develop best practice guidelines for turtles permitted to be kept in captivity and make available to SPREP members.

7.8: Encourage SPREP member countries to establish sustainable funding mechanisms (e.g. trust funds, GEF funding) for marine turtle conservation.

INDICATORS:

- The extent of marine turtle eco-tour and turtle related activities in the region are documented.
- Guidelines developed and distributed to members on best practice for responsible and sustainable marine turtle eco-tourism
- All PICTs have identified ,prioritized and implemented some form of alternative livelihood initiatives
- No illegal harvesting
- Management principles applied to turtle use permitted for traditional and subsistence use

- Activities involving captive marine turtles have been discouraged.
- Regional guidelines on turtles in captivity are developed and shared with SPREP members.
- Sustainable funding mechanisms are encouraged and investigated by member countries.

THEME 9: RESEARCH AND MONITORING¹

OBJECTIVE 1: IDENTIFY AND MONITOR ALL MAJOR MARINE TURTLE NESTING BEACHES IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

- 9.1: Undertake literature search of available information regarding turtle nesting sites in the Pacific including previous flipper and satellite tagging activities.
- 9.2: Identify and report known information, including TK, provided by communities regarding turtle nesting sites.
- 9.3: Identify and map turtle nesting beaches and prioritise index sites for long term monitoring.
- 9.4: Undertake turtle nesting beach surveys for new sites to collect initial baseline data for at least five years and continue surveys for those already initiated.
- 9.5: Initiate long term turtle nesting monitoring at index nesting beaches and continue for those already initiated.
- 9.6: Incorporate monitoring of specific impacts of climate change and determining responses of marine turtles, in long term turtle nesting monitoring:
- Hatchling sex ratio-how? – use of temperature data loggers on nests - suggest wording as follows
 - Nests sand temperature using data loggers (to provide an indication of likely hatchling sex ratio)
 - Hatchling success
 - Proportion of females breeding each year
 - Temporal changes of beach morphology
- 9.7: Develop and distribute a regional manual for conducting turtles nesting monitoring beach surveys for.

INDICATORS:

- Literature search on turtle nesting completed and reported
- Known information and TK identified and reported by all members

¹ The 2008 – 2012 MTAP Theme 8 (Turtle Database) was suggested at the Nadi meeting to be incorporated under Theme 9 (Research and Monitoring) as an Objective. The 2013 – 2017 MTAP will clearly reflect this.

- Key index nesting beaches in all PICTs identified and prioritized
- Long-term monitoring initiated at index nesting beaches in the Pacific region
- Estimates obtained of current nesting beach population for the Pacific
- Key turtle nesting sites across the Pacific mapped ([DONE for green turtles – NOAA-Note: this was a general one by country, not specific in-country sites](#))

NOTE: Take indicators from Threats on critical Habitat: Nesting beaches and foraging??

OBJECTIVE 2: IDENTIFY MAJOR MARINE TURTLE STOCKS IN THE PACIFIC ISLAND REGION

9.8: Distribute regional procedures and protocol for genetic sampling, which includes non-lethal techniques and address ownership of genetic information and material collected.

9.9: Develop partnerships to undertake genetic sampling and analysis with members and relevant genetic researchers (such as Dr. Peter Dutton and Dr. Nancy Fitzsimmons) and Laboratories/Institutes ([such as IFREMER-Indian Ocean](#)), including facilitation of CITES permits.

9.10: Report the results of genetic sampling and identification of major turtle stocks in the region to members.

9.11: Assess and document information on the amount of turtle harvesting (including by cultural celebrations and by-catch), including collection for turtle eggs at national levels, where possible. (also under “Threat”)

INDICATORS:

- Regional procedures and protocols for genetic sampling developed, distributed and implemented by participating PICTs
- Work towards identifying Pacific stocks of marine turtles progressed and results reported and published
- Map of pacific stock and distributed to members

OBJECTIVE 3: IDENTIFY MAJOR MARINE TURTLE FORAGING GROUNDS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGEION

9.12: Collate and distribute published information on marine turtle foraging grounds in the region to members.

9.13: Identify and map major / critical in-water sites and prioritise foraging habitats for long term monitoring.

9.14: Undertake long term foraging surveys at major marine turtle foraging sites [for abundance estimates at these sites](#).

9.15: Undertake seagrass mapping and monitoring where possible.

9.16: When opportunities arise, ensure aerial surveys include turtles at foraging grounds (how about a regional project on this – aerial surveys)
9.17: Encourage the use of CMS standardized questionnaire for marine turtles (distribution, identification of foraging areas, occurrence and interaction with fisheries)???
9.18: Undertake satellite tagging to fill information gaps where it is needed, cost effective & feasible.
<p>INDICATORS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Known and published information of marine turtles foraging grounds in the region collated in the region collated and distributed to members (Centralized repository of information) • Major marine turtle foraging sites identified, mapped and prioritized for monitoring • Long term foraging sites ground surveys initiated at major sites in the region • Seagrass mapping and monitoring undertaken across the region • Results of turtle tracking distributed to PICTs through the SPREP websites and the marine turtle network (Centralized repository of information)
OBJECTIVE 4: IMPLEMENT THE TURTLE RESEARCH AND MONITORING DATABASE SYSTEM(TREDS) IN SPREP MEMBER COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES
9.19: Continue implementation of Information and Data Sharing Policy for TREDS (
9.20: All members to use TREDS in accordance with the adopted policy.
9.21: Members and participating organizations/projects submit data at least annually to the TREDS Database Officer for incorporation into regional database to enable regional analysis.
<p>9.22: Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members and participating organizations/projects report to SPREP at least annually on tagging records and activities, noting that tag reissue will be dependent on reporting; • Report recovered tags immediately to SPREP using appropriate form (where available) or providing standard information. • SPREP to provide reward (such as a t-shirt, poster, etc.) for recovered tags;SPREP to report annually to each member on tags distributed and recovered, results of mapping, and other significant data, including an annual summary report of all countries combined to be distributed to all members and participating organizations/projects.
<p>9.23: Institutional commitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPREP commits to long-term maintenance of the TREDS programme; • Seek long-term funding from members and partners (including NGOs, IGOs and the private sector) to maintain TREDS Officer and programme.

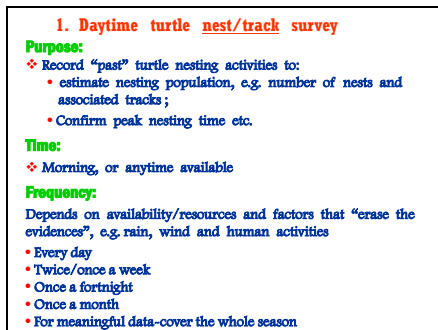
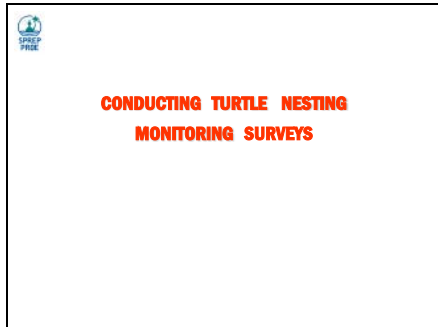
9.24: Distribute tags and applicators to members undertaking tagging activities and engaged in SPREP approved tagging programme.

9.25: Link to other databases that contain marine turtle data and ensure [the SPC database is linked to TREDS](#).

Indicators:

- All members effectively using TREDS and reporting annually to SPREP
- SPREP produce five annual reports of summary data
- Increased return of tags and reporting of tagging information
- Information from TREDS used to provide a picture of turtle distribution and migration at regional level
- TREDS programme ,including responsible officer ,secured for the long time
- Link to other relevant turtle database completed

APPENDIX 6: Presentation on 'Conducting Turtle Nesting Monitoring Surveys'



Turtle Species Tracks

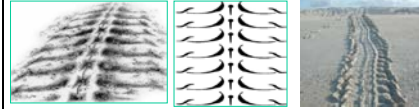
Hawksbill Turtle:

Loggerhead Turtle has similar track pattern



- ❖ Tracks with an alternating gait (limb movement);
- ❖ Typically leave a wavy tail-drag mark near the track center
- ❖ Track widths typically range from 70 - 85 cm (27.5 - 33.5 in).

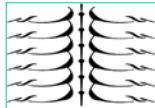
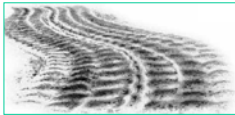
Green Turtle:



- ❖ Simultaneous limb movement,
- ❖ A center drag mark from the tail (the center drag mark may be a solid or broken line),
- ❖ Track width typically ranging from 95 - 144 cm (37.4 - 56.7 in), mean of 119 cm (46.8 in).



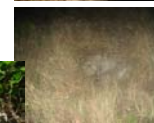
Leatherback Turtle:



- ❖ Simultaneous limb movement,
- ❖ A center drag mark from the tail,
- ❖ Track width typically ranging from 175 - 214 cm (68.9 - 84.3 in) with a mean of 196 cm (77.2 in);
- ❖ Track path sometimes circling or Sshaped

• Look for nests

- Follow track in-land.
- Even if no tracks found, still check for nests above high water mark, on sand, under the bushes and amongst the coastal vegetation.
- Note also "abandoned" nests.



Successful nest

1. Evidence of covering the nest with the front flippers.
If present, the crawl can be considered a **NEST**.

- a) Presence of a secondary body pit and/or escarpment.
- b) Sand "misted" or "thrown" over the emerging track.

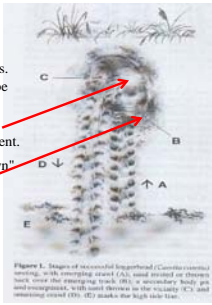
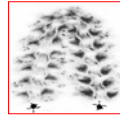


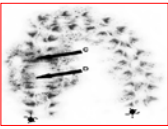
Figure 1. Signs of successful loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) nesting, with emerging track (A), sand mound or escarpment (B), secondary body pit (C), secondary body pit and escarpment, with sand thrown on the secondary (D), and abandoned track (E). (E) marks the high tide line.

Types of "false" beach crawls

These indicate that she has **NOT** laid and gone back to the sea



No evidence of disturbed sand other than the track.



A **loggerhead false crawl** showing an abandoned primary body pit (C) and a mound of pushed sand (D) no wider than the track and lying between two conspicuous ridges. As is rarely found in nests, a **track continues up** the beach from the site where the turtle's last digging occurred.



A **loggerhead false crawl** showing a primary body pit with an abandoned egg cavity (E).

Identifying which is the incoming (emerging) track and which is the outgoing (returning) track

- As a turtle crawls it pushes sand backward with each flipper stroke.
- If one track is shorter, it will be the incoming track.
- If tracks overlap, the outgoing track will be on top.

- **Mark nests**

[+ record GPS reading if available]
to avoid recount and to
trace and record details on
hatchling



- **Record nests/tracks details on form**

Day Time TURTLE NEST AND TRACK MONITORING SURVEY FORM									
Survey Date: _____					Resurvey: _____				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1									

- **“Wipe out” tracks (if on sand) or mark if amongst the vines [to avoid recount]**

BREAK

2. Night-time nesting turtle survey

Purpose: Collect data on nesting turtles (encounter the nester)

- Observe actual nesting turtles;
- Obtain biological information e.g. # eggs, tissue samples;
- Confirmation of species;
- Collecting nesting turtle measurements;
- Conduct nesting turtle tagging for growth and migration;
- Estimate actual annual nesting population (if done consistently).



Remember that we are there to look after the turtles. Try to minimise your disturbance on the nesting beach:

- Keep lights to minimum – turtles can see shapes and movement well (But don't use so little light that you can hurt yourself)
- Wait until she has finished laying eggs before you start collecting data.
- If you see a turtle crawling up the beach in front of you – just stand still until she has crossed the beach.
- Keep other people away from the turtle until she has finished laying eggs.

What to do:

- **Timing/Schedule:**
 - Most likely involving camping on island.
 - **After sunset:** head out onto the beach.
 - **High tide at night:** be on beach at least 1 hour before high tide at night until 1 hour after high tide.
 - Conduct "patrol" on beach at 30 minutes intervals.

Note: Turtles re-nest about 14 days after nesting and will return to same area



- **Look for Turtle Tracks**
(indicate turtles have come ashore)
 - sometimes one can even encounter a Nester either crawling up (to nest), or crawling down to sea (after nesting)


If you encounter a Nester Crawling Up the Beach

- Do not move and let it crawl up to nest

If you encounter a Nester Crawling Down to Sea

- "Catch" it to do measurements, tag and release and then check, mark and record nest

Finding Tracks
Is she still on the beach or has she already laid eggs (or attempted to lay) and gone back to the sea?



She has left if there is already an "up" track and a "down" track

Up track

Down track

Figure 4. Signs of successful egg-laying (Caretta caretta) nesting, with emerging track (A); sand disturbed or thrown back when she attempts to lay (B); a secondary body pit and movement, with sand thrown to the exterior (C); and secondary track (D); (E) marks the single shell track.

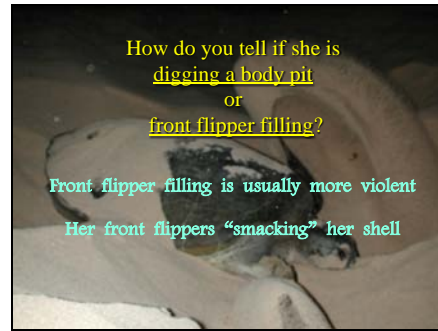
- **Look for the Nester**

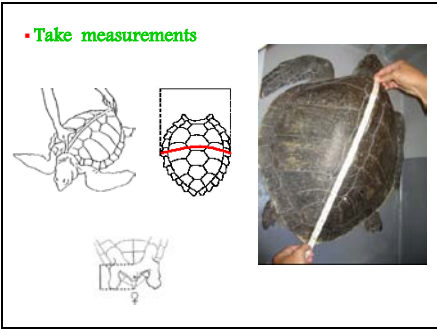
IF THERE IS NO DOWN TRACK
It means she is still on the beach

But what's she doing?

- ❖ **Wandering**, (you may hear leaves or vegetation moving)
- ❖ **Digging a body pit or egg chamber**, (you will hear sand being thrown)
- ❖ **Laying**, (you won't hear anything-maybe a breath every now and again)
- ❖ **Filling**, (lots of sand being thrown around)

Listen for the sound of sand being thrown





Record information/data on form

- Check tag number at least twice
- Include tag prefix (eg. R-...), and tag location
- If working in pairs-have the recorder repeat back to you measurements and tag numbers

The form is a grid with columns for various data points: ID# (with a sub-column for tag number), Date, Sex, Species, Length, Width, Weight, and Other. There are approximately 20 rows for data entry. The form is titled "Main Sea Turtle Research Worksheet - General Form" and includes a "Date" field at the top left.

What do you do if the turtle starts bleeding where the tag has gone in?

A little bleeding is okay but if it there is a lot of bleeding you can apply pressure around flipper to stop bleeding

- **Mark nests**
and Record number of ID information on Form

- **Cover tracks**
to avoid recounting etc

MALO

APPENDIX 7: 2013 – 2017 DUGONG ACTION PLAN: DRAFT THEMES, PRIORITY ACTIONS and INDICATORS

THEME 1: INFORMATION, AWARENESS (EDUCATION) AND COMMUNICATION
OBJECTIVE 1: Raise awareness and share information about the importance of dugongs and their habitats
1.1: Develop information and awareness material on dugongs and their habitats
1.2: Provide assistance to the Pacific Islands range states to enable them to deliver effective and appropriate educational and awareness programmes to the public.
1.3: Increase community awareness of ecological and biological information of dugongs and the threats they face and the need for the conservation of dugongs and their habitats.
1.4: Ensure opportunities are provided for community knowledge holders to share traditional knowledge (in relation to any awareness programme conducted in communities).
1.5: Encourage and support the incorporation of dugong ecological and biological information and conservation issues into school curricula.
1.6: Facilitate and encourage networking and linkages to relevant community monitoring groups, such as Seagrass Watch (http://www.seagrasswatch.org) and other NGOs in information exchange.
1.7: Maintain and update the dugong webpage on SPREP's website, and include links to other relevant sites for educational materials on dugongs.
1.8: Ensure the inclusion of dugongs in the planning, development and implementation of national, regional and international conservation campaigns.
1.9: Work with watercraft users to raise awareness about the importance of dugongs and their habitats and develop associated guidelines in order to encourage responsible boating behavior (e.g. slower speeds, not anchoring in seagrass areas).
1.10: Work with key industry stakeholders to raise awareness about the importance of dugongs and their habitats in order to encourage responsible boating behavior (e.g. slower speeds, not anchoring in sea grass areas etc).
1.11: Continue to operate the Pacific Islands (PI) Dugong listserv, providing information and opportunities to share experiences.
INDICATORS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate educational/awareness programmes delivered to Pacific Island dugong range states • Information sheets on threats produced, translated where necessary and distributed to communities and all relevant stakeholders • Dugong conservation issues and information included in school programmes in Pacific range states • Dugong webpage continue to be active on SPREP website • Watercraft code of practice developed and implemented

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PI Dugong listserv operational
THEME 2: MANAGEMENT
OBJECTIVE 1: Improve the management and protection of dugong habitats
2.1: Establish where necessary and review where existing, relevant legislation including traditional/customary measures, to incorporate habitat protection for dugongs.
2.2: Protect water quality by promoting sustainable land use practices to reduce adverse impacts on dugongs and their habitats.
2.3: Promote and support appropriate community based management and conservation actions.
2.4: Seek opportunities to strengthen protection mechanisms for dugong and their habitats e.g. marine protected areas (MPAs) etc.
2.5: Where appropriate, rehabilitate degraded dugong habitats.
INDICATORS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislation and policies as well as traditional management systems that protect dugongs and their habitats in place in all Pacific Island range states Sustainable land use that reduce impacts on dugongs and their habitats in place Mechanisms such as MPAs and EIA processes in place that including enforcement of laws relating to dugongs
OBJECTIVE 2: Improve the management and protection of dugongs
2.6: Establish where necessary and review where existing, relevant legislation including traditional / customary measures, to incorporate protection for dugongs.
2.7: Establish where necessary and review where existing, relevant legislation including traditional / customary measures, to reduce the mortality of dugongs.
2.8: Develop appropriate dugong rescue / stranding guidelines for dugong range states based on existing ones (e.g. the <i>Marine Animal Rescue Program Reference Guide</i> by David Schofield and Cynthia Perry)
INDICATORS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislation and/or traditional measures for the management and protection of dugongs in place Legislation and/or traditional measures to reduce dugong mortality in place

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dugong rescue/stranding guidelines developed
<p>OBJECTIVE 3: Improved compliance and enforcement</p>
<p>2.9: Strengthen enforcement and engage local communities in monitoring, surveillance and reporting of illegal activities.</p>
<p>2.10: Strengthen the enforcement and awareness of existing laws against the use of poisonous chemicals and explosives in the marine environment.</p>
<p>INDICATORS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement mechanisms including engagement of communities in place/strengthened • Awareness campaigns on existing laws on destructive practices conducted.
<p>THEME 3: TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, CUSTOMARY MARINE TENURE AND TRADITIONAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</p>
<p>Objective: Recognise the value of traditional knowledge, traditional resource management and customary marine tenure.</p>
<p>3.1: Support documentation of traditional knowledge, practices and values.</p>
<p>3.2: Ensure that traditional knowledge documented is held and maintained by the appropriate authority and is adequately protected and shared where appropriate / possible.</p>
<p>3.3: Incorporate relevant traditional knowledge, resource management, and customary marine tenure into dugong and habitat management.</p>
<p>3.4: Support appropriate traditional resource management actions.</p>
<p>3.5: Where appropriate, raise awareness regarding the value of traditional knowledge and practices in the management of dugongs and their habitats.</p>
<p>INDICATORS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional knowledge in all dugong Pacific Island range states document, maintained and, where appropriate, incorporated into management • Community based management supported • Information and survey results disseminated to communities.
<p>THEME 4: CAPACITY BUILDING</p>
<p>Objective 1: Build in country capacity to strengthen dugong management</p>
<p>4.1: Identify and prioritize skills required by relevant national authorities, and local communities and stakeholders for improving capacity for dugong</p>

management.
4.2: Build national capacity at all levels, including communities, in areas as identified in 5.1 to participate in dugong management, research and monitoring (access to expertise / resources).
4.3: Encourage Pacific Island range states for Pacific Island nationals to undertake [student] scholarships / fellowships for developing related marine science expertise in the region.
4.4: Encourage Pacific Island nationals to undertake post-graduate studies on dugong conservation / management.
4.5: Encourage regional Universities and scientists to strengthen its partnership with Pacific Island range states to increase provision of technical advice and support for effective dugong conservation management (e.g. internships in Australian dugong projects; study visits).
INDICATORS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students from Pacific Island range states enrolled in post graduate studies on dugong • Training to build national and community capacity in dugong management conducted • Internships from range states completed
THEME 5: THREAT REDUCTION
Objective 1: Reduce direct and indirect causes of dugong injury and mortality.
5.1: Identify, assess and evaluate threats and potential threats to dugong populations at the national level.
5.2: Develop appropriate management measures to address identified threats.
5.3: Reduce (to the great extent practicable) the incidental injury and mortality of dugongs.
DIRECT TAKE
5.4: Reduce (to the greatest extent practicable) the illegal taking of dugongs.
5.5: Ensure that subsistence and customary use of dugongs is sustainable in areas where take is permitted.
FISHERIES INTERACTIONS
5.6: Reduce to the greatest extent practicable the incidental capture and mortality of dugongs in the course of fishing activities (e.g. spatial and temporal closures and gear modification).
5.7: Prohibit the use of destructive fishing practices and gears (refer Action 3.9 under Management, Improved compliance and enforcement).

WATERCRAFT STRIKES / INTERACTION
5.8: Develop guidelines for responsible watercraft operations.
5.9: Implement at national level (and support from regional level) the responsible watercraft guidelines.
5.10: Identify areas of high dugong /vessel interaction including dugong occurrence (refer to Action 7.5 under Research)
COASTAL DEVELOPMENT
5.11: Ensure EIAs for any coastal development consider their impacts on dugongs and their habitats as well as other marine life.
5.12: Develop mitigation measures to adequately address impacts of coastal development on dugongs and their habitats.
POLLUTION / DEBRIS
5.13: Encouraging appropriate procedures for the discarding of fishing gear (ghost nets) eg: ghost net clearing programmes on beaches / reefs; recycle of debris for trade;
CLIMATE CHANGE
5.14: Actively manage the impacts of key threats to build resilience of dugongs and their habitats to climate change.
INDICATORS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment and report on threats (identification and evaluation) completed in at least 3 Pacific Island range states • Measures to address identified threats to dugongs developed and implemented in at least 3 Pacific Island range states.
THEME 6: RESEARCH AND MONITORING
Objective 1: Improve our understanding of dugong population and habitats through research and monitoring.
6.1: Determine the distribution, abundance and trends of dugong populations in order to provide a base for conservation efforts and actions, using local knowledge and / or scientific methodologies.
6.2: Collect genetic samples (including from strandings) in accordance with procedures (e.g. the Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks Authority necropsy manual) and undertake genetic analyses to determine the distinctness / connectivity of Pacific Island dugong populations.
6.3: Where appropriate, undertake satellite tagging to assist in understanding dugong migratory patterns and behavior in the region.
6.4: Distribute the book, <i>Sirenian Conservation: issues and strategies in developing countries</i> (edited by Hines <i>et al.</i>), when published.

6.5: Identify and map areas of dugong habitat, particularly seagrass beds, taking note of their condition (e.g. intact, partially disturbed, degraded)
6.6: Increase research attachment through training programme at Shoalwater Bay (Department of Environment and Resource Management)
6.7: Assess the impact of threats, including those from Climate Change, causing the degradation of dugong habitats and develop mitigation measures.
INDICATORS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated baseline surveys completed for distribution and abundance for all Pacific range states by 2012 • Relevant information on dugong population status distributed • Genetic sampling initiated in all range states and satellite tagging conducted in at least one • Rescue / stranding protocol developed.
THEME 7: NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION
Objective: Enhance national, regional and international collaboration
7.1: Strengthen collaboration with range states to combat illegal trade, and to cooperate in enforcement activities relating to dugong products.
7.2: Collaborate with TRAFFIC Asia and other relevant agencies to address / combat markets for illegal dugong products / trade from the Pacific Islands region.
7.3: Encourage Pacific range states to actively participate in the implementation of this action plan as well as the CMS MoU for the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their habitats.
7.4: Develop and implement national databases of relevant information in relation to dugong conservation and management and ensure data is accessible to range members.
7.5: Develop a regional database using 'Lady of the Sea Profiles' as the basis with regular updates from national databases / countries.
7.6: Create and strengthen partnerships among governments and all other existing and new stakeholders in research, conservation and management efforts.
7.7: Encourage range states to collaborate with other range states in dugong work (eg: Australia / PNG partnerships, New Caledonia / Vanuatu)
INDICATORS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration and partnership formalized to eliminate illegal trade of dugong products • Partnerships developed for research and conservation effort among most range states and stakeholders.

THEME 8: SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES / INTERACTIONS WITH DUGONGS
Objective 1: Encourage sustainable practices related to dugong interactions.
8.1: Identify and encourage / facilitate improved livelihoods (including income generating activities) that are not detrimental and which promote conservation outcomes to dugongs and their habitats, in consultation with local communities and other stakeholders.
8.2: Document the extent of dugong eco-tourism and related activities in the region.
8.3: Develop and implement as and where appropriate, guidelines for responsible dugong watching and other related activities.
8.4: Encourage, where appropriate, a permitting system to regulate dugong watching operations and other related activities.
8.5: Discourage the keeping of dugongs in captivity.
INDICATORS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco-tourism activities associated with dugongs documented for all PI range stated • Guidelines for responsible dugong watching and other related activities developed and effectively implemented • Policy/legislation in place for issuance of permits to regulate dugong watching operations and other related activities
THEME 9: HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES
Objective 1: To ensure ongoing and efficient facilitation of implementation, management and coordination of the Dugong Action Plan.
9.1: Encourage Member range states to incorporate dugong actions for implementation as part of other national projects and / or programmes (such as national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including projects under funding opportunities such as GEF).
9.2: Identify and seek opportunities to secure funding through Universities, NGOs, Institutions and Initiatives
9.3: Encourage range state members to develop and prepare funding proposals that specifically address dugong issues.
9.4: SPREP to continue the regular provision of information related to upcoming funding opportunities.
9.5: Identify through appropriate mechanisms (e.g. CMS Dugong MoU / DERM-Colin Limpus) technical advisors and secure opportunities for their support to the Dugong Action Plan.
9.6: Encourage range states to actively support biodiversity conservation by committing appropriate resources including staffing, funds etc.
9.7: Seek member states commitment via foras such as the annual SPREP Meeting for biodiversity conservation??

INDICATORS:

- Actions incorporated and carried out through national projects / programmes
- Funding proposals submitted and work carried out
- Partnership developed for all Pacific Island range state
- Technical adviser available.

APPENDIX 8: 2013 – 2017 SUPPLEMENTARY REGIONAL SHARKS ACTION PLAN: DRAFT THEMES and PRIORITY ACTIONS.

11th March, 2012 (Hexagon International, Nadi, Fiji Islands)

Goal: To conserve sharks and their habitats, ensuring their long-term sustainable use, in keeping with the traditions and aspirations of the people of the Pacific Islands region.

- **National, Regional & International Collaboration**

- Encourage member countries to sign on to CMS Sharks MoU and accede to CMS;
- Evaluate the value of developing a regional Sharks MoU under the auspices of CMS
- Encourage members to accede to CITES and adhere to CITES requirements related to shark trade;
- Encourage national stakeholder collaboration to support the development and implementation of NPOAs;
- Facilitate the development of a Pacific position delivered at international fora for the conservation of sharks;
- Collaborate to combat the illegal trade of sharks and their products at national and international level;
- Encourage and strengthen partnership amongst government and all other existing and new stakeholders in research, conservation and management efforts;

- **Information and Awareness**

- Maintain and strengthen the Shark Listserve at SPREP (already established)
- Build on other initiatives (e.g. SPC species identification cards) to improve information on and identification of shark species.
- Increase community/public awareness of threats to sharks and the need for the conservation of sharks and their habitats.

- **Capacity Building**

- Identify skills (eg: database development/management;) required by relevant government agencies and local communities for shark management and protection, using mechanisms such as the National Capacity Self Assessment.
- Collaborate with other relevant CROP agencies to deliver on training identified.
- Promote and support country exchange (in-country attachment) on sustainable development initiatives.
- Improve and support capacity building for national personnel to collect, compile, analyze and report on shark data.

- **Ecosystem / habitat protection e.g. sanctuary**

- Encourage and support the establishment of measures including customary measures to protect and conserve sharks and their habitats;
- Support efforts to declare [review those who have (a) yet to establish sanctuaries (b) increase established sanctuaries to include sharks] EEZ wide shark sanctuaries by SPREP members;

- Establish a working group on E/HP (include in their ToR their being technical advisory group) that will identify critical habitats, hotspots & migratory pathways and environmental linkages. (WDAP 3.2)
 - (WDAP 3.3) Evaluate and support MPAs & networks where they are a suitable method and benefit to the protection of sharks & their habitats in identified areas
 - (WDAP 3.4) integrate where relevant and appropriate shark conservation (link to research and include shark counts) into the development of MPAs and MMAs
- **Sustainable Development (Eco-tourism, Shark Watching)**
 - (WDAP 9.4) Evaluate and monitor the growth of shark based tourism including economic benefits / value.
 - Foster communications between key in-country stakeholders in particular industry and government to promote understanding and assist in management of the industry;
 - Develop region wide shark watching guidelines (ensuring best practices / sustainability)
 - Promote licensing /permitting of shark watching tourism operation as a tool for management (condition of license / permit = Develop programs for shark watching operators to collect useful data)
- **Policy and Legislation**
 - Develop Sharks National Plans of Action / management plans for SPREP members (linking to the regional SPC / FFA / SPREP regional plan of action);
 - (MTAP 5.5) Incorporate relevant traditional knowledge, customary marine tenure and practices into policy, legislation management plans where appropriate;
 - Encourage countries to develop policies & legislation to address the effective conservation / management of sharks including trade, bycatch, finning, targeted take; recognizing subsistence use;
 - Incorporate coastal development impacts on habitats (eg: nurseries) that are important to sharks;
- **Cultural aspects**
 - Document traditional knowledge and customs with regards to sharks (and their management) that can be used in educational and awareness raising activities;
 - Develop central database to store TK
 - Promote the integration of customary practices related to the conservation & management of sharks where appropriate;
 - Promote and support the appropriate community based conservation approach
- **Threat Reduction**
 - Support and strengthen the development, dissemination and implementation of effective shark bycatch mitigation techniques;

- Collect & simulate information on the scale of bycatch from fisheries operations in order to better assess level of priority and possible mitigation actions;
 - Encourage countries to implement mechanisms to reduce and subsequently halt shark finning;
 - Put in place a mechanism to improve information on IUU to better understand the impacts on sharks;
 - (WDAP 2.2) Encourage DWFN to support the PI region in ensuring sustainable and responsible fishing practices to maintain the health of the ocean;
 - Encourage improved waste management to reduce the impacts of non-biodegradable marine debris on sharks;
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- **Research and database establishment / maintenance**
 - Encourage countries to support and fully participate in existing research initiatives concerning sharks;
 - Encourage Universities to offer and students to undertake, national research on sharks;
 - Encourage the development / use where relevant, of existing databases (eg: SPC) and expand to include information on TK;
 - Encourage countries to collect and submit data;
 - Encourage necropsies to explore impact of marine debris on sharks;
 - Climate change?