

CONNECTING THE DOTS: ENVIRONMENT, KNOWLEDGE,
AND GOVERNANCE



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Summary Report

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About the Pacific Environment Forum

The Pacific Environment Forum (PEF) is an initiative by the Secretariat to meet long standing member requests for a more informal setting to facilitate discussion amongst officials and other stakeholders on key environmental, technical and institutional issues. The PEF is held prior to the SPREP Meeting (SM) allowing for the outcomes to be tabled at the SM for its consideration. The PEF was held for the first time in 2011.

Outcomes of the 2017 Pacific Environment Forum

The theme of the 2017 PEF was *“Connecting the Dots: Environment, Knowledge, and Governance”*. The theme reinforced the fundamental role of accurate and reliable environmental data, monitoring and reporting importance to enable policy and decision makers make sound and informed decisions.



The Director General of SPREP opened the 2017 Pacific Environment Forum and stressed the importance of undertaking periodic monitoring and reporting to assess progress towards achieving national, regional and global commitments - the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the S.A.M.O.A Pathway, the Pacific Framework for Regionalism, and other key national and regional policy frameworks and instruments that support environmental governance. He referenced the 48th Forum Leaders Meeting where the need for strengthening data and information sharing to support ocean management and governance in the region was highlighted. The Director General called on collective action and active engagement of key stakeholders to continue to support the collection and sharing of key environmental data and information with appropriate management measures and protocols in place to support planning and decision making processes at all levels.

Overall, the 2017 PEF raised awareness on the important role environmental data plays in environmental governance through the sharing of experiences, case studies, achievements, tools, systems and processes, and lessons learnt. It generated a rich and informative discussion on a number of important issues to strengthen environmental monitoring and reporting, planning, assessment and policy processes for improved environmental governance in the Pacific. New and emerging opportunities were identified including opportunities through the use of new technology such as drones to support environmental monitoring, planning and management. There was also recognition of the need to strengthen capacity on environmental law compliance and enforcement which is lacking in many of the countries. The value and benefit of regularly updating the State of Environment (SoE) Report was highlighted as an

important process and tool for the preparation and update of the National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS) including national and sector planning processes. It was noted that many of the SoE Reports and NEMS were developed in the early 90s but had not been updated since. SPREP has already reinvigorated the SoE and NEMS processes in a few countries with additional ones planned for the next two years.

The PEF structure and format included presentations, panel and talanoa sessions, and an interactive dialogue. There was a good mix of presenters and speakers from governments, NGOs, regional organizations, and the private sector which facilitated a broad sharing of perspectives and experiences on the topics discussed. A field trip was organised at the end of the Forum by the Samoa Planning and Urban Management Agency of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment for participants to observe and experience first-hand the application of EIA in Samoa using the proposed extension to the Vaisigano Bridge as a case study.

Key outcomes of the 2017 PEF were reported back to the 28th SPREP Meeting under Agenda Item 12.4. The 2017 PEF was organised and coordinated by the Environmental Monitoring and Governance Division with financial contribution from the EU ACPMEAs programme implemented through UN Environment.

Acknowledgement

The EMG team wishes to acknowledge with appreciation all the participants, esteemed speakers, presenters and panellists including SPREP staff for contributing to a successful Forum.

Copies of presentations are available on <http://www.sprep.org/sprep-meeting/pef-2017>

Summary of main discussion point and key messages

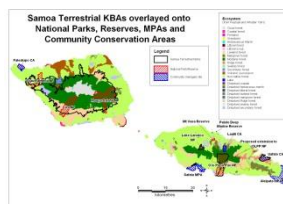
<i>Session 1: From data to impact: strengthening environmental governance</i>		
<i>Presenters</i>	<i>Mr Kilom Ishiguro SPREP Technical Expert and Liaison Officer, RMI</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data important for decision making – informs decision makers to make sound judgments on sus use of environment and natural resources • Helps track status and plan change • To help manage our resources • Challenges – limited existing infrastructure in place to house all country data, fragmented data management, data management is not done properly, • Example of only land bird left on RMI (Mule) – successful measures to increase the birds population from 2007-2011
	<i>Dr. Josie Tamate Director General, Niue Ministry of Natural Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fostering a data collection culture (Importance of data collection and analysis to be emphasised) • It is important to collect data, also just as important to understand WHY the data is being collected, and that right kind of data is being collected • Last SOE – 1992, a 25 year lapse • Currently finalising new SOE and NEMS • Issue of data availability, lost, fragmented, accessibility, non-centralized, not collected, dependence on national stats office to collect data, staff moving on, consultant reports not returned • A number of eco surveys planned over next three years – skinks, caves and fauna, finfish • Trying to foster a data collection culture in government • Setup of an EMIS under R2R project • Beveridge reef expedition • Niue NOW (ocean wide) project – MSP focused, CBAs on various MPA size scenarios • CC data – collected but not widely available
	<i>Dr. Vicky Hall Director, SPREP Waste Management and Pollution Control</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • citizen science as an alternative to ‘traditional’ (conventional) data collection methods; provides hands-on monitoring experience, encourages behaviour change • Information/data is needed for good management decisions – esp. where there are limited resources and prioritisation is required. • Citizen science raises awareness and engages the community • Needs a good design – must be easy and convenient, requires critical mass of citizens to work, needs a quality assurance process • Citizen Science at work – REDMAP

<p><i>Discussion</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Citizen science has been a valuable tool in data collection for Humpback whale monitoring ▪ Noted the Leaders' call for regional agencies to work with IT tech. Is SPREP considering such tools and make them available to Members to have more precise SOE reporting? ▪ There are existing mechanisms available in the region that are available for broader use/application (e.g. FFA VMS) looking to be made available for monitoring of MPAs as well). ▪ Use of Drones, a possibility; application may be limited as they work more for smaller MPAs and not so much for larger areas ▪ Cook Islands SoE was last produced 22yrs ago; realised that data was there, but not in a form that was useable for what was needed for the exercise. The process is not just to do the SOE, it's to see beyond the SOE and actions to address the issues identified; it's a matter of connecting the dots, and connecting the dots beyond the environment space. ▪ Relating to Niue's beach clean-up campaign – question was raised if the source was identified and whether an audit of types of waste done? ▪ Sorting and source identification exercise was conducted for the Niue beach clean-up, the challenge now is on how to move forward in raising awareness to address the issue at the source point. ▪ Data collection is most useful when there is a long-term series of information. Standardisation of data collected is important for the information to be useful. Data comparisons at national and regional levels needs standardised methodology. <p>*common issues: time, infrastructure, capacity, storage, continuity/consistency, accessibility</p>
<p><i>Key Messages</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Long-term resource support is needed for data collection. This isn't always possible, but one way to address the issue of short-term/periodic funding is to have well-defined indicators from one data collection exercise to the next. ✓ Information sharing – generally information is there, but not necessarily accessible, or people are not aware of where to find it. ✓ There is high-level political support, following the 48th PIF Leaders meeting, for use of technology and data collection to inform decision-making. ✓ Much of the work that happens in countries is project funded, so we want to use the same indicators to track projects' progress that we're also using in data management and methodology, then we can compare and track progress among countries, and it's important to also make those come from the SDGs. ✓ There is high-level, political support to better use decision-making for monitoring. ✓ Data capital/catalogue - essential that core information that trends will be based on over time is preserved somewhere safe and/or backed up (i.e. computers and systems can crash). ✓ Information should be promoted not just to the national government and scientists, but to as many people as possible so the general public knows why we're making this big investment and big effort to better manage these resources. ✓ For citizen science, information is expensive to gather and we will never have enough government resources or staff to visit biodiversity sites, like coral reefs, so if there's a way for citizens to contribute to give good-quality information for us to make decisions, we should seize those opportunities.

Session 2: Mapping our environment priorities with GIS and spatial planning tools

<i>Presenters</i>	<i>Ms. Moeumu Uili Scientific Technical Officer, Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many mapping initiatives since 1991 • Training in QGIS provided by SPREP in 2017 • Terrestrial KBA map needs updating • PA workshop completed, PASC proposed to carry out ongoing data collection and validation • Challenges – limited staff and capacity, data and information management remains an issue
	<i>Mr Pawa Limu Manager Marine Environment Protection, PNG</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of marine resources to livelihoods and subsistence • Jomard entrance PSSA – highly vulnerable to risks from international shipping, vulnerable to wrecks, oil spills, raw sugar spill • Threats from international shipping – reef destruction from groundings, marine debris etc. • Risk assessment for PSSA – protected from risk of unregulated shipping from international transit shipping • 14th PSSA in world and second PSSA in the region (first is the GBR) • Marine park concept under consideration by PNG govt • PNG can offer assistance to any PICs wanting to declare PSSA in their waters
	<i>Mr. Anthony Talouli SPREP Pollution Adviser</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEN-6 form as a data collection to that can be used to connect the dots between marine pollution events tracking/monitoring, and measures to address the issue • GEN-6 observer reports – SPC/FFA observers • Monitor by-catch, marine pollution (on purse-seiners and other fishing vessels etc.) • 10,000 MARPOL violations – 70% are garbage-related and 70% of vessels not from Pacific region • WMD – plastics can be branded as ‘weapons of mass destruction’ (uptake in fish tissue etc.)
	<i>Mr. Unasa Nomeneta Saili Director of Sky Eye Samoa</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our region is good at collecting data, but managing and maintaining data continues to be an issue. • With Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) fleet, range has been an issue, but the technology is improving. For new tech, the prices are generally high, but slowly becoming more economical. • Using remote aerial imagery for change detection over time – application is user-friendly, simple to interpret. • Using remote sensing to calculate volume (e.g., mangrove area calculation etc), flood/water inundation mapping • Base layer of data is key as without it the decision-making end may not be well-informed if baseline data isn’t appropriate etc. • SkyEye – local geospatial company based in Samoa,

		<p>operating last 4 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in Solomon Islands (SI), Vanuatu and Samoa, in process of working in American Samoa and Fiji • Short, mid and long range UAVs • High res aerial drone imagery – available more faster than satellite imagery • Work in SI – identify illegal settlements/area encroachment, risk identification for settlements, property planning • Land use and vegetation mapping using classification • Volume calculations of mangrove areas, Biomass calculations (e.g. – STEC biomass project) • Flood/water inundation maps
<i>Discussion</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The integrity of the whistle-blowing role of Observers on Purse Seiners in fulfilling their tasks despite the risks described in the presentation (Observers being killed, going missing etc.). ▪ querying the Intellectual Property Rights on data that is being collected, especially in relation to Traditional Knowledge; level of detail/accuracy and definition of Remote Sensing data collection (need for verification for validation at grassroots level). ▪ permission/approval from client/stakeholders is sought prior to public presentation of data; policy and legislation is being developed as drones become more commonly used, with permitting required for drone use, and agreements in terms of data collection and usage (data remains property of client, not SkyEye).
<i>Key Messages</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ GIS and spatial planning tools are important and useful for mapping protected areas ✓ Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) such as the Jomard entrance are at risk from international transit shipping and thus require appropriate and effective measures and resources to protected PSSAs. ✓ Observer reports are useful in monitoring and reporting by catch and marine pollution. ✓ Explore the use of modern technology such as drones for environmental monitoring in the long run. But, it needs appropriate resources and capacity to ensure it is effectively utilised to support monitoring and reporting.



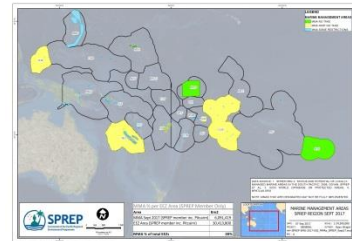
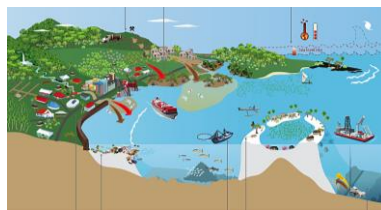
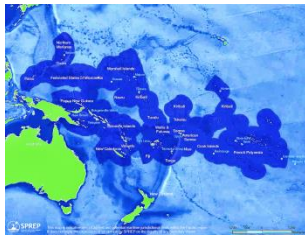
Session 3: Integrated ocean management: translating voluntary ocean commitments into action – Talanoa

<p><i>Convener</i></p>	<p><i>Mr. Warren Lee-Long SPREP Coastal and Marine Adviser</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant need for integrated approaches in ocean management • Do we have the levels of resourcing, governance structures in place needed to achieve this integration? • Pacific oceanscape framework has inspired national level work • MACBIO – made good progress in marine planning in 5 PICs • 2013 – CBD Ecological Biodiversity Significant Areas (EBSA) identified; 2016 – CBD Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) workshop; national Marine Spatial Planning (MPS) (MACBIO countries) • Building partnerships for improving science knowledge on marine ecosystems • Resources needed for long term MSP and MPA management, science capacity, cultural knowledge with science into integrated ocean management, monitoring control and surveillance
<p><i>Session facilitator</i></p>	<p><i>Mr Kosi Latu, SPREP Director General</i></p>	
<p><i>Panellists</i></p>	<p><i>Hon. Minister F. Umiich Sengebau, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Palau</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first protected area in Palau legislated in 1956 • Focus has been on preserving the corals that are resilient, rather than those corals that had died during bleaching events • 1998 – first coral bleaching event, killed nearly 50 percent of their corals • Passed PAN legislation as a result • Protection focused on resilient corals that survived the bleaching event • Sustainable financing important issue – 2007 this mechanism was passed, 15 USD green fee upon departure • Nearly 3m USD per year from green fee • 10m USD endowment from CI and TNC – use interest for conservation initiatives • Extend efforts to other jurisdictions in the sub-region – resulted in the MC • Food security issue, assistance for coastal CAs – MPA law passed? • MSP for Palau – encourage non-extractive activities (sport fishing etc.) <p><i>Ms. Anne-Claire Goarant, Senior advisor for multilateral cooperation and regional organisation, Office of Regional cooperation and external relations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people, values, conservation, regionalism, expansion of efforts through MoUs with sister Large MPA countries • customary use of ocean through fishing rules and tabu sites – by the kanaks • First MPA near Noumea to prevent overfishing and promote tourism (16,000 sq. km) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 CBM committees • World heritage listing of NC lagoon – a catalyst for action • Want to put in place measures to prevent illegal fishing • MPA management plan exists but not implemented (issue with NGOs) • Have learnt a lot from marae moana experience – start small, involve all stakeholders etc.
<p><i>Discussion</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is no lack of mechanisms in place, the issue lies in implementation. <p><i>How can we use the existing Frameworks and use opportunities to address the known threats and emerging threats? How do we address these challenges?, how do we improve IOC in the region?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Many mechanisms at the regional level such as the Oceanscape Framework, Ocean commissioner but the real issue is implementation <p><i>How can use regionalism to deal with these issues?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leaders session – marae moana declaration (CKI), Vanuatu developed an ocean policy ▪ challenge in establishing Marae Moana was balancing the objectives of different departments and orgs who are all stakeholders of the Marine Protected Area; there is still work to be done, still more compromises to be made but ▪ experiences where conservation initiatives have not been taken on board, e.g. when direction has come from abroad. ▪ during a Private-Public sector dialogue at PIF48, the need for clarity between industry and environmental management agencies, and consideration of external factors that contribute to the problems. external threats caused by other countries (i.e. – illegal fishing etc.) ▪ Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FRP), need to look closely at genuine and durable partnerships that will help us achieve those undertakings. We, as PICTs, don't have the local capacity to do so on our own, and also need to consider the interlinked world we live in now. ▪ regarding existing mechanisms, there are possibly too many instruments in play; would be more effective to bring those mechanisms together to streamline implementation; similar issue with CROP agencies, and generating competition and overlap in activities being implemented. The key is to continue the work we are doing, despite the climate change naysayers, and the regional organisations such as SPREP and SPC have the region on the right track. ▪ Broader effects on Palau's economy from current efforts? – Jobs have been created and positive effect on conservation of biodiversity. ▪ Marae Moana has been a lesson in achieving balance between conservation and revenue. Compromises needed to be made, FADs are still permitted and still more work to be done. ▪ human resources, stakeholder engagement are also very important. ▪ Kiribati has started an MSP at country level with SPREP and MACBIO support, focusing on Tarawa and Kiritimati. How can we upscale this work? ▪ need to realize the enormity of the challenge of IOC; we don't have capacity to manage our part of the ocean. We can manage the dots; the challenge though is to find partners to manage the connectivity of the dots. Local efforts are working but contribution to regional issues (IUU) is lacking. Penalising small subsistence efforts (small fish size catch) while overlooking bigger problems faced (IUU)

	<p><i>How do we address the challenges of and improve integrated ocean management in the Pacific?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Noted key points from the 48th Forum Leaders meeting that relate to this issue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. At the regional and national levels, we have more than enough regional/international mechanisms in place, so the issue is with implementation, not lack of mechanisms. We need to look at the opportunities and what are the opportunities that have been created at the regional and national levels. ii. We need to expand on enhancing both regional and international initiatives. We know what the challenges are, but what are we going to do to address those challenges?
<p><i>Key Messages</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Integrated Ocean Management (IOM) - conservation measures need to include benefits to local communities (e.g., sustainable tourism efforts); value-adding for communities ✓ solutions – must be locally driven, not reflective of external pressure (donors, development partners etc); ✓ Sustainable financing - the need for establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms as part of the management process. not many PICs have followed the Palau experience ✓ balance interests in establishing IOM measures – it can be achieved, with effort, and has been shown to work. ✓ partnerships – in entering new partnerships, always ask what added value of the partnership is to local community/region etc ✓ Benefits derived from IOC for communities is important, they must also be involved and solutions must be community driven and reflective of their priorities ✓ Balance between different interest groups – not easy but can be progressed and can work, just need compromise. ✓ Partnerships – what is the added value? What do different partners bring to the table? How can partnerships benefit communities ✓ Illegal Unregulated Unreported (IUU) – not an easy issue for the region. Not as high though as other regions but is still occurring illegally. Illegal fishing here mostly comes from unauthorized vessels, and this is an issue FFA is working on. The broader application of fisheries that is employed by FFA is now going beyond fishery surveillance, and they're using fishing vessels to reflect meteorological data. Reminder we are talking about the largest ocean in the world, and this isn't an easy task. ✓ Coupling of top down-bottom up approach for Kiribati is important. More on scaling up later. ✓ integrated ocean management approach that looks at that conservation of oceans must have benefits that are derived from and done on behalf of the communities (similar to eco-tourism examples). Where there's value added to integrated ocean conservation management, communities will be involved. ✓ The solutions must be local and community-driven, and should not reflect external and donor pressures, but must be driven by the community. ✓ When talking about good implementation, there has to be sustainable financing. ✓ It's not easy to try and achieve a balance between the interest of the community, government and the private sector, but Cook Islands shows this can happen and it can work. Great example showing where balance among interest of key stakeholders can be achieved.

<p><i>Recommendations (if any)</i></p>	<p>The financial longevity and sustainability comes from people on the ground. SPREP's approach (ex. BioMap project) has been to make use of results from projects that other partners in the region currently have in place. For the Kiribati example, assisted in setting up the GIS framework and platform there, and this encouraged cross-sectoral sharing of data in agencies in Kiribati that perhaps didn't exist before. At the same time, you have to look at a top-down approach for stronger governments, and this is shown in Kiribati's approach for enhancing and progressing fisheries, and we combine both a top-down and bottom-up approach. In terms of what we're moving onto next in Kiribati, it's the optimistic approach that most of us are working on in project-based funding and looking at what we have been doing to date in every country. There are a number of other ocean planning and marine spatial projects coming through where SPREP has the opportunity to assist, as well as see the outputs and advantages that come from one country and apply those to other countries.</p>
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Session 4: Compliance and enforcement – Panel session

<i>Panellists</i>	<i>Mr. Fiu Mataese Elisara Executive Director, OLSSI</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an assumption that people understand the rules/legislation. In terms of enforcement, you can't manage what you don't know/understand. • adequacy of EIAs; there needs to be recognition of the communities that are being impacted upon • Communities are likely to shoulder the burden of enforcing these laws • Assumption that everyone including communities are well versed with current legislation • Do communities fully understand the issues embodied in legislation? • Do communities have ownership of legislation? • Community relocation due to climate change impacts – issues involved (social impacts) – EIA can be inadequate in certain scenarios. • Rushing of legislation through the system – can affect full understanding of laws • Biotechnology, biopiracy, ABS – do communities fully understand implications of these?
	<i>Mr. Jason Annandale Solicitor, Schuster, Betham & Annandale Law Firm</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the court/legislation system, historically, imposed penalties that weren't conducive of being a deterrent to offenders (past and future). • The policy framework needs to be strong in order to be effective. It also doesn't stand alone – it needs to work in conjunction with consultation and legislation. • Upstream issues – Downstream participant: Awareness raising + education + enforcement = compliance • Extensive amount of laws in Samoa but not comprehensive – doesn't cover all obligations of MEAs that Samoa has signed • Time and resources spent on minor cases and not going after the big fish • Strong legislation requires strong policy frameworks • Awareness + education + enforcement = compliance • Need a good flow of resources and right skill set to carry out enforcement
	<i>Ms. Kathleen Taituave Principal Legal Officer, Legal Division, MNRE</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNRE – over 20 Acts not including regulations – one of the most overregulated ministries in Samoan government • Rio project – progress on implementing three Rio conventions – resulted in a Soil Bill. Due to absence of a law recognising soil as a natural resource, like water. Contributions to SLM efforts • Compliance and enforcement – a gap for MNRE, not enough enforcement officers. Currently only one enforcement and compliance officer. • Some prosecutions – unauthorised forestry operations

<p><i>Discussion</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anne-Claire of New Caledonia mentioned a young lawyer in NC who is looking at the effectiveness of legislation, and working on the connectivity between legislation and communities. ▪ need to ensure that we have the appropriate technologies to police/monitor the legislation we have in place. Political pressure as a problem with enforcing laws. ▪ need for proper policy dialogue ▪ a question was asked on clarity on existing legislation relating to open fires in Samoa. Kathleen responded saying that it is generally covered under waste management related legislation ▪ Samoa Soil Bill - due to absence of a law recognising soil as a natural resource, like water. Contributions to SLM efforts ▪ Climate change Bill – no designated climate change authority at moment – currently overseen by GEF Division in MNRE ▪ Environment management bill covers 6 MEAs and has taken a lot of time for the process to complete. Difficult to embody all obligations under one standalone act ▪ Anne Claire – interesting to see different types of approaches in various PICs. Would be happy to share information on how their process is structure. ▪ border control agents/inspectors do not necessarily have all the skills and tech required to test for various things. ▪ Political pressure can interfere with laws ▪ Law banning open fires – supposed to be for combating climate change but still a lot of open fires around. Enforcement is the issue, Also absence of set standards and equipment
<p><i>Key Messages</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ EIA laws –generally good and robust. Enforcement is the issue. ✓ Awareness – most governments don’t have the resources to go out to individual villages to raise awareness as government does not have resources to cover outer remote islands and areas ✓ The key is to engage support from community and religious figures in raising awareness and promoting compliance. ✓ Need proper policies in place to set the scene for effective laws ✓ Level of enforcement is low – only two cases taken to court in Samoa ✓ Many laws but not comprehensive

Session 5: Plan with Nature at Home

<i>Presenters</i>	<i>Ms. Moe Saitala EIA Officer, Department of Environment, Tuvalu</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental challenges in Tuvalu - urbanisation, limited land resources, climate change, marine pollution, removal of flora due to development • Have developed a Tuvalu solid waste integration policy • NEMS helping to improve the current situation – focuses on biodiversity, Waste management, Awareness and Education • Agencies work in isolation, limited capacity in DOE, government endorsement process is long and bureaucratic, monitoring implementation, technical and financial support always welcomed
	<i>Ms. Taouea Reiher Acting Director Environment, Kiribati</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kiribati Integrated Environment Policy - Challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monitoring mechanisms missing to track progress of strategic indicators led and implemented by other sectors. - Difficulty of determining prioritisation due to importance of all thematic areas - Limited resources and capacity • KIEP Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need for review KIEP, and monitoring mechanism developed - Prioritisation of thematic areas for proper planning and implementation - Establishment of a dedicated UNIT - Linking to SDGs, Agenda 2030 and MEAs • KIEP – 5 year duration, priorities in 5 thematic areas, guides annual ministerial operational plan, guides annual environment budget and work plans • Impacts – whole of island Vulnerability Assessment for Abaiang, mangrove replanting, NAPA implementation, NBSAP updated, ECD communication strategy, Kiribati NISSAP, additional officers working in BD, ECD website developed, EMIS developed • develop a monitoring mech during review of the KIEP, prioritization of themes to be carried out, dedicated unit for KIEP indicator monitoring, est. links to SDGs and others (e.g. – Aichi targets)
	<i>Ms. Christina Leala-Gale Manager Sustainable Tourism Development, SPTO</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism sector environmental impacts: • Energy, water, waste biodiversity and ecosystem impacts • Challenges at the business planning stage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited appreciation and awareness by new operators o the tourism sector and the environment - Lack of proper research and business planning - Unlicensed businesses operating illegally - Weak policy enforcement resulting in major developments taking place without relevant

		<p>approvals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Absence of robust legislative and policy frameworks • Challenges at the operational stage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expectation that compliance with environmental standards is dependent on government support • Sustainable tourism practices can be expensive, e.g., developing • Looking for future opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint partnerships etc • Sustainable tourism - a TOOL for development ← theme for World Tourism Day • Marketing Pacific people, environments and culture • Challenges – tourism is intensive user of natural resources (water etc) and can damage natural ecosystems. • Planning stage challenges - lack of proper research and business planning, unlicensed businesses, weak policy enforcement, lack of effective policy and legislative frameworks, limited appreciation of new operators of the role of the natural environment in tourism • Opportunities – off the beaten track, quieter and discreet more desirable, spectacular landscapes, culturally rich experiences etc. • SPTO will promote the EIA guidelines for coastal tourism development in the region • Looking forward – joint partnerships acceleration, media/communications and outreach support, support for national policy and regulatory frameworks, sharing best practice, use of tourism as a tool to integrate cultural and economic aspects to drive environment sustainability
<p><i>Discussion</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ while the databases and IT systems are very useful for the region, they're expensive to develop. Question on how the systems were developed, and if this could be made available to other countries ▪ the Kiribati database project was made possible with funding and support from GEF & UNDP. EMIS available through local network at moment, more work needs to be done to facilitate public access, there are issues regarding making the data available to the public. ▪ Anne-Claire (New Cale.) – French Territories are not included in the SOE process, but through the BEST funding process French territories are able to implement similar exercises. The key is to ensure that the same kind of data is collected and used, to allow for comparison between and across countries. ▪ Accelerate partnerships, share experiences and lessons learned, environmental resources are essential in product diversification, conservation of national resources has sustainable economic benefits for Pacific SIDS, should measure Pacific tourism sustainability, goal sustainable planning and management of tourism to achieve being one with nature, need attitude and behavioural change towards the environment. ▪ Environmental sustainability is a journey. Recognize it won't be a quick fix for the Pacific, but it's a journey. ▪ Sustainable tourism is a tool for development.

Key Messages

- ✓ Sustainable tourism is a tool for sustainable development
- ✓ Monitoring the implementation of national environment policy is essential to track progress and address linkages to SDGs, MEAs, Aichi Targets and other international commitments
- ✓ NEMS plays a key role in providing an overarching framework to address environmental issues in a coordinated and integrated way



Pacific Tourism and Environmental Opportunities



Environment Challenges in Tuvalu



1. Growing urbanisation on Funafuti
2. Limited land resources faces increased pressure from population growth
3. Reduction of trees due to excessive infrastructure development.
4. Waste management and direct implications for human and ecosystem health especially in Funafuti
5. Climate change and sea level rise, specifically salt-water inundation of roots crops (pulaka pits) coastal erosion and flooding
6. Oil Spill

Session 6: EIA in practice – sharing experiences from the field in Samoa – Field trip

<p><i>Presenters</i></p>	<p><i>Ms. Della Savainaea Acting Principal Environment Officer, Samoa MNRE - Planning and Urban Management Agency</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PUMA role and function: responsible for assessing development proposals; has the statutory rights to require an EIA as a supporting document of a development proposal • EIA strengths in Samoa – better project/development proposal design and planning • Maximising community consultation in the early stages of development, to avoid delays in later stages of the development project • EIA weaknesses in Samoa – limited number of specialised EIA environmental consultants; project/developers developing EIAs themselves (of poor and varied quality) due to hefty fees charged by local EIA consultants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retrospective approvals and (?) political interference - Inadequate data for assessment and • Development consent, environmental control, compliance and enforcement • By law, PUMA can request for an EIA if there is likelihood of adverse environmental impact from certain proposed activities • EIA consultation process – if done properly may reduce objections form community members consulted • EIA reports done by project proponents themselves are poorly written – an issue for PUMA. • Local consultants charging too much • Political interference – rush through essential parts of the process • Inadequate data supplied by proponents to base assessment on • EIA capacity building carried out for PUMA officers
<p><i>Field trip</i></p>	<p>✓ Field trip to the Vaisigano Bridge to see the proposed extension. Participants also had the opportunity to look at other development activities taking place along the Vaisigano river.</p>	



Annex1: 2017 PEF Agenda

Time	Session	Topic	Speakers/presenters/ panellists	Session convener and overview
8:00am – 8:30am		Registration		SPREP
8:30am - 8:35am		Prayer Jope Davetanivalu, SPREP	Jope Davetanivalu	SPREP
8:35am - 8:45am		Overview and remarks <i>Kosi Latu will provide an overview of the Pacific Environment Forum and highlight the role of environmental data, information and knowledge in supporting good environmental governance.</i>	Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General	SPREP
8:45am - 9:45am	1	<p>From data to impact: strengthening environmental governance (40mins)</p> <p><u>Objective</u> <i>To demonstrate and reinforce the importance of environmental data in supporting data based decision making.</i></p> <p><u>Facilitator</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Anderson, SPREP Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Officer will introduce the topic and provide an overview of the role of environmental data in planning and decision making processes. <p><u>Speakers/presenters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warwick Harris and Kilom Ishiguro will share and highlight the application of environmental data to report on the state of environment for RMI and highlight key success stories from RMI. Josie Tamate will highlight Niue’s SOE experience and the some of the challenges in gathering data for the SOE. Vicky Hall will present on the Citizen-Science concept and highlight Australia’s experience in implementing this concept drawing on an example from the Coral Watch programme. <p>Facilitated discussion and wrap up (20mins)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Warwick Harris, Deputy Director OEPPC, Marshall Islands and Mr. Kilom Ishiguro, SPREP Technical Expert and Liaison Officer, RMI Dr. Josie Tamate, Director General, Niue Ministry of Natural Resources Dr. Vicky Hall, Director, SPREP Waste Management and Pollution Control 	Paul Anderson <i>SPREP Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Officer</i>

		<i>The session facilitator will wrap up and highlight three key points and messages.</i>		
9:45am - 10:15am	2	<p>Mapping our environment priorities with GIS and spatial planning tools (40mins)</p> <p><u>Objective</u> <i>To showcase Pacific Islands progress towards achieving environmental objectives and commitments through the use of innovative spatial data, data acquisition, Spatial Planning and GIS mapping processes. The session will also showcase innovative new data acquisition tools that can assist countries to manage and monitor their environments more accurately and efficiently.</i></p> <p><u>Facilitator</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ryan Wright, SPREP Spatial Planning Officer will introduce the topic and provide an overview of spatial planning tools and approaches and their application in supporting environmental planning and decision making processes. <p><u>Speakers/presenters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moeli Uili and Ms. Czarina Iese Stowers will present on Samoa's experience in mapping its protected area network using GIS tools. Anthony Talouli will present on spatial analysis of fishing vessels pollution events across the Pacific region and Pawa Limu will present on the development of the Pacific's first PSSA – the Jomard Passage PNG – using spatial data Unasa Nome Saili will present on the potential use of drones (unmanned aerial vehicle) technology to acquire environmental data drawing on work undertaken in Samoa and other Pacific island countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Moeli Uili, Scientific Technical Officer, and Ms. Czarina Iese Stowers, Senior Terrestrial Biodiversity Conservation Officer, MNRE Mr. Anthony Talouli, SPREP Pollution Adviser Mr. Pawa Limu, Manager Marine Environment Protection, PNG Mr. Unasa Nome Saili, Director of Sky Eye Samoa 	Ryan Wright <i>SPREP Spatial Planning Officer</i>
10:15am - 10:30am		BREAK		
10:30am - 11:00am	2	<p>Continue with Session 2</p> <p>Facilitated discussion and wrap up (20mins)</p> <p><i>The session facilitator will wrap up and highlight three key points and messages.</i></p>		
11:00am -	5	Integrated ocean management: translating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Warren Lee 	Warren Lee

12:00pm		<p>voluntary ocean commitments into action (40mins) - Talanoa session</p> <p><u>Objective</u> <i>To provide an overview of the current status, issues and opportunities in integrated ocean governance and management in our region. This session will address the following key questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Challenges in marine spatial planning and management</i> • <i>How can we improve integrated ocean management in the region?</i> <p><u>Facilitator</u> Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General, SPREP</p> <p><u>Speakers/presenters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warren Lee Long will provide a summary of progress in the Pacific on integrated ocean management through regional frameworks and initiatives • Minister F. Umiich Sengebau will share Palau’s commitment on marine protected area • Anne-Claire Goarant will speak on New Caledonia’s experience in marine protected area <p>Facilitated discussion and wrap up (20mins)</p> <p><i>The session facilitator will wrap up and highlight three key points and messages.</i></p>	<p>Long, SPREP Coastal and Marine Adviser</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Kosi Latu, SPREP Director General ▪ Hon. Minister F. Umiich Sengebau, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Palau ▪ Ms. Anne-Claire Goarant, Senior advisor for multilateral cooperation and regional organisation, Office of Regional cooperation and external relations 	<p>Long SPREP <i>Coastal and Marine Adviser</i></p>
12:00pm - 1:00pm		LUNCH		
1:00pm - 2:00pm	4	<p>Compliance and enforcement – Panel discussion (40mins)</p> <p><u>Objective</u> <i>To stimulate discussion on the state of compliance and enforcement within countries and what can be done to propel this work forward.</i></p> <p><u>Facilitator</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clark Peteru, SPREP Legal Adviser will provide an overview on environmental compliance and enforcement and highlighting key challenges and opportunities. <p><u>Panellists</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiu Mataese Elisara will provide the NGO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Fiu Mataese Elisara, Executive Director, OLSSI ▪ Mr. Jason Annandale, Solicitor, Schuster, Betham & Annandale Law Firm ▪ Ms. Kathleen Taituave, Principal Legal Officer, Legal Division, MNRE 	<p>Clark Peteru SPREP <i>Legal Adviser</i></p>

		<p>perspective and experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jason Annandale will provide the private sector legal perspective • Kathleen Taituave, Principal Legal Officer, Legal Division, MNRE will provide the government perspective and experience <p>Facilitated discussion and wrap up (20mins)</p> <p><i>The session facilitator will wrap up and highlight three key points and messages.</i></p>		
2:00pm - 3:00pm	3	<p>Plan with Nature at Home (40mins)</p> <p><u>Objective</u> <i>To highlight the importance of strategic environmental planning in achieving national, regional and global goals and targets.</i></p> <p><u>Facilitator</u> Jope Davetanivalu, SPREP Planning and Capacity Building Adviser will introduce the topic and provide an overview of strategic environmental planning processes and the integration of environmental priorities into national and regional planning and decision making processes.</p> <p><u>Speakers/presenters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moe Saitala will share Tuvalu’s updated National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS) and highlight key priorities identified for Tuvalu. • Taouea Reiher will speak on Kiribati’s Integrated Environmental Policy as a vehicle for mainstreaming environmental priorities into national development planning processes. • Christina Leala-Gale will provide a regional perspective and the role of SPTO in facilitating the integration of environmental issues within the tourism sector. <p>Facilitated discussion and wrap up (20mins)</p> <p><i>The session facilitator will wrap up and highlight three key points and messages.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Moe Saitala, EIA Officer, Department of Environment, Tuvalu ▪ Ms. Taouea Reiher, Acting Director Environment, Kiribati ▪ Ms. Christina Leala-Gale, Manager Sustainable Tourism Development, SPTO 	Jope Davetanivalu SPREP Planning and Capacity Building Adviser
3:00pm - 4:30pm	6	<p>EIA in practice – sharing experiences from the field in Samoa – Field Trip</p> <p><u>Objective</u> <i>To share national experiences in applying EIA, including challenges and key lessons learned,</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Sarah Tawaka, Department of Environment, Ministry of Local Government, 	Jope Davetanivalu SPREP Planning and Capacity

	<p><i>and to identify opportunities for strengthening EIA processes across the Pacific.</i></p> <p><u>Facilitator</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jope Davetanivalu will provide an overview of EIA in the region and highlight examples of key achievements made including areas that need to be further strengthened. <p><u>Speakers/presenters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Tawaka will share Fiji's EIA experience and lesson learnt. • Della Savainaea will provide an overview of the EIA process in Samoa including background information on the project site that will be visited. <p><i>Facilitated discussion and wrap up (20mins)</i></p> <p><i>The session facilitator will wrap up and highlight three key points and messages.</i></p> <p><u>The Pacific Environment Forum will end with the field trip.</u></p> <p><u>All participants will be transported to the site for the field visit.</u></p>	<p>Urban Development, Housing & Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Della Savainaea, Acting Principal Environment Officer, Samoa MNRE - Planning and Urban Management Agency 	<p><i>Building Adviser</i></p>
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Annex2: List of Participants

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Country/O rg</u>	<u>Email</u>
Member Countries			
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