

**ACTION PLAN
FOR MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT
OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION**



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PREFACE

I take much pride in the publication of the Action Plan for Managing the Environment of the Pacific Islands Region for the period 2001-2004.

The Action Plan was acknowledged by SPREP Members, and following its adoption at the 11th SPREP Meeting in Guam in October 2000, promoted as the guiding document for addressing environmental issues in the Pacific Islands region.

I **commend** the Secretariat, Members and other partners for their contribution in developing the Action Plan; **welcome** the increased emphasis on the “advisory” rather than the direct implementation role of the Secretariat; and **call upon** the Secretariat to further develop synergies between the SPREP Action Plan and the Asia-Pacific Action Plan recently endorsed at Ministerial level in Japan.

I further commend this Action Plan to all SPREP members, development partners in the region and international, intergovernmental organisations active in the region and other stakeholders and call for your support, commitment and full participation in implementing the regional agenda for **enhancing, protecting, managing and using our environment for sustainable development of our islands.**

Mr Jesus Salas
**Administrator of Guam Environmental
Protection Agency and Chairperson of the
Eleventh SPREP Meeting at Ministerial Level
Guam**

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1.1 Agreement Establishing SPREP 1993

SPREP was first established in 1982 as a programme within the now Secretariat of the Pacific Community. It was accorded formal legal status to be an autonomous regional organisation in 1993 under the Agreement Establishing SPREP which came into force in 1995.

The SPREP Secretariat is located in Apia, Samoa.

1.2 The Action Plan for Managing the Environment of the Pacific Islands Region

Articles 2.1 and 2.2 of the Agreement Establishing SPREP 1993 stipulates that “SPREP shall achieve [its] purposes through the Action Plan adopted from time to time by the SPREP Meeting, setting the strategies and objectives of SPREP.

The Action Plan shall include:

- (a) Coordinating regional activities addressing the environment;
- (b) monitoring and assessing the state of the environment in the region including the impacts of human activities on the ecosystems of the region and encouraging development undertaken to be directed towards maintaining or enhancing environmental qualities;
- (c) promoting and developing programmes, including research programmes, to protect the atmosphere and terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems and species, while ensuring ecologically sustainable utilisation of resources;
- (d) reducing, through prevention and management, atmospheric, land based, freshwater and marine pollution;
- (e) strengthening national and regional capabilities and institutional arrangements;
- (f) increasing and improving training, educational and public awareness activities; and
- (g) promoting integrated legal, planning and management mechanisms.

The purpose of SPREP is “to promote cooperation in the Pacific region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations”.

1.3 Rationale for the Action Plan

The Action Plan is intended as the regional agenda for managing the environment of the Pacific islands region for four-year periods. It embodies the vision of SPREP members and key stakeholders for the long-term management of their shared environment. It is the main planning document which identifies the broad priorities and key result areas of the regional agenda and associated capacity building processes and interventions. From this document the Secretariat will develop its Corporate Plan and annual work programmes in support of national, regional and global initiatives.

The 2001–2004 Action Plan was developed through a highly participatory, consultative process involving a wide range of stakeholders. Its Key Result Areas and associated Processes and Interventions, reflect the main programme areas and priorities as identified through this process.

1.4 Regional Legal Framework

In addition to the Agreement Establishing SPREP, the following legal agreements provide the framework for common action to manage the environment of the Pacific islands region.

1.4.1 SPREP Convention

SPREP is the Secretariat for the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region, (the SPREP or Noumea Convention) which came into force in 1990. Its articles cover environmental management and development of natural resources, pollution, wastes, mining and coastal erosion, protection of flora and fauna, environmental impact assessment, scientific and technical co-operation, technical and other assistance and transmission of information.

The SPREP Convention carries two Protocols, the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution Emergencies in the South Pacific Region and the Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the South Pacific Region by Dumping.

1.4.2 Apia Convention

SPREP is also the Secretariat for the Convention on the Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific, (Apia Convention) which came into force in 1990. It relates to the creation of protected areas to “safeguard” representative samples of natural ecosystems, geological formations, regions and objects of aesthetic interest or historic cultural or scientific value.

1.4.3 Waigani Convention

SPREP will act as Secretariat for the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Waste and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention). The Convention was adopted on 16th September 1995 and as of now, it will need to be ratified by 5 more countries for it to enter into force.

1.4.4 Global Conventions and Initiatives

Some SPREP members are also Parties to a range of global conventions and initiatives. The Conventions often call for appropriate action to be taken at the regional level. By their nature, these agreements are an integral part of the region’s efforts towards sustainable development. They provide further definition to the regional legal framework particularly in relation to conserving biological resources, climate change, hazardous wastes, marine and land based sources of pollution.

1.5 Partnerships for Action Plan Implementation

The Action Plan is intended to be implemented by governments and administrations who are members of SPREP, in conjunction with the many organisations and individuals active in the protection of the environment and natural resources of the Pacific islands region. Key players include the environment, planning and development agencies in each country and territory; natural resource management agencies, local communities and resource owners, regional and international organisations, bilateral and multilateral agencies, local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) including churches, women’s and youth groups and other interested partners.

1.6 SPREP Membership

The 26 Members of SPREP

American Samoa	Niue
Australia	Northern Marianas
Cook Islands	Palau
Federated States of Micronesia	Papua New Guinea
Fiji	Pitcairn
France	Samoa
French Polynesia	Solomon Islands
Guam	Tokelau
Kiribati	Tonga
Marshall Islands	Tuvalu
Nauru	United States of America
New Caledonia	Vanuatu
New Zealand	Wallis and Futuna

2 STRATEGIC ISSUES

2.1 Lessons Learned

The review of the 1997-2000 Action Plan provided the following key lessons, which have guided the development of this Action Plan:

- ✱ A stronger commitment by Pacific island Governments and Administrations to the environment, to SPREP and to the implementation of the Action Plan is essential.
- ✱ The capacity to effectively plan, implement and monitor environmental programmes must be identified and recognised in the design of projects and programmes.
- ✱ Stronger linkages should be developed between the SPREP Secretariat and agencies responsible for natural resource sectors and those coordinating the key functions of national planning, finance and development in SPREP members.
- ✱ These linkages should aim to promote and achieve the full integration of environmental issues into social and economic development at national and regional levels.
- ✱ The planning and design of regional activities should recognise differences between SPREP members.
- ✱ Effective consultative mechanisms to identify and prioritise members' needs are required.
- ✱ There is value in using simple pilot exercises to test designs and applicability to country situations before embarking on ambitious regional programmes.
- ✱ Regional projects, which complement or support national initiatives have better chances of success and sustainability.
- ✱ There is a need for greater focus of regional activities and interventions to address common needs on the basis of groups or groupings of members.
- ✱ Response to members' needs has been constrained by the project driven nature of the Secretariat's funding base and the voluntary nature of members' contributions.

2.2 Ownership of the Action Plan

The ownership of the Action Plan is shared by SPREP members and the Secretariat who work in partnership with NGOs, Inter-governmental organisations (IGOs), local communities and the private sector.

The Action Plan is intended to be an essential and useful tool for any person, organisation or development agency involved or interested in the environment and natural resource management in the Pacific islands region.

To facilitate monitoring and reporting, all stakeholders are encouraged to adopt the objectives and framework for Pacific Island environment management outlined in this Action Plan in their respective environmental planning and implementation.

2.3 Diversity of the Pacific Islands Region

The Pacific is a region of great diversity. While there are many common issues and concerns, there are significantly more differences, such as in physical size of the Pacific islands, in natural resources, in social and cultural aspects, in population and rates of population growth, in levels of economic and social development and in national capacity to absorb external assistance. Designing regional programmes or

projects that will effectively address common problems of the region while providing sufficient flexibility to accommodate national differences and needs, is a challenge for SPREP and its regional partners.

2.4 Sharpening the Focus of Regional Interventions

The wide range of needs and expectations of members for SPREP services requires the Secretariat to place a greater focus on interventions that develop programmes in areas where SPREP is best placed to make an effective contribution.

This also requires the development of a geographical focus of activities, with countries grouped on the basis of commonality of needs, of similar geographic characteristics, national capacity to plan and implement programmes and have ready access to resources to fund programmes and employ quality staff.

2.5 Strengthening Linkages with Members

Members' level of awareness of SPREP's role and activities vary considerably. Some members, especially the flag territories or island dependencies, are almost totally reliant on resources and support from their sovereign governments. They receive little assistance from SPREP and have less public awareness of SPREP's functions and activities. On the other hand, the independent Pacific island countries have been the main beneficiaries of assistance from the SPREP Secretariat. But even in these countries, the level of public awareness of SPREP's functions and activities is rather low. The Secretariat needs to vastly improve its communications and interactions with all its members to enhance public awareness of what SPREP has to offer. It needs to assist its focal points to become more effective partners through co-ordination and interaction. This will also assist in the implementation of the Action Plan, the Secretariat work programme and activities in its members.

To enable SPREP members to monitor progress, trends and conditions of their environment and natural resources, key ecological, social, cultural and economic indicators will need to be developed. The SPREP Secretariat has initiated the development of country profiles on the state of the environment, which would enable the Secretariat and members to monitor and evaluate the progress and impact of environmental programmes and interventions. These initiatives will receive greater support in their implementation. This will be coordinated and integrated with other efforts and existing mechanisms to compile data on the environment.

The SPREP Secretariat recognises its vital responsibility to provide timely and credible responses to requests for advice and information from its members. Among various options to develop this capacity within the Secretariat is the establishment of a help desk to co-ordinate responses from SPREP's professional staff and/or to identify other sources which might be able to provide such advice.

2.6 Funding

Over ninety percent of SPREP funding comes from donors, most of it tied to specific projects linked to the Action Plan. The balance is from members' annual contributions. The level of members' contributions has remained at US\$0.5 million since 1991. These core funds pay for some staff salaries, servicing of meetings, general communications and information to members. SPREP members must contribute sufficient funding to enable the Secretariat to respond flexibly and effectively to increasing demands. The Pacific island members in particular must signal their com-

mitment to protecting their environment by the timely payment of their voluntary contributions and by acknowledging the need for larger contributions to the core budget.

The mobilisation of financial resources for environmental management remains critical to the success of the Action Plan. Members will need to explore all avenues including national budgets, economic instruments, implementation of user/polluter pays principle and official development assistance.

3 VISION

“People of the Pacific islands better able to plan, protect, manage and use their environment for sustainable development.”

4 4-YEAR GOAL

“To achieve the key results identified in the Action Plan below and to ensure that the strategic issues identified are successfully addressed.”



5 KEY RESULT AREAS (MAIN PROGRAMMES AND AREAS OF FOCUS)

Following consultations with SPREP Members, the following Key Result Areas (KRAs) were identified as critical to achieving sustainable development in the region. Nature Conservation focuses on the fundamental species and special areas of the region. Preventing pollution and the management of wastes is seen as critical to maintaining the health of the region's people and ecosystems. Climate Change and Variability will focus on strengthening the region's capacity to understand and respond to the continuum of weather from daily forecasts through seasonal variability and to long-term change.

Economic development, reform regimes and key sectors such as Tourism, Trade and Planning require special attention if efforts addressing other KRAs are to be successful.

5.1 Nature Conservation

Objective Effective protection of the natural heritage of the Pacific islands region through the conservation and sustainable management of their natural resources and biodiversity.

Threats to the region's biodiversity continue to increase. Rapid population growth, habitat destruction from logging, agriculture, over-harvesting of fish and wildlife resources, and invasive species have combined to put tremendous pressure on natural environments and species. New threats to the region's biodiversity are the destructive live reef-fish harvesting practices and illegal bio-prospecting.

Trends in resource overexploitation are driven by a complex combination of many factors, including overpopulation, high development expectations, dependence on foreign exchange and export revenue, and a system of political and economic values that see the environment as external to social and development concerns.

Today, things are changing. Pacific island leaders recognise that implementing sustainable development is a task of immense proportion, but commitment is growing at all levels. There is some urgency to slow the rapid rate of resource extractions and reduce environmental damage occurring everywhere in the region.

There is still time to invest in environmental protection and sustainable development. The challenge of the next four years is to apply the successful approaches and lessons from the past to conservation and development decisions on a larger scale.

Within this KRA, SPREP will focus in the 2001–2004 period on the following issues:

- ✿ Conservation Areas
- ✿ Ecosystems Management
- ✿ Species Protection
- ✿ Biosafety, Access to Genetic Resources and Intellectual Property Rights
- ✿ Traditional Resource Management

5.1.1 Conservation Areas

Replication of the community-based conservation area concept and approach to nature conservation in the region which has been developed through the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP) will be a major focus for the Action Plan. Support for existing projects, including building capacity of local communities to manage such projects will likewise, continue where possible. Model conservation areas including marine protected areas (MPAs) that demonstrate biodiversity protection, sustainable use of natural resources and community economic development, preferably including adjoining terrestrial and marine resources will receive greater attention.

Expected Outcomes

1. Region-wide acceptance and application of Conservation Area (CA) approaches for nature conservation.
2. CA monitoring methods designed and widely applied.

5.1.2 Ecosystems Management

Public consciousness and awareness of members on the importance of the health of coral reefs, wetlands, forests and coastal ecosystems will be raised. Focus will be on raising public awareness and consciousness and understanding of role of ecosystems in maintaining the integrity of islands and their importance in providing goods (resources) and services (eg. erosion and sedimentation control, pollution prevention) to people. The capacity of NGOs and local communities to protect and manage these areas sustainably will be enhanced. Technical assistance and other support will be provided to enable SPREP members to plan and implement national conservation strategies (e.g. the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)) and sector strategies in areas such as forestry and fisheries.

Training will be provided to enable SPREP members to identify terrestrial, freshwater and marine organisms and ecosystems that are rare, endangered, threatened or of special cultural, economic or ecological importance. Assistance will be provided to ensure that government agencies provide for their protection by ensuring that national policies do not lead to adverse impacts on these species and ecosystems when designing and siting major development and infrastructure projects, especially roads and power plants.

Expected Outcomes

1. Increased capacity of member countries to sustainably manage ecosystems.
2. More ecosystems of local, regional and international significance protected.
3. Improved capacity to manage sustainable fisheries and protect the social, cultural and biological value of marine areas.
4. Regional coordination on nature conservation is strengthened.

5.1.3 Species Protection

5.1.3.1 Endangered Species

Conservation of endangered species such as sea turtles, marine mammals, and avifauna will continue through the implementation of three existing regional strategies, namely; Marine Turtle Conservation Strategy; Marine Mammals Conservation Strategy, and the Avifauna Strategy. The development of other regional strategies and management plans for other threatened species and ecosystems such as coral reefs and wetlands will also be considered.

5.1.3.2 Invasive Species

Work with and through international, regional and national agencies to implement effective biosecurity measures and programmes to prevent the introduction of alien invasive species (AIS) or to assist with their control or eradication. Implement the Draft Regional Invasive Species Strategy in collaboration with governments and non-governmental organisations as far as possible.

Expected Outcomes

1. Increased protection of species of local, regional and international significance.
2. Identified, documented and prioritised status of endangered species in the region.
3. Raised awareness of (i) the threat to the security of native biota from alien invasive species and (ii) endangered species in PICs.
4. Improved statutes and regulations aimed at protecting countries from AIS which threaten native biodiversity.
5. Projects that increase the ability of countries to protect themselves against AIS and mitigate existing threats presented by AIS.

5.1.4 Biosafety, Access to Genetic Resources and Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)

SPREP members will be encouraged to develop adequate and effective legal and other mechanisms for protecting intellectual and cultural property rights of local and indigenous communities, and traditional owners and users of biological resources. This will include access to and ownership of genetic resources. Training and other forms of assistance to enable members to better understand, discuss and negotiate these issues at international forums will also be provided.

Expected Outcomes

1. Raised awareness of biosafety, access to genetic resources and IPR issues.
2. Increased commitment to the implementation of the CBD.

5.1.5 Traditional Resource Management

National capacity will be enhanced to promote and support the maintenance, revival and application of traditional conservation knowledge to modern natural resource management in local communities. Support will include:

- ✱ Recording and disseminating traditional knowledge with informed agreements before it is lost; and
- ✱ Giving appropriate recognition to persons noted for their wealth of traditional knowledge or involvement in traditional resource management.

Expected Outcomes

1. Increased acceptance of the value and importance of beneficial traditional practices.
2. Integration of traditional management practices in national resource legislation.

5.2 Pollution Prevention

Objective To increase the capability of SPREP members to manage and respond to marine pollution, hazardous waste, solid waste, sewerage and other land-based sources of pollution and to meet the requirements of relevant international and regional legal instruments.

Pollution is one of the major threats to sustainable development in the Pacific islands region. The transboundary nature of much marine pollution requires a coordinated and comprehensive approach to both assessment and control. Without adequate measures to combat the growing sources and extent of pollution, the Pacific islands' efforts to maintain healthy societies, to stimulate development and new investment and a sustainable future for its people may be permanently undermined.

Increasing quantities of solid waste, the lack of controls on chemicals imported into the region and the lack of capacity to manage the range of pollutants are of immediate concern for Pacific island members. In addition to land based activities, the region's coastal and marine resources are threatened by introduced marine species, ship wrecks, marine accidents and spills (e.g oil, chemicals and other hazardous and nuclear materials), ships' waste (e.g oil, sewage, chemicals and garbage), antifouling paints on vessels.

Within this KRA, SPREP will focus in the 2001–2004 period on the following issues:

- ✱ Marine Pollution
- ✱ Hazardous Waste Pollution
- ✱ Solid Waste, Sewage and Other Land-Based Sources of Pollution

5.2.1 Marine Pollution

SPREP members have endorsed the Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL) as the framework through which regional marine pollution issues, in particular those from ship related sources are addressed. The aim of PACPOL is to maintain, protect and enhance the quality of coastal and marine environments in the Pacific islands region by minimising ship-sourced marine pollution.

To achieve its aim, PACPOL will initially assess the current and potential risks of ship-sourced marine pollution in the Pacific islands region. This will allow a more comprehensive understanding of the situation and render more effective targeted assistance to SPREP island members to develop better capacity to effectively prevent, plan and respond to shipping incidents and marine pollution.

PACPOL assistance to SPREP island members will include:

- ✱ Facilitating membership of International Maritime Organization (IMO), adoption and implementation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1974 (MARPOL) and other international marine pollution conventions through assistance in meeting national obligations such as the drafting of national enabling legislation.
- ✱ Increasing adoption and implementation of the SPREP Convention Pollution and Dumping Protocols.
- ✱ Developing regional and national marine pollution planning and response capabilities through a Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN) and the provision of templates, training and strategies.
- ✱ Targeting projects to address identified high priority marine pollution problems such as the provision of guidance on the environmental management of ports in particular, the provision of ships' waste reception facilities and the assessment of potential risks from marine invasive species from ballast water and hull fouling.

Expected Outcomes

1. Improved capability to respond to marine spills.
2. Improved management of ships' waste.
3. Increased consideration of environmental issues in development and operation of ports.
4. Increased ratification by members of relevant international and regional marine environment conventions (IMO – SPREP).

5.2.2 Hazardous Waste Pollution

National capacity for the safe and effective management of hazardous wastes, in particular, persistent organic pollutants (POPs) will be strengthened through the development and implementation of Hazardous Waste Management Plans in all SPREP members. Technical assistance will be provided in the development of appropriate waste treatment and disposal facilities, and the implementation of Cleaner Production (CP) principles for waste minimisation and avoidance.

SPREP members will be encouraged and assisted in moving towards the ratification of the Basel and Waigani conventions, with SPREP also acting as Secretariat for the Waigani convention once it comes into force.

Expected Outcomes

1. Enhanced capacity for management of hazardous chemicals and hazardous waste.
2. Assist in development of treatment and disposal facilities for hazardous waste.
3. Reduced generation of hazardous waste.

5.2.3 Solid Waste, Sewage and Other Land Based Sources of Pollution

National capacity for the management of solid wastes will be enhanced through the completion and regular updating of waste surveys in all SPREP members, staff training and development in municipal waste management, landfill operation and management procedures. Technical advice will be provided on the environmental effects of current and alternative disposal systems, development and support of impact monitoring programmes.

Waste minimisation efforts in members will be assisted through the continuing development and promotion of public education programmes, assistance with the development of national and regional recycling programmes and the development of alternative waste management options, such as composting of organic, including human, waste and incineration. Particular focus will be placed on plastics and scrap metal including batteries. Countries will also be assisted in the development of appropriate institutional controls, such as container deposits.

The effective mitigation of sedimentation will be promoted and national capacity built in relation to land use planning and practices in key productive sectors of forestry, agriculture and urban development. Increasing but still localised, air and noise pollution problems will receive attention as required.

Coordination of efforts to implement the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution will continue, in particular, the establishment of an effective information clearinghouse mechanism within the region.

Expected Outcomes

1. Enhanced waste minimization.
2. Enhanced capacity for management of solid waste through assistance in development of treatment and disposal facilities and reduced generation of solid waste.
3. Enhanced implementation of Global Programme of Action (GPA) in the region.
4. To improve the management and conservation of watershed resources.

5.3 Climate Change and Variability

Objective To improve the Pacific island members' understanding of and strengthen their capacity to respond to climate change, climate variability and sea level rise.

Pacific island members have long been concerned about the serious impacts of weather patterns and events and short-term climate variability (eg El Nino phenomenon). Since 1988, there has been further concern about long-term climate change and sea level rise. It is clear that they are extremely vulnerable to climate variability, climate change and sea level rise and will be among the first to suffer the impacts of climate change and among the first to be forced to adapt or abandon or relocate from their environment. Given their vulnerability, the Pacific islands need to improve their understanding of and strengthen their capacity to respond to climate change, climate variability and sea level rise. Pacific island members have a substantial interest in global efforts to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and ozone depleting substances (ODS).

Within this KRA SPREP will focus in the 2001-2004 period on the following issues:

- * Strengthened Meteorological Services
- * Understanding Climate Change and Variability
- * Sea Level Rise
- * Impacts and Vulnerability
- * Adaptation and Mitigation
- * Policy Development on Climate Change

5.3.1 Strengthened Meteorological Services

The capacity of National Meteorological Services to provide the necessary data and information needed for daily weather forecasting, seasonal predictions and climate change will be strengthened. This will be achieved through the implementation of agreed recommendations with the Needs Analysis for Meteorological Services in Pacific island members, and will be consistent with the Regional Strategic Plan for the Development of Meteorological Services in the region. Capacity building to strengthen participation in both global and regional observation networks such as the establishment of a regional climate centre will also be undertaken.

Continued support for the meetings of Regional Directors of Meteorology will be provided as an affective mechanism for the coordination of programmes in this sector. The development of a well coordinated programme of activities will be facilitated through the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Sub-regional Office for the Western Pacific co-located at SPREP.

Expected Outcome

1. Improved weather forecasting and prediction.

5.3.2 Understanding Climate Change and Variability

The reduction of the uncertainties in climate prediction and scenario development with an increased focus on regional variability and seasonal and inter-annual changes, will continue within the climate programme. Particular emphasis will also be on extreme weather and climate events to assist members with disaster preparedness, water resource planning, agricultural and other investment strategies.

An essential component of efforts to improve understanding and reduce uncertainties will be the use of an effective clearinghouse mechanism, to collate, disseminate and respond to inquiries for information related to climate change and variability from the general public, media and government officials.

Expected Outcomes

1. Reduced uncertainty in the use of climate predictions and scenario.
2. Increased participation in global observation networks.
3. Increased understanding of climate change and variability among all stakeholders.

5.3.3 Sea Level Rise

The maintenance of existing observational networks and the strategic placement of future facilities will remain important. Improved techniques for detecting relative and absolute sea level rise and improved models will greatly assist with the formulation of response measures.

5.3.4 Impacts and Vulnerability

The development of new frameworks for analysing impacts and vulnerability, that integrate science and local needs remains important. New frameworks will include, those that will assist with the characterisation of vulnerability to climate change, climate variability and sea-level rise on Pacific island communities. Pacific islands will be assisted through the provision of technical and policy relevant advice, and the further enhancement of capacity of national institutions to undertake assessment of impacts related to climate change and sea level rise. This will assist with work to strengthen ecosystem resilience and post cyclone recovery. Specific activities will include improved forecasting and warning for droughts, floods and tropical cyclones particularly related to the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon and appropriate training of national experts in the science of climate change and sea-level rise at a country level.

Expected Outcomes

1. Improved analysis of impacts and vulnerability
2. Improved understanding of seasonal and inter-annual variation as well as longer-term changes

5.3.5 Adaptation and Mitigation

Increasing regional and national foci are being placed on adaptation and on developing adaptation responses within the community, private and public sectors as well as on a sector-by-sector basis (e.g. tourism, infrastructure and agriculture). Given the corresponding increase in the development of technical information at the national level, assistance will be provided to SPREP members to further improve their capacity to identify adaptation options and undertake response measures. These activities will cover both the gathering of technical information and data gathering process, as well as essential consultation and policy development.

The development and use of appropriate tools to assess the economic and social impacts of climate change and variability will also be undertaken.

The need to catalyse effective mitigation measures that will reduce greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere is also important. This will involve strong partnerships between a number of regional organisations, SPREP members, other international organisations and the private sector. The development of national capacity to undertake risk assessment of applicable technologies related to renewable energies and ODS will be an ongoing regional activity.

Expected Outcomes

1. Effective adaptation strategies and response measures.
2. Reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

5.3.6 Policy Development on Climate Change

The development of policy relevant to climate change and variability occurs at the national, regional and international levels. At the international level, capacity will be strengthened to enable Pacific island members to participate effectively in the ongoing negotiations and scientific panels. Regional policy development and the collaboration between Pacific islands, regional organisations and other partners will be further strengthened and maintained. The first step in strengthening collaboration and co-operation was taken at the 4th Pacific Islands Climate Conference April 2000, where a draft Pacific Islands Framework for Action was developed with an attendant Round-Table process. There will also be a greater promotion of mechanisms that encourage sustained interaction between scientists and policymakers at all levels. The provision of policy advice to key regional meetings will continue.

At the national level, priority will be given to continuing development of relevant policy guidance and advice to Pacific islands related to the interpretation of scientific and technical climate data and information. Building upon national activities initiated under the Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP) such as National Implementation Plans, assistance to national institutions will continue in order to strengthen arrangements leading to the integration of climate policies into national development processes.

Expected Outcomes

1. Improved linkages between science and policy.
2. Increased mainstreaming of climate change and variability.
3. Regional and international policy responsive to Pacific island priorities.

5.4 Economic Development

Objectives To strengthen regional and national capacity to integrate environmental research, information, planning and management with development processes in a manner which identifies opportunities as well as constraints.

Sustainable development is the ultimate long term objective for all Key Result Areas within the Action Plan. Primarily, this KRA will focus on integrating environmental protection, management and planning parameters with fiscal and physical development economics. This will be achieved by ensuring the objectives, activities and outcomes from the other KRAs are consistent and that there is wide acceptance of contemporary tools such as natural resource economics, strategic environmental assessment and integrated coastal management.

The promotion of sustainable development will involve integration of environmental considerations in specific and broader physical and economic development sectors and will be addressed with relevance to economic and governance reform agenda in the region. Particular attention will be paid to identifying opportunities as well as constraints stemming from trade liberalisation, globalisation, tourism development, rapid population growth, urbanisation and settlement patterns.

Within this KRA SPREP will focus in the 2001-2004 period on the following issues:

- * Trade, Investment and Environment
- * Tourism
- * Integrating Environment and Development
- * Population, Settlement and Urbanisation
- * Public and Private Sector Partnerships

5.4.1 Trade, Investment and Environment

National capacity will be enhanced to ensure that trade, investment and environmental considerations are mutually supportive. This will be achieved in close collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, through the environmental assessment of trade liberalisation in the region, the provision of advice in relation to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Trade and Environment. The SPREP members and the Secretariat in partnership with the Forum Secretariat, will develop an appropriate green products programme and advise these organisations on domestic prohibited goods. It will also include the trade dimensions of relevant multilateral environment agreements such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Expected Outcomes

1. Increased awareness of links between trade, globalisation, investment and environment at national and regional levels.
2. Improved strategies to generate environmentally sensitive response to initiatives in global trade liberalization and investment.

5.4.2 Tourism

Sustainable tourism will be promoted through a well-coordinated series of interventions, addressing nature conservation, pollution prevention and climate change. Working closely with the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO), a more environmentally aware and responsible tourism sector will be developed through targeted training, environmental assessment and advice. This will include the promotion of good practices and the development of an effective network of institutions and practitioners through the Pacific Eco-tourism Liaison Group.

Expected Outcomes

1. An “environmentally aware” and responsible tourism sector.
2. Increased regional and national capacity to assess the impact of tourism on environment.
3. Environmental considerations incorporated into development of economic policies relating to tourism.

5.4.3 Integrating Environment and Development

A major challenge for SPREP members is seen to be the improvement of current resource management regimes particularly in coastal areas and associated watersheds. Capacity for better management of natural resources is not only relevant to climate change and biodiversity but is also an integral part of SPREP efforts to conserve natural resources and prevent pollution, while at the same time supporting sustainable economic development. Natural resource economics will be promoted to assist environment officials, national and financial planners in taking stock of economic implications for environmental impacts. National capacity will be further strengthened through training in coastal and land resource assessment techniques, including the use of relevant tools such as GIS and remote sensing, conflict resolution, participatory approaches, resource allocation as well as advice in relation to institutional arrangements and appropriate policy and legal frameworks. Improved baseline data will be essential for effective climate change vulnerability assessment, nature conservation initiatives, SoE reporting and environmental monitoring and integrated coastal zone management - a focal area of a new programme in International Waters.

Expected Outcomes

1. Improved base-line information applied to sustainable development programmes and decision making.
2. Improved State of Environment (SOE) reporting at national and regional levels.
3. Better data sources for regional vulnerability assessment and indexing.
4. Improved resource use, conservation and planning tools and techniques available for PICs.
5. Improved integration between environmental strategies and national mechanisms for strategic and sector planning and development (physical, social and economic).

6. Improved regional facilitation of in-country implementation of environmental assessment (EA).
7. Better integration of conservation and management strategies in watersheds and in the coastal zone that support economic development.

5.4.4 Population, Settlement and Urbanisation

Population pressures will affect the effectiveness of some SPREP members to protect, improve or sustainably use their environment. Bad land use location, overcrowding, high intensity, poorly timed and designed development will lead to social, health, physical and environmental degradation. Urban sprawl can directly and indirectly affect sensitive ecosystems, through clearance of habitats or outflow of pollutants to them. High urban density can minimise opportunities for on-site measures to minimise pollution or the retention of natural assets, leading water quality problems and poor quality of life. Poorly located and managed rural land use and development can threaten sensitive land and marine ecosystem through vegetation clearing, soil degradation (fertility and structure decline, erosion), sedimentation and pollutant flows.

Alternative strategies for land use, resource use, population and development coordination will be essential to mitigating the impacts of current patterns of urbanisation and settlement in the region. Traditional and modern methods will need to be combined. Initiatives will focus on the role and benefits of coordinated strategies for land and resource use, population and development allocation and intensity management, as well as means to respond to settlement related development impacts. The benefits of integrating environmental and physical data, tools and techniques and contemporary decision making platforms will be exposed to identify opportunities from coordinated land use, resource use and physical development.

Expected Outcomes

1. Increased capacity to respond to settlement related development impacts.
2. Decisions on population, urbanisation and settlement linked to environmental objectives.

5.4.5 Public-Private Sector Partnerships

The promotion of effective partnerships between the public and private sectors will assist the effective allocation of resources and skills to achieve environmental benefits in the region. This will be done through the use of mixed capital joint ventures, where feasible, through the promotion of corporate sponsorship and through business environment councils. Emphases for this work may include waste management and renewable energy technologies. Appropriate environmental standards and guidelines to assist the public and private sector to engage in environmentally sound ventures will be developed where appropriate.

Expected Outcomes

1. Established sustainable programmes and initiatives through public and private sector partnerships.
2. Processes suited to integrating traditional knowledge and contemporary management demonstrated.
3. Increased investment partnerships with sustainable development outcomes.

6 STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING CAPACITY OF SPREP MEMBERS

Capacity building provides SPREP members with the appropriate skills to enable them to improve the management and sustainability of their environment.

The requirements for capacity building in SPREP members vary from country to country. They range from the appointment of qualified and experienced staff, transfer of knowledge and relevant skills from training in the field, ready access to information and technical advice, adequate funding support to the provision of essential equipment and infrastructure to support the implementation of projects at country level.

Capacity constraints should be identified and taken into consideration when programmes, projects and interventions are designed.

A range of processes and interventions will be used to assist in the implementation of activities in the Key Result Areas.

6.1 Processes

The processes identified below are the mechanisms by which capacity building in the Pacific islands will be strengthened during the Plan period. Being change processes, these mechanisms will be long-term in nature in member countries where the capacity to manage and implement environment programmes is presently lacking or inadequate.

These are grouped into four broad categories:

- ✿ Policy, Planning and Institutional Strengthening
 - ❖ Policy and Planning support
 - ❖ Legislative Framework (eg. inducement for compliance and enforcement, etc)
 - ❖ Trust Fund Development
 - ❖ Project Proposal development

- ✿ Human Resource Development
 - ❖ Training (including vocational and special)
 - ❖ Formal Education
 - ❖ Public Awareness and Consciousness Raising

- ✿ Communications and Information
 - ❖ Clearinghouse Mechanism
 - ❖ Information Technology
 - ❖ Public Relations and Publications
 - ❖ Networking

- ✿ Technical Advice and Backstopping
 - ❖ Response to members' requests for scientific and technical advice not covered under other categories
 - ❖ Technical assistance help desk
 - ❖ Pilot projects

6.2 Interventions

The members are directly responsible for the implementation of this Action Plan. The main interventions by SPREP and others to support the processes identified above for capacity building are summarised below. The choice or selection of interventions will depend on the particular circumstances of the members or the group(s) of members. This will be in terms of their specific needs, the complexity of the issues involved, the national capacity to manage and implement activities and the assistance to be provided by other regional organisations and donor agencies.

Many interventions reflect activities outlined in the range of Action Strategies/Plans, including the Action Plan for Environmental Education and Training in the Pacific Region 1999-2003, the Regional Information Strategy and SPREP's Environmental Management Training Needs Assessment (TNA).

POLICY PLANNING AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

- ✧ Policy and Planning Support
 - ❖ Information briefs for conferences and negotiations
 - ❖ Policy advice
 - ❖ Regional collaboration and cooperation on policy development
 - ❖ Strategic planning
 - ❖ Strategy documentation
 - ❖ Guideline development
 - ❖ Monitoring and Evaluation
 - ❖ Advice to donors and other regional organisations

- ✧ Legislative Framework
 - ❖ Legislation development and implementation
 - ❖ Conventions – international and regional
 - ❖ Convention Secretariat

- ✧ Trust Fund Development
 - ❖ Conservation Trust fund
 - ❖ Other trust funds

- ✧ Project Proposal Development
 - ❖ Liaison with donors and international financial institutions
 - ❖ Assistance and training for members in proposal design and writing
 - ❖ SOE Reporting
 - ❖ Environmental Assessment

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- ✧ Training
 - ❖ Workshops/Seminars/Conferences
 - ❖ Attachments/Secondments/Internships
 - ❖ On-the-Job-Training
 - ❖ Scholarships and training opportunities
 - ❖ Secretariat Human Resource Development (HRD)

- ✧ Formal Education
 - ❖ Teacher Training
 - ❖ Curriculum Development

- ✧ Public Awareness and Consciousness Raising
 - ❖ Community Awareness Workshops
 - ❖ Print/Radio/TV Material Production Training
 - ❖ Media Personnel Awareness Raising
 - ❖ Campaigning

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

- ✧ Clearinghouse Mechanism
 - ❖ Response to information requests
 - ❖ Database development
 - ❖ Members' library development, training and networking

- ✧ Information Technology
 - ❖ IT training for members
 - ❖ Website development and associated members training
 - ❖ Electronic networking

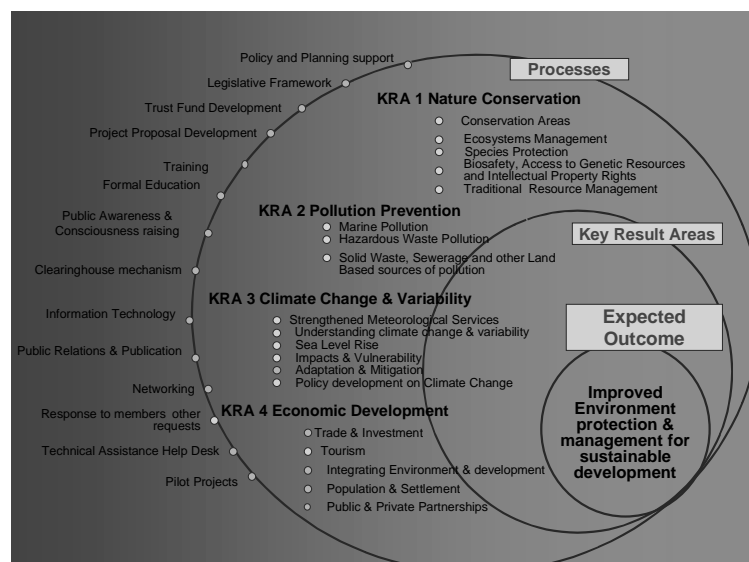
- ✧ Public Relations and Publications
 - ❖ Print/Radio/TV Material Production
 - ❖ Press conferences
 - ❖ Newsletters
 - ❖ General public relations/annual report/brochures, etc
 - ❖ Production of multi-lingual documentation

- ✧ Networking

TECHNICAL ADVICE AND BACKSTOPPING

- ✧ Response to members' requests for scientific and technical advice not covered under other categories
- ✧ Technical assistance help desk
- ✧ Pilot projects

6.3 Integration and Interactions between KRAs and Processes to achieve the Expected Outcomes under each of the KRAs



7 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The Action Plan is intended to be implemented by SPREP's member governments and administrations, in conjunction with the many collaborating organisations and individuals active in the protection and management of the environment and natural resources of the Pacific islands region.

It is important that members actively promote the integration and mainstreaming of environmental management issues into their national planning and budgeting processes. This will enhance recognition and support at the senior government level for the funding of environment programmes. The SPREP Secretariat will support programme implementation through the provision of policy and technical advice, coordination of activities with other development partners and facilitation of additional resource support where appropriate.

SPREP will develop closer linkages with central agencies of SPREP members especially those responsible for coordinating national planning, finance and development to ensure effective coordination and implementation of the Action Plan at the national level.

7.1 Linkages with Key Result Areas

Where possible, the Secretariat will encourage and assist Pacific island members become active Parties to international and regional conventions.

SPREP will provide for an appropriate and effective institutional framework for ongoing support and technical input to ensure that environmental priorities and approaches within the Pacific are reflected in the activities of national, regional and international organisations and programmes.

7.2 Designing SPREP Interventions

The needs of members for SPREP Secretariat services vary. They reflect the geographic characteristics, the state of social and economic development, natural resource endowments, national processes and capacity to plan, design and implement programmes, as well as the availability of well trained and skilled manpower resources. This diversity requires the Secretariat to gather data and information, to develop strategies and to design interventions that recognise there are differences in members or between groups of members.

At the local and national level, regional projects must be designed to complement and support national initiatives. It is imperative that SPREP develop and build partnerships (with shared commitments and inputs clearly identified) between NGOs, communities, the private sector, Government agencies and other regional organisations to improve national capacity to deal with environment and conservation issues more effectively.

The commonality of geographic characteristics and related common needs of some members must be recognised to allow SPREP to develop projects and interventions on a sub-regional or group-of-members basis. A focus such as this can facilitate more concentrated project activities to address the common needs, e.g atolls.

Some projects are most cost-effective if implemented on a regional level and by involving all SPREP members. This allows all members to benefit from assistance, especially in areas of regional and global significance that may not be available from country or bilateral initiatives.

7.3 Role of SPREP Members

SPREP members must firmly commit themselves to protecting and managing the environment and to assist other members. Without this commitment, SPREP interventions will make little impact on the problems. This commitment must include adopting appropriate policies and practices, approving and enforcing legislative framework for effective environmental controls, and strengthening national capacity of implementing agencies through the provision of adequate resources to support the activities of these agencies.

SPREP members must take responsibility for implementing the Action Plan. Pacific Island members will decide regional projects that will best meet their most urgent needs and which support or complement national initiatives. Pacific island members are developing capacity to assume full responsibility for the implementation of in-country activities. For those members that do not have the necessary capacity, special care should be taken in evaluating the benefits of taking on projects which cannot be managed by their environment agencies or by a combination of government and non-governmental organisations. The Secretariat will focus on providing the appropriate technical backstopping to best assist the national counterparts implement in-country activities.

7.4 Role of the Secretariat

The 1997-2000 Action Plan forecast that the SPREP Secretariat would eventually move away from project implementation “towards increased facilitation and co-ordination”.

The new Action Plan envisages the Secretariat further enhancing national capacity, both of the government agencies and other non-governmental organisations, to implement projects. In this scenario, the Secretariat will further strengthen its advisory role and will develop appropriate processes and interventions to help strengthen local expertise and capacity to implement environmental programmes. The Secretariat will provide technical support to national counterparts and other partners who will manage and implement programmes. The Secretariat’s role will essentially be to advise on regional and global issues, to be a regional environmental expert and watchdog, to help secure funding for new national and regional initiatives, and to build partnerships with country organisations, regional organisations, collaborating organisations and donors, to support national and regional environment programmes. An important prerequisite for the successful development of such partnerships is the sharing of information and an effective mechanism for co-ordinating assistance and activities to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts and overloading of national implementing capacity.

To assist the effective implementation of the Action Plan, the SPREP Secretariat will assume the role and functions of the Action Plan secretariat. Its responsibilities will include the early development of measurable outputs for each of the Key Result Areas and Processes against which performance and progress can be measured. Associated baseline data and relevant indicators will be developed as part of this

process. The SPREP Secretariat will then co-ordinate the provision of annual reporting to SPREP members and other stakeholders on progress toward the achievement of the objectives of the Action Plan.

In its annual reporting the Secretariat will highlight current and emerging priorities and constraints relevant to each Key Result Area and Process, and appropriate responses. It will address also particular sub-regional or national issues of concern or risk which require early attention.

7.5 Resource Mobilisation

SPREP Secretariat and the majority of members depend almost entirely on donor funding for their programmes.

Donors have indicated they would continue to support SPREP as long as they were satisfied that the Secretariat's activities were relevant and effectively responding to the real needs of the region. They also need to be assured that these activities are making a difference to the state of the environment and are meeting the objectives of the respective aid programmes.

The Secretariat will negotiate with donor agencies for more, longer-term and flexible funding arrangements to support the achievement of key result areas through financial support of the annual work programmes.

7.6 Interaction between SPREP and Regional Organisations

SPREP is one of several inter-governmental regional organisations set up to serve the interests of Pacific islands. They all deal with environment issues in the various sectors which are their primary focus. They must all therefore collaborate to promote through their respective work programmes the long-term protection and management of the environment and natural resources of the Pacific islands region. The regular meetings of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) and technical working groups will facilitate the achievement of this common goal.

7.7 Partnerships with other Organisations

There is scope for further development of effective partnerships between the SPREP Secretariat, its members, NGOs, regional and international organisations to address some of the region's environmental concerns. Such partnerships will ensure better coordination of efforts, avoid unnecessary duplication and improve cost effectiveness. The design of SPREP programmes and project activities will clearly identify areas where greater economies of scale and efficiency can be achieved through partnership with other stakeholders. In several members, NGOs have developed strong community based/orientated projects. SPREP will strengthen its efforts to develop effective partnerships with these organisations at both country and regional level. Consistent with its proposed role, SPREP will provide technical advice and assistance but leave implementation to its partners.

7.8 Monitoring and Evaluation

It is essential that all parties, including member governments and administrations, collaborating agencies, donors and the Secretariat manage, monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Action Plan.

It is important that a mid-term review of the implementation of the Action Plan is undertaken which will:

- ✱ provide feedback on the implementation of the Action Plan activities;
- ✱ identify successes and achievements that could be replicated elsewhere;
- ✱ identify problems to ensure they are not repeated;
- ✱ provide an assessment of the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of Secretariat supported activities in SPREP members.

ACRONYMS

AIS	Alien Invasive Species
CBD CA	Convention on Biological Diversity Conservation Area
CAPs	Conservation Area Projects
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
ENSO	El Nino Southern Oscillation
FEMM	Forum Economic Ministers Meeting
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographical Information System
GPA	Global Programme of Action
HRD	Human Resource Development
ICPL	International Centre for Protected Landscapes
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IMO IGO	International Maritime Organization Inter-governmental Organisation
IPRs	Intellectual Property Rights
IT	Information Technology
KRAs MARPOL	Key Result Areas International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1974 as amended by the Protocol of 1978
MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
NBSAPs	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NTF ODS PACPLAN	National Tidal Facility Ozone Depleting Substance Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan
PACPOL	Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme
PICCAP	Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme
PIC	Pacific Island Country
POP SOE	Persistent Organic Pollutant State of the Environment
SPBCP	South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SPTO	South Pacific Tourism Organisation
SLR TNA	Sea Level Rise Training Needs Assessment
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USP	University of the South Pacific
V&A	Vulnerability and Adaptation
WHC	World Heritage Convention
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization