

Action Plan for Managing the Environment of the South Pacific Region 1997–2000



South Pacific Regional Environment Programme



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Managing the Environment
of the South Pacific Region**

1997–2000

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PREFACE

The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has grown rapidly in the past 5 years. This growth reflects the collective aspirations of its members to protect and improve their shared environment and the much welcomed support of the region's development partners. Its new status as a fully independent inter-governmental organisation, defined by the *Agreement Establishing SPREP*, ensures that improved environmental management will remain an essential and integral part of the region's development agenda.

This Action Plan, the third since the inception of SPREP in 1982, defines the region's environment agenda for the next four years. It recognises that significant progress has been made to protect the region's environment and to promote sustainable development but that sustainable development in the long term will require a particular emphasis on building national capacity.

Individually or collectively, it is our responsibility as SPREP members to implement this the framework for environmental action for the benefit of all Pacific island people.

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Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Education and Civil Aviation
Chairperson of the Ninth SPREP Meeting at Ministerial Level

CONTEXT

The mission for SPREP members and the Secretariat, contained in Article 2 of the *Agreement Establishing SPREP (1993)*, is:

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

This Action Plan sets out the objectives and strategies of SPREP and provides the framework for a regional approach to address environmental issues of the South Pacific region.

The countries and territories which are responsible, through SPREP, for the development and implementation of the Action Plan are:



The principal focus of the Action Plan activities is the area covered by the island countries and territories of the South Pacific region.

The vision for SPREP is a community of Pacific island countries and territories with the capacity and commitment to implement programmes for environmental management and conservation. This SPREP community shares responsibility for implementation of the Action Plan, facilitated by its Secretariat. The Secretariat also co-ordinates regional initiatives and supports country participation in regional and international agreements, and action programmes to protect the environment.

Since the adoption of the first Action Plan in 1982, there has been significant progress to realise this vision. Pacific island countries have strengthened government environment institutions, developed regional agreements and effective means of collaborating on environmental matters, established co-ordinating services within the Secretariat and improved negotiating skills at regional and international levels. This has generated widespread respect for the ability of the region to marshal limited financial and human resources to maximum effect in protecting the environment of the South Pacific. Over the same period, the capacity of the Secretariat to implement agreed environmental policies and strategies, relative to the capacity of member governments, has generated its own demand for further work.

This Action Plan consolidates acknowledged areas of strength and focuses on building national capacity to implement the Action Plan. The Plan identifies necessary action to address the issues of common concern. It also remains flexible to meet new challenges for SPREP members in the next 4 years. This will lead to future Plans in which all national implementation is carried out by the countries themselves with the Secretariat performing a role as facilitator or co-ordinator.

A well focused and co-ordinated approach to protecting the Pacific environment, as an integral part of the region's development paradigm, is essential due to the increasing number and severity of environmental threats. Underpinned by pressure from growing populations, rising material expectations, the need to improve economic performance and to stimulate employment opportunities, these threats affect the region's natural resource base which is particularly sensitive to ecological disturbance.

Threats to the environment of the South Pacific are an integral part of global concern for environmental protection and sustainable development. International agreements and action programmes, including Agenda 21, the Barbados Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Cairo Programme of Action on Population and Development, and conventions on climate change, biodiversity, ocean management and pollution, provide an important framework for regional action.

Within this context, and recognising that donor funds are increasingly constrained, SPREP members are committed to providing an efficient mechanism for the continued administration of key environmental policies in the region. This includes the mobilisation and provision of adequate financial and human resources for the fulfilment of this Action Plan.

4 YEAR GOAL

To build national capacity to protect and improve the environment of the region for the benefit of Pacific island people now and in the future.

OBJECTIVES

1. To protect natural heritage through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
2. To understand and respond to climate change, particularly through integrated coastal management.
3. To minimise pollution and wastes, and improve preparedness for pollution emergencies.
4. To plan, manage and regulate development in a manner that is environmentally sustainable.
5. To strengthen environmental education, training and information systems.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

For the period of this Action Plan, particular attention will be given to building national capacity in environmental and resource management through support to government agencies, communities, non-government organisations (NGOs) and the private sector.

Guiding Principles

International co-operation

SPREP recognises the interdependence of environmental issues both within the region and among other regions of the world. SPREP will encourage co-operation with other organisations in developing appropriate technology, policies, programmes and information to solve common problems. SPREP will participate in efforts to protect the global environment.

Regional co-operation and co-ordination

The Secretariat will work through governments, existing institutions and expertise in the region, and in co-operation with appropriate regional bodies and mechanisms, such as the South Pacific Organisations Coordinating Committee (SPOCC) and the Forum Secretariat's Regional Strategy, to promote co-ordination and remove duplication of effort.

National action

SPREP will use National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS), or their equivalent, to guide the development and implementation of initiatives to protect and improve the environment.

Local community participation and traditional knowledge

SPREP will promote community involvement in co-operative natural resource management that strengthens local resource owner rights and uses traditional practices that promote conservation and sustainable management.

Sound financial footing

SPREP will seek to ensure an adequate and long term financial base for the Action Plan by attracting and allocating appropriate funding, including private sector resources where appropriate and available.

Resource allocation

The Secretariat will make effective and efficient use of the resources at its disposal and seek to balance the allocation of resources among programmes.

Encouraging action oriented research

SPREP will encourage applied research that supports national and regional priorities for environmental policy, planning, management and decision making and will apply the research results to support its activities.

Use of relevant information

SPREP will aim to improve the quality and flow of information, including the appropriate sharing of traditional knowledge, on which environmental management decisions and policies are based.

Non-governmental organisations

SPREP will encourage the involvement of, and partnerships with, non-government organisations (NGOs) in the implementation of the Action Plan.

National capacity building

SPREP will aim to build national capacity in environmental management at all levels, including sectors such as agriculture, forestry, tourism, fisheries and planning.

Education, Information and Training

SPREP will facilitate the collection, synthesis and distribution of relevant information, and promote the use of environmental education and training as primary capacity building tools across the range of its activities.

Role of SPREP Members

The primary responsibility for implementing the Action Plan rests with the members of SPREP. Governments will provide for an efficient mechanism for the continued administration of key environmental policies in the region. This includes

the mobilisation and provision of adequate financial resources for the fulfilment of this Action Plan.

To address environmental issues in common, SPREP members will work individually, collectively and with the support of the Secretariat. Those that are parties to regional conventions for which the SPREP Secretariat is also the designated Secretariat, will support efforts to harmonise work programmes and streamline implementation of the conventions and the Action Plan. Focal points identified by SPREP members will facilitate this work by communicating and co-ordinating the views and participation of national agencies in the implementation of the Action Plan as effectively as possible.

Transparent public process and participation, including effective partnerships with non-government organisations and the private sector, will be encouraged in the implementation of the Action Plan. The monitoring, evaluation and reporting of action to protect the environment by SPREP members will also facilitate the effective co-ordination and implementation of the Action Plan. This will enable SPREP members to consult effectively in the development of annual work programmes and recommend appropriate revisions.

Role of the Secretariat

Consistent with the functions outlined in the *Agreement Establishing SPREP (1993)*, the Secretariat will provide professional advice, co-ordinate environment activities and facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan. As the implementation of the Action Plan is the primary responsibility of SPREP members, the Secretariat will assist in building national capacity for this purpose, thereby allowing the Secretariat to move purposefully towards increased facilitation and co-ordination over the life of this Action Plan. Some countries will require more time than others to build national capacity. In such cases, the Secretariat may become more directly involved in implementation of the Action Plan. The Secretariat will monitor the extent to which the Action Plan is implemented and encourage in-country responsibility as national capacity strengthens.

For activities which require a regional approach to implementation, such as activities under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and regional conventions, the Secretariat will support the interests of the Pacific island countries in their design, management and execution.

Co-ordination of the implementation of the Action Plan is an important function for the Secretariat. The programmes are inter-related and the design of activities will acknowledge and complement other initiatives under the Action Plan. Use will be made of existing opportunities for technical meetings and the Secretariat will participate, where appropriate, in the technical meetings of other regional institutions. An information management and communication system will be developed by the Secretariat to report on progress to implement the Action Plan; identify linkages between programmes in the Action Plan; maintain a database on the state of the environment in the region; and keep key agencies informed of all new developments.

The Secretariat will report to each SPREP Meeting on the implementation of the Action Plan, referring to the delivery of the outputs of each programme, levels of funding and resources available. Annual work programmes and budgets will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with countries and territories and for presentation and discussion at the SPREP Meeting. The setting of priorities through these annual work programmes will be an important element of implementing the Action Plan. The search for funding to implement work programmes will be the joint responsibility of the Secretariat, governments, non-government organisations and donors.

In cases where the SPREP Secretariat is also the Secretariat for other conventions, it will endeavour to provide the most cost effective service in a manner which meets its functions under the *Agreement Establishing SPREP (1993)* and the relevant conventions recognising the separate and various obligations of parties to those conventions. These include the SPREP and Apia Conventions and the Waigani Convention which is expected to come into force during the life of this Action Plan.

The Secretariat will comprise functional divisions under the overall guidance and direction of a small management team, taking into account members' wishes to see the SPREP Secretariat as a lean organisation, appropriate to the region's culture and economic circumstances and embodying modern management principles. This will include a flat hierarchy and delegation of responsibility as far as possible and the necessary administrative support and sound financial procedures for the effective and efficient operation of the organisation.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

SPREP members, with the assistance of the Secretariat where necessary, will report to the SPREP Meeting on progress made to implement the Action Plan. Such reports should be provided to the Secretariat in advance of the SPREP Meeting. Reports should be brief and focus on overall progress against the Action Plan programmes, drawing on the performance indicators to identify successes and difficulties in implementation. As well as providing members with a useful opportunity to compare progress, the reports will also be a valuable mechanism whereby SPREP can prioritise its programme of work and consequential budget allocations to address the difficulties. Members are encouraged to consider ways of involving non-governmental organisations and the private sector in the preparation of its progress report.

1997–2000 PROGRAMMES

To achieve the Action Plan goal and objectives, the Secretariat will develop and implement a regionally co-ordinated and comprehensive range of activities under the following programmes:

1. Biodiversity and Natural Resource Conservation
2. Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Management
3. Waste Management, Pollution Prevention and Emergencies
4. Environmental Management, Planning and Institutional Strengthening
5. Environmental Education, Information and Training

Each programme reflects one Action Plan objective and contains measurable outputs. Performance will be measured by the delivery of outputs to achieve the programme objective. Indicative performance indicators are included as benchmarks to monitor achievement. Indicative budgets for each programme are also provided for each year of the Action Plan. Secured funding is indicated where it is available. Where funds are not secured, implementation is contingent upon funding being found.

The programme strategies indicate the types of activities which are required to produce each output. However, it will be necessary to prepare activity designs which set objectives, outputs, inputs and budgets against a time frame. The design format is negotiable among the Secretariat, donors and implementing agencies but it is important that the specifications are measurable. The programmes will provide a mix of technical assistance, co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation, research, training and exchange of information. As indicated in the Implementation Strategy, the focus will be on building national capacity. Therefore all activities will include the means for effective capacity building. The development of annual work programmes and budgets will be the means by which priorities are set within the objectives and strategies of the Action Plan.

1. Biodiversity and Natural Resource Conservation

Background

Pacific island people rely on biological resources to meet their traditional needs and, increasingly, for generating cash income. Rising material expectations and, in many cases, increasing populations are placing considerable pressure on the limited land and coastal marine ecosystems, and the biodiversity they contain. The biodiversity of Pacific islands is characterised by high levels of species diversity and endemism and is among the most threatened in the world. Poor natural resource management and poorly planned or executed development activities are depleting and compromising this natural resource base. Human capacity and financial resources to effectively tackle these issues remains very limited.

The successful protection and management of natural resources will depend on the involvement and active support of all stakeholders, especially local communities. Building partnerships and capacities for community-based conservation areas and for species conservation initiatives that can meet the realistic economic and cultural needs of Pacific island communities is a key challenge. Models of successful conservation areas are urgently required.

Implementation of international and regional agreements and action programme is also an issue of growing concern to Pacific island nations. This includes the protection of intellectual property rights and genetic resources, coral reef and wetlands degradation, endangered species trade, biosafety and problems caused by invasive species. Responding to new issues and threats will require flexibility and innovation. Conserving natural resources without losing the products and services that can be developed and produced sustainably remains the fundamental challenge for all people, communities, countries and territories in the Pacific island region.

Programme Objective

To protect the natural heritage through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Outputs

1. Staff of government, private sector, non-government and community organisations who can competently promote and undertake initiatives for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable natural resource management.

Performance indicators:

- Analysis of training needs of government, private sector, non-government and community organisations and training programmes implemented as a component of project initiatives.
 - Increased number of project initiatives that are sustainably managed by national staff.
2. Government, NGO and community organisations working on issues and initiatives through effective partnerships that incorporate a fully participatory approach.

Performance indicators:

- Number, type and success of partnerships used in planning, managing and evaluating conservation and sustainable resource use initiatives.
 - Level of interest in, and replication of, successful demonstration projects.
3. (a) Identification of new areas important for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
 - (b) Establishment and management of conservation areas that protect biodiversity and demonstrate ecologically sustainable development by local communities in partnership with NGOs and government agencies; and
 - (c) Where appropriate, the establishment and management of other types of protected areas.

Performance indicators:

- Assessments of ecosystems, species surveys and rapid and other inventories completed and utilised in planning.
4. Development and implementation of regional strategies, national plans and NGO and local community initiatives for endangered, threatened or vulnerable native species.

Performance indicators:

Number, area, level of effective country/territory participation in threatened migratory species programmes e.g. turtles, marine mammals, seabirds.

- Number, type, area of successful national species conservation and wise use initiatives.
 - Number, type, area of successful local examples of threatened species recovery.
5. Prevention, eradication or control of non-indigenous species which threaten ecosystems, habitats and species.

Performance indicators:

- Determination of abundance and distribution of alien species, risk of further spread along with priorities for action.
 - Effective prevention, eradication or control programmes.
 - Effectiveness of co-operation of SPREP members in international organisations for these purposes.
6. Implementation of conventions, agreements and strategies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Performance indicators:

- Level of effective participation in, and implementation of, regional and international conventions, agreements and strategies, e.g. the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific (Apia Convention), Convention for the Protection of Pollution from

Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL), Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific Region 1994–1998 and Protected Areas.

- Number, type and country coverage of initiatives taken to effectively address key issues including intellectual property rights and genetic resources, bioprospecting, biosafety, endangered species trade, and access to and transfer of technology.
7. Political support and increased national and local capacity for coral reef and wetland ecosystem conservation.

Performance indicators:

- Launching of the 1997 Pacific Year of the Coral Reef.
- Training in coastal management issues, marine habitat survey and monitoring techniques.
- Regional Wetland Action Plan activities initiated.
- Coastal management activities for priority areas conducted.
- Improved co-ordination of regional organisations in the conservation and management of marine resources.
- Work plans for in-country activities under the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Pacific Regional Strategies initiated.

Programme Strategy

SPREP will use a process-driven, participatory approach that builds effective stakeholder partnerships in implementing this Programme. The Programme will prioritise *in-situ* initiatives for the protection of biological diversity, using *ex-situ* approaches only for the purpose of complementing *in-situ* measures. The Programme will strongly focus on the development and use of appropriate tools for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity including rapid assessment techniques, research, targeted awareness campaigns and databases to meet the information needs of local resource owners and users. The Programme will also retain the flexibility to address new issues and options for the conservation and sustainable use of the region's biological diversity. A key delivery mechanism for this Programme will continue to be the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme funded under the pilot phase of the Global Environment Facility.

An integral component of this Programme will be assistance to manage and plan for the multiple use, the conservation and sustainable use of coastal areas, habitats and resources. The Secretariat will provide support to a range of other programmes and initiatives that address coastal issues through the identification of actions which promote co-operation, co-ordination and effective use of resources. The ICRI Pacific Regional Strategy, Framework for Action, the Global Programme of Action on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) and Regional Wetlands Action Plan will be used as tools to mobilise resources and stakeholders into taking action to help manage the threats to coastal habitats.

Programme Resources

Output	Funding	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
Project Implementation	<i>Secured</i>	1,877,900	1,786,800	1,910,500	0	0	5,575,200
	<i>Unsecured</i>	120,000	270,000	250,000	1,025,000	955,000	2,620,000
	<i>Sub-total</i>	1,997,900	2,056,800	2,160,500	1,025,000	955,000	8,195,200
Secretariat Salaries	<i>Secured</i>	335,300	368,800	393,100	0	0	1,097,200
	<i>Unsecured</i>	0	0	0	320,000	320,000	640,000
	<i>Sub-total</i>	335,300	368,800	393,100	320,000	320,000	1,737,200
Other Secretariat costs	<i>Secured</i>	189,500	194,500	193,800	0	0	577,800
	<i>Unsecured</i>	0	0	0	100,000	90,000	190,000
	<i>Sub-total</i>	189,500	194,500	193,800	100,000	90,000	767,800
PROGRAMME TOTAL	<i>Secured</i>	2,407,700	2,349,400	2,303,600	0	0	7,060,700
	<i>Unsecured</i>	120,000	270,000	250,000	1,445,000	1,365,000	3,450,000
	<i>TOTAL</i>	2,527,700	2,619,400	2,553,600	1,445,000	1,365,000	10,510,700

2. Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Management

Background

The majority of Pacific peoples live in low lying coastal areas which are vulnerable to sea-level rise and the adverse effects of climate change. The increased frequency and intensity of storms and cyclones combined with even minor increases in sea level may, at worst, threaten the very existence of countries and, at best, be a significant impediment to sustainable development.

In recent years, considerable effort has been made to raise awareness of climate change, monitor research developments, develop methodologies for vulnerability assessment, monitor sea level rise and strengthen national capacity to understand the science, impacts and responses to climate change and sea level rise. This has involved environment officials, planners, meteorologists and the general public. Pacific island countries and territories have also been closely associated with international efforts to address climate change. Reflecting this concern, most SPREP members have ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Integrated coastal management (ICM) has been promoted as a means of managing the a range of human activities and natural processes which affect coastal systems, including climate change and sea level rise. The development of national capacity to avoid or mitigate coastal degradation and to develop and implement adaptation strategies will therefore rely greatly upon the development and implementation of ICM approaches relevant to Pacific islands.

Programme Objective

To understand and respond to climate change, particularly through integrated coastal management.

Outputs

1. Information, methodologies and models which predict the impacts of climate change, climate variability and sea level rise.

Performance indicators:

- Ongoing climate and sea level monitoring systems in place and maintained.
 - Methodologies and models, including population interactions, developed and in use.
 - Evaluation of methodologies, models and their results.
 - Reports on climate change, climate variability and sea level rise impacts distributed regularly to governments and regional institutions.
2. National staff with planning and management skills to develop adaptation strategies to climate change, climate variability and sea level rise.

Performance indicators:

- Needs analysis completed and trained personnel among staff of government and non-government organisations involved in applying models and development of strategies.

- Climate data and information used effectively in government policy, environmental impact assessment, planning, teacher training and media reports.
 - Trained climatologists and environmental managers knowledgeable about climate change related issues.
3. Meteorological organisations co-operating at a regional level and committed to internationally recognised standards and procedures.

Performance indicators:

- Increased number of individuals trained in internationally accredited meteorological observational procedures and data base management techniques.
 - Increased level of technical and institutional co-operation throughout the region.
 - Reports of meetings of meteorological organisations.
 - Inventories of equipment for data capture, storage, processing and analysis.
 - Climate related databases that can be accessed throughout the region.
4. Adaptation strategies as part of integrated coastal management plans including measures to manage or mitigate against the effects of sea level rise or climate change.

Performance indicators:

- Regional and national adaptation strategies and initiatives which respond to climate change and sea level rise.
 - Legislation, policies and recommendations which protect coastal areas and mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change.
 - Integrated coastal management programmes, strategies and processes initiated for responding to climate change and sea level rise.
 - Evaluation of strategies at the regional and national level.
 - Database of natural resources, wetlands, watersheds and coastal ecosystems.
5. Implementation of commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Performance indicators:

- Regular reporting on progress to implement UNFCCC.
- Assessment of sources and sinks of greenhouse gases.
- Training and awareness raising for senior government officials.
- Identification and evaluation of options for mitigating climate change.
- Reports on national vulnerability and adaptation options, including policy development on climate change and integrated coastal management.
- National programmes containing measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- Review, evaluation and submission of National Communications plans to the UNFCCC Secretariat.

6. A regional information service on climate change.

Performance indicators:

- Newsletter focused on climate change, sea level rise and natural variability.
- Review and evaluation of newsletters, journals, videos and radio programmes for general awareness, scientific and education purposes.

Programme Strategy

The Secretariat will assist government agencies strengthen their planning and management skills to respond effectively to climate change, sea level rise and their impacts. Particular attention will be given to enhancing the capacity of meteorological organisations to contribute to a regional understanding and monitoring of climate change and natural variability. This capacity will allow governments, with support from the Secretariat, to model the impacts of various climate change scenarios and to develop adaptation strategies and related integrated coastal management plans, utilising traditional knowledge where appropriate. The Secretariat will co-ordinate the development of national adaptation strategies and communications reports related to the UNFCCC. This will be supported by the Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Project (PICCAP) and the South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project. As these activities are concerned in part with the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, they will be closely co-ordinated with disaster management initiatives in the region.

While this is essentially a national responsibility, the benefits to be derived from regionally consistent methodologies and information sharing are considerable. The Secretariat will therefore be able to maintain a knowledge base on current experience, provide advice, scientific material and training, and continue to provide technical advice in relation to climate change agreements. A clearinghouse function, including the interpretation and production of extension material and newsletters, will be provided through the Secretariat's information service.

These activities will be closely tied to efforts by SPREP to secure effective co-operation among government agencies, NGOs, communities and individuals to fund, develop, explore and test an Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) framework appropriate to the Pacific. ICM activities will build on the recommendations and work completed under the NEMS, the ICRI Pacific Regional Strategy and other initiatives, namely the Global Programme of Action on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The 1996 priority needs for coastal management of SPREP members will be reviewed and considered for inclusion in ICM activities. Participation by local communities and the private sector as well as practical, relevant and targeted research and monitoring will form the cornerstone of the ICM process.

Programme Resources

Output	Funding	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
Project Implementation	<i>Secured</i>	540,000	397,400	280,000	0	0	1,217,400
	<i>Unsecured</i>	200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	700,000	650,000	3,950,000
	<i>Sub-total</i>	740,000	1,597,400	1,480,000	700,000	650,000	5,167,400
Secretariat Salaries	<i>Secured</i>	118,700	118,700	60,000	60,000	60,000	417,400
	<i>Unsecured</i>	60,000	180,000	238,700	238,700	120,000	837,400
	<i>Sub-total</i>	178,700	298,700	298,700	298,700	180,000	1,254,800
Other Secretariat costs	<i>Secured</i>	90,000	40,000	30,000	0	0	160,000
	<i>Unsecured</i>	30,000	120,000	100,000	70,000	50,000	370,000
	<i>Sub-total</i>	120,000	160,000	130,000	70,000	50,000	530,000
PROGRAMME TOTAL	<i>Secured</i>	698,700	546,100	340,000	60,000	220,000	1,864,800
	<i>Unsecured</i>	290,000	1,500,000	1,538,700	1,008,700	820,000	5,157,400
	<i>TOTAL</i>	988,700	2,046,100	1,878,700	1,068,700	1,040,000	7,022,200

3. Waste Management, Pollution Prevention and Emergencies

Background

All Pacific island countries share the problems of waste disposal and pollution prevention. Increasing populations, particularly in urban centres, combined with limited land area and efforts to stimulate economic growth are exacerbating these problems. Disposal of solid waste is a particular problem in very small islands where there is no room or infrastructure for their disposal. Even in the larger islands, recycling is often not economical and most disposal is done through landfill. A range of liquid wastes pollute fresh water systems, enclosed coastal waters, aquifers and groundwater lenses in this region. Human sewage disposal also poses risks to human health and inshore fisheries. Management of toxic substances, such as pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), waste oil and heavy metals, their transboundary movement, as well as pollution from ships, is a concern to the region. The lack of trained staff, infrastructure and legislation to deal with these problems is a significant constraint to sustainable development.

In the last five years the region has developed a comprehensive South Pacific Regional Pollution Prevention, Waste Minimization and Management Programme and a *Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Waste and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Waste within the South Pacific Region* (Waigani Convention). Significant progress has also been made to address Chapters 17 to 22 of Agenda 21 and the international community has adopted a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. Consistent with these programmes of action, and to effectively build capacity to manage wastes, prevent pollution and improve preparedness for emergencies, it will be necessary to integrate activities across land and water, coasts and oceans. These activities will include the application of ICM approaches, improving understanding of the waste stream, waste education and awareness campaigns, and the demonstration of viable opportunities for pollution prevention.

Programme Objective

To minimise pollution and wastes and improve preparedness for pollution emergencies.

Outputs

1. Improved national and regional capacity to prevent, minimise and manage pollution and waste.

Performance indicators:

- Trained personnel in agencies responsible for the handling and management of medical, toxic and hazardous wastes.
- Inventory of all forms of wastes by source category based on existing models.
- National management policies and related legislation for the minimisation and environmentally sound handling and disposal of all forms of wastes.
- Equipment and infrastructure for the handling and disposal of solid wastes, waste water and sewage.
- Raised public awareness of waste management issues including population linkages.
- Protection of freshwater supplies.

2. Co-ordinated marine pollution emergency response.

Performance indicators:

- National and regional preparedness for marine pollution emergencies.
- Legislation which enables appropriate responses in the event of pollution emergencies.

3. Implementation of the principles of the Waigani Convention.

Performance indicators:

- Increased number of parties to the Waigani Convention.
- Regional guidelines and procedures for the safe handling and transport of hazardous and toxic wastes.

4. National and regional strategies to minimise sea-based pollution.

Performance indicators:

- Effective control of vessel and off-shore based pollution.
- Adoption and implementation of international agreements and action programmes to address sea-based pollution.
- National staff trained in shipping surveillance and monitoring of pollution in ports and shipping lanes.
- Institutional arrangements and legislation if required to provide authority to police the disposal of waste at sea and in ports.

Programme Strategy

The minimisation, handling and disposal of waste and the control of pollution is primarily a national responsibility with regional implications where transboundary movement and the overall health of ocean systems is involved. However, the lack of capacity to deal with waste management and pollution prevention is common through Pacific island countries. SPREP will therefore strengthen the capacity of national and regional institutions through the training of individuals involved in all aspects of management and handling of waste. This will include practical demonstrations in the management, handling and disposal of waste as well as the identification of alternatives, cleaner production technology and policy development concerning the prevention of pollution. In this respect, support for, and collaboration with water authorities will be beneficial.

It will also be essential to prepare and maintain inventories of all forms of pollution and waste in the region. These will be developed and maintained by SPREP member countries with the support of the Secretariat. This will assist with targeted education and awareness campaigns to be conducted at national and regional levels. These campaigns will be closely linked to the regional efforts to implement the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA). The implementation of the GPA will also be linked to ratification and implementation of MARPOL and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. SPREP will also promote the use of ICM approaches in the development of national strategies and related legislation for the management of wastes.

The Secretariat will assist island countries and territories to implement the Waigani Convention. At the regional level it will advise countries on the requirements for the transportation of waste through the region and will monitor such movement for SPREP countries.

Preparedness for marine pollution emergencies will be co-ordinated by the Secretariat in co-operation with the International Maritime Organisation and marine safety organisations of SPREP countries. Such preparedness will require trained personnel, legislation and infrastructure to allow contingency plans to be implemented in the event of an emergency. The Secretariat will conduct training exercises in the region to maintain preparedness.

SPREP will build capacity within port authorities to allow monitoring and control of pollution. The Secretariat will support the training of staff in national authorities to improve shipping surveillance and regulation to control pollution and dumping at sea and in ports. It will carry out these activities consistent with relevant agreements such as the Convention on Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention), the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, MARPOL, the London Convention, and the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (SPREP Convention) and related protocols and in collaboration with their respective Secretariats.

Programme Resources

Output	Funding	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
Project Implementation	<i>Secured</i>	212,000	0	0	0	0	212,000
	<i>Unsecured</i>	50,000	1,275,000	1,275,000	1,050,000	1,050,000	4,700,000
	<i>Sub-total</i>	262,000	1,275,000	1,275,000	1,050,000	1,050,000	4,912,000
Secretariat Salaries	<i>Secured</i>	60,000	60,000	0	0	0	120,000
	<i>Unsecured</i>	120,000	120,000	180,000	180,000	180,000	780,000
	<i>Sub-total</i>	180,000	180,000	180,000	180,000	180,000	900,000
Other Secretariat costs	<i>Secured</i>	30,000	0	0	0	0	30,000
	<i>Unsecured</i>	0	120,000	120,000	105,000	10,500	355,500
	<i>Sub-total</i>	30,000	120,000	120,000	105,000	10,500	385,500
PROGRAMME TOTAL	<i>Secured</i>	272,000	60,000	0	0	0	332,000
	<i>Unsecured</i>	170,000	1,515,000	1,575,000	1,335,000	1,240,500	5,835,500
	<i>TOTAL</i>	442,000	1,575,000	1,575,000	1,335,000	1,240,500	6,167,500

4. Environmental Management, Planning and Institutional Strengthening

Background

The need for environmental management and planning to become an integral part of the development process will be essential to the long term economic growth of the Pacific region. This integration must occur across macro-economic, sectoral and community levels. As Pacific island countries are almost entirely coastal in nature, the need to develop and implement Integrated Coastal Management approaches is critical.

The National Environment Management Strategies, completed for 13 Pacific island countries during the preceding Action Plan, identified priorities for institutional strengthening and effective environmental management and planning in both the public and private sectors. These priorities include the training of staff, the development and extension of appropriate tools and techniques for environmentally-sound decision making, the establishment of a comprehensive legal framework that meets national needs and is consistent with international environment agreements and ongoing support to assist island countries and territories develop regional positions and meet their obligations under international or regional agreements.

As population dynamics can largely determine the nature and extent of environmental impacts, building capacity in environmental management and planning will require the strengthening of environmental assessment at national and regional levels and the integration of population and environment linkages at all levels. This will include the development of systems for State of Environment reporting that meet national needs and satisfy regional and global reporting requirements.

Programme Objective

To plan, manage and regulate development in a manner that is environmentally sustainable.

Outputs

1. Integrated Coastal Management approaches developed for Pacific island situations.

Performance indicators:

- ICM tested in at least three countries representing a range of geophysical and sociological situations.
- Improved regional co-ordination of integrated coastal management activities.
- Improved access to and system co-ordination of databases relevant to ICM in the Pacific.
- Improved mechanisms for the resolution of conflicts over resource use.
- Improved level of training in the principles, processes and practice of ICM in the Pacific Islands.
- More effective and communally acceptable enforcement of environmental and resource management legislation.

2. Representatives of government, NGOs, local communities and the private sector with skills to plan, manage and regulate development.

Performance indicators:

- Needs analysis completed and training/extension material developed for key sectors and institutions.
 - Individuals trained in a range of environmental planning and management techniques, including ICM and EIA.
 - Evaluation of training programmes.
3. Integration of NEMS into national and sectoral plans and programmes.

Performance indicators:

- National sustainable development plans that effectively integrate environment and population.
 - Sector and land use plans that give effect to NEMS priorities.
 - Codes of environmental practice for productive sectors.
 - Strategic/environmental impact assessment an integral part of the development process.
 - Population and environment linkages integrated in national policy and community development.
 - Reforms to national accounting systems.
 - Processes for the review and updating of NEMS established.
4. Environmental assessment, legislation and reporting to support NEMS priorities.

Performance indicators:

- Number and quality of strategic and environmental impact assessments of development projects associated with national development.
 - Systems for monitoring and reporting the state of the environment.
 - Databases of environmental information that can be accessed remotely.
 - Legislation and policies that encourage ecologically sustainable development.
 - Legal advice, interpretations and briefs available through electronic media.
5. Effective participation in regional and international environment negotiations and agreements.

Performance indicators:

- Reports of the Advisory Committee to facilitate and co-ordinate the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action.
- Consistent regional positions at international environment negotiations.
- International agreements and action programmes reflecting Pacific issues.
- Increased resource flows to Pacific island countries under these agreements and action programmes.

Programme Strategy

SPREP will seek to include environmental principles and objectives in the work of the range of agencies involved in the management of natural resources and seek appropriate support for the Action Plan from such agencies. Environmental extension material will be developed in partnership with these sectors and

institutions. To integrate NEMS into national plans, SPREP will encourage participatory approaches to all environmental management and planning, the integration of population and environment linkages, the preparation of integrated land use/coastal management plans, codes of practice and strategic/environmental impact assessment using targeted policy development and practical demonstrations for those involved in the development process. In developing ICM approaches relevant to Pacific island situations emphasis will be placed on co-ordination of activities related to coastal issues, information management, training, and the development of appropriate legislation and enforcement for the management of coastal resources. Institutional strengthening will also address the capacity of NGOs to effectively tackle common problems and make efficient use of dwindling resources.

The Secretariat will continue to provide legal services to countries to assist in the preparation of environmental legislation, taking due account of customary law. Through the Pacific Environment and Natural Resource Information Centre (PENRIC), SPREP will support the development of State of Environment reporting systems, as part of a global network, through specific training and targeted case studies and facilitate the development of a State of the Environment (SOE) database. Where appropriate, this will include assistance with data analysis. PENRIC will rely on the in-house expertise of information specialists to ensure effective database development and maintenance.

Well co-ordinated and targeted support for key international environment negotiations will continue. The focus will be on building national capacity to implement conventions and regional consensus on positions in advance of negotiations. The Secretariat will encourage participation by countries and provide technical support during specific negotiations in favour of participation in Conferences of Parties. This will include working with the ESCAP/Pacific Operations Centre as the joint Secretariat for the Advisory Committee to facilitate co-ordination and implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action. The related database of activities to implement the Programme of Action will be maintained and updated as required to support meetings of the Committee.

Programme Resources

Output	Funding	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
Project Implementation	<i>Secured</i>	1,151,600	385,600	235,000	0	0	1,772,200
	<i>Unsecured</i>	45,000	1,250,000	1,400,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	5,695,000
	<i>Sub-total</i>	1,196,600	1,635,600	1,635,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	7,467,200
Secretariat Salaries	<i>Secured</i>	330,000	330,000	60,000	0	0	720,000
	<i>Unsecured</i>	0	60,000	330,000	390,000	390,000	1,170,000
	<i>Sub-total</i>	330,000	390,000	390,000	390,000	390,000	1,890,000
Other Secretariat costs	<i>Secured</i>	115,000	30,000	25,000	0	0	170,000
	<i>Unsecured</i>	0	70,000	90,000	115,000	180,000	455,000
	<i>Sub-total</i>	115,000	100,000	115,000	115,000	180,000	625,000
PROGRAMME TOTAL	<i>Secured</i>	1,511,600	740,600	295,000	0	0	2,547,200
	<i>Unsecured</i>	45,000	1,380,000	1,820,000	2,005,000	2,070,000	7,320,000
	<i>TOTAL</i>	1,556,600	2,120,600	2,115,000	2,005,000	2,070,000	9,867,200

5. Environmental Education, Information and Training

Background

The importance of environmental education and awareness raising is increasingly well understood throughout the region and forms an integral element of support to all SPREP programmes. In recognition of the role to be played by children, as future custodians of the Pacific environment, the formal education system will continue to be a major area of focus with emphasis on curriculum development and teacher training. In order to achieve maximum benefit from education, awareness raising and training activities, continued utilisation of churches, women and youth groups will also be encouraged to disseminate environmental information at the village and community level. Public media (newspapers, radio and television) will increasingly be used and additional resources sought to produce material in local languages. Awareness raising of decision makers in the public and private sector will also form an important element in this Programme, facilitated through better packaging, interpretation and dissemination of technical information, utilising Internet and through strengthening information dissemination capabilities within member country environment units, other government sectors and NGOs. This Programme will provide the specialist support in these areas required for the effective education, training and clearinghouse functions of other SPREP Programmes.

Programme Objective

To strengthen environmental education, training and information systems.

Outputs

1. Integration of environmental content into formal education programmes.

Performance indicators:

- School curricula with environmental content integrated through a range of school subject areas.
- Teachers trained in producing lessons and teaching material on environmental education.
- Environmental material produced in local languages and widely available in schools.
- Scholarships available for tertiary study in environmental management.
- Exchange schemes developed to encourage professional development of member country environmental managers.

2. Public conversant with environmental issues of the region.

Performance indicators:

- Secretariat publications produced and widely distributed.
- Secretariat press communications network established.
- Environmental awareness material produced in local languages, using local expertise in governments, the private sector and NGOs.
- Environmental content in public media (newspapers, radio, television, theatre).
- Public participation in environmental decision making.

- Traditional knowledge and skills used in environmental management and the promotion of environmental awareness.
3. National and regional environmental information centres and network.

Performance indicators:

- Secretariat with a Pacific Environmental Natural Resource Information Centre holding publications and databases available to SPREP member countries and capable of international information search.
- National Environmental Information Centres with trained staff and facilities to collect, process, store and disseminate environmental information and to link with the Secretariat's Environmental Information Centre.
- Standards for coding, referencing and security for database management which enable interchange throughout the region.
- Co-ordination with regional and international organisations to circulate information and publications.
- Provision and exchange of information in a form accessible to all.
- Access by member countries to modern telecommunications and electronic information technology for dissemination of environmental information.

Programme Strategy

SPREP will actively promote the inclusion of environmental issues into curricula of schools at infants, primary and secondary levels. This will be accomplished by the Secretariat working with departments of education, teacher training institutions and curriculum development units. SPREP will liaise with donors to ensure that budgets for environmental education are sufficient to allow for country-specific material to be prepared using local expertise; material to be translated in some instances into local languages; and sufficient number of copies printed of both student and teachers' material to allow effective utilisation in the classroom.

The Secretariat will ensure that its publications are produced in a format of value to its member countries and that the press is kept well informed of activities. The Secretariat will assist and train government and non-government personnel to prepare environmental awareness material in local languages and actively promote its wide dissemination, especially through the media. The Secretariat will actively encourage the utilisation of local expertise and traditional knowledge in country-specific awareness raising material preparation and promote the utilisation of institutional mechanisms by member governments which have provision for public involvement in decision-making. Donor support will be sought by SPREP to produce and distribute regional and country-specific material in a wide variety to languages, recognising the additional cost associated with multi-language production.

The Secretariat will maintain the Pacific Environment and Natural Resource Information Centre (PENRIC) and act as a clearinghouse to co-ordinate information exchange to assist all SPREP programmes in implementing the Action Plan and to support environmental information needs of member countries. It will establish a capability for international information searches and will co-ordinate its activities with other regional and international organisations to ensure wide and effective access to information. It will collect, store and analyse

information and disseminate it in a form accessible to all. The Secretariat will also provide training for member countries in information management, technical material interpretation and in use of modern electronic and telecommunications information technology. The Secretariat will maintain a database of information which can be used to monitor the performance of SPREP in implementing the Action Plan.

Programme Resources

Output	Funding	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
Project Implementation	<i>Secured</i>	212,000	76,400	0	0	0	288,400
	<i>Unsecured</i>	190,000	380,000	850,000	1,100,000	1,200,000	3,720,000
	<i>Sub-total</i>	402,000	456,400	850,000	1,100,000	1,200,000	4,008,400
Secretariat Salaries	<i>Secured</i>	275,000	200,000	0	0	0	475,000
	<i>Unsecured</i>	0	0	300,000	300,000	300,000	900,000
	<i>Sub-total</i>	275,000	200,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	1,375,000
Other Secretariat costs	<i>Secured</i>	40,000	0	0	0	0	40,000
	<i>Unsecured</i>	0	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	320,000
	<i>Sub-total</i>	40,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	360,000
PROGRAMME TOTAL	<i>Secured</i>	487,000	276,400	0	0	0	763,400
	<i>Unsecured</i>	190,000	460,000	1,230,000	1,480,000	1,580,000	4,940,000
	<i>TOTAL</i>	677,000	736,400	1,230,000	1,480,000	1,580,000	5,703,400

OUTREACH AND REVISION OF THE ACTION PLAN

To encourage ownership and effective implementation, it will be important to communicate the objectives and strategies contained in the Action Plan to local communities. This will be facilitated through the translation of the Action Plan into appropriate languages.

In addition to the regular monitoring and review of the Action Plan that will occur at each SPREP Meeting, a comprehensive process of evaluation and revision of this Action Plan, involving all SPREP members, collaborating organisations and institutions, will commence in 1999. The results of this process will be presented for consideration by the SPREP Meeting to be convened in the year 2000.

Action Plan for Managing the Environment of the South Pacific Region 1997–2000

