



South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)



Ninth SPREP Meeting

Working Papers

Ministerial Meeting

27 - 28 November 1996
Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga






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25 September 1996



**South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
(SPREP)**

Ninth SPREP Meeting
Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga

Ministerial Meeting
27 - 28 November 1996

Provisional Agenda

1. **Official Opening**
2. **Appointment of Chairperson**
3. **Adoption of Agenda and Working Procedures**
4. **Acting Director's Overview of SPREP 1991-96**
5. **Consideration of Matters from Officials' Meeting**
 - SPREP Action Plan;
 - Financial Matters;
 - Appointment of Director; and
 - Apia and SPREP Conventions
6. **[Panel Discussion]**
7. **Other Business**
8. **Timing of Next Ministerial Meeting**
9. **Adoption of Report**
10. **Close**

15 August 1996



South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
(SPREP)

Ninth SPREP Meeting
Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga

Ministerial Meeting
27-28 November 1996

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of Agenda and Working Procedures

Agenda

The Provisional Agenda is attached as 9SM/Off./Agenda.

Timetable

2. A suggested timetable for the Meeting is also attached.

Sub-committee

3. A representative Drafting Sub-committee should be appointed to assist with the report of the Meeting.

Additional Meeting

4. A Joint Extraordinary Plenipotentiary Meeting of the Parties to the SPREP and Apia Conventions forms part of this Ministerial Meeting.

Recommendation

5. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **consider** and **adopt** the Agenda;
 - **agree** on hours of work;
 - **appoint** a Drafting Sub-committee; and
 - **note** the proposal for convening the Extraordinary Plenipotentiary Meeting of the Parties to the SPREP and Apia Conventions.

21 September 1996



South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
(SPREP)

Ninth SPREP Meeting
Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga

Ministerial Meeting
27-28 November 1996

Suggested Meeting Timetable

Day 1 Wednesday 27 November 1996

5.00 pm - Official Opening

Day 2 Thursday 28 November 1996

9.00 am	-	10.00 am	Meeting in Session
10.00 am	-	10.30 am	Morning Tea and Official Photograph
10.30 am	-	12.00 noon	Meeting in Session
12.00 noon	-	1.30 pm	Lunch
1.30 pm	-	3.00 pm	Meeting in Session
3.00 pm	-	3.30 pm	Afternoon Tea
3.30 pm	-	5.00 pm	Meeting in Session
5.00 pm	-	-	Close of Meeting

25 September 1996



South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Ninth SPREP Meeting

Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga

Ministerial Meeting

27 - 28 November 1996

Agenda Item 4: Acting Director's Overview of SPREP 1991 - 1996.

Purpose of Paper

To summarise developments in SPREP for 1991 - 1996, the period since the last Ministerial Meeting.

Background

2. The last SPREP Meeting at Ministerial level was held in Noumea, New Caledonia, 8 - 9 July 1991. The five years since that Meeting have been very significant ones which have seen SPREP come of age as a fully autonomous regional organisation, relocated from its former home within the South Pacific Commission (SPC) to its new headquarters in Apia, Western Samoa. Considerable progress has been made during that time towards securing SPREP's role and status as a separate organisation responsible for assisting and advising members on environmental protection and management issues. These include strengthening of the organisation's capacity to implement an increasing Work Programme, especially through fund-raising efforts which have brought considerable financial assistance to SPREP and the region; development of working relationships with other regional and international organisations, a number of which continue to provide financial and technical assistance; and development of policy and institutional procedures which are providing a sound footing for the organisation.
3. This is the third Ministerial Meeting of SPREP. The first meeting of Ministers for Environment was held in March 1982 in Rarotonga, Cook Islands (Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific) which agreed to establish SPREP as a separate entity within the SPC and produced an *Action Plan for Managing the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region* to guide its future activities. The second Ministerial Meeting was held in Noumea, New Caledonia in July 1991 and at that meeting Ministers agreed that SPREP should accept the offer of the Government of Western Samoa to relocate from Noumea to Apia and to commence negotiation of an agreement (the SPREP Agreement) to give legal effect to SPREP as an intergovernmental, regional organisation. This third Ministerial Meeting is the first since SPREP obtained its fully autonomous legal status

following entry into force on 31 August, 1995, of the *Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme* (the SPREP Agreement).

History of SPREP

4. The history of SPREP will be familiar to some Ministers and government representatives. However, it is an interesting history worth retelling as a means of highlighting the significant progress that has been made from very small beginnings more than twenty years ago.

5. Following the initiation by SPC of a Special Project on Conservation of Nature in 1974 and the appointment of a Regional Ecological Adviser, consultations between SPC, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC) (now the Forum Secretariat) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) resulted in agreement in 1978 on the need for a comprehensive environmental management programme for the region. Proposals submitted to the South Pacific Forum and the South Pacific Conference resulted in formal establishment of SPREP as the South Pacific component of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme, and a joint initiative of the two regional organisations (Forum and SPC), with funding from the two UN agencies. These four bodies served as a co-ordinating group, chaired by the Forum Secretariat, to provide executive oversight for SPREP which was located at and administered by the SPC.

6. The first Ministerial Meeting in 1982 formally established SPREP. Between 1982 and 1986, a series of meetings was held relating to technical aspects of SPREP's Work Programme and also to negotiate the *Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region* (the 'SPREP' Convention), which is closely aligned to SPREP's mandate and for which SPREP is the Secretariat. In 1986, the Coordinating Group was replaced by a member government steering committee which continued to provide oversight to the organisation in between its Intergovernmental Meetings which at that stage were held biennially. The Steering Committee was no longer required once the SPREP (Intergovernmental) Meeting commenced regular annual meetings which approved the Work Programme and gave guidance to SPREP.

7. The second Ministerial Meeting in 1991 agreed that SPREP should become an autonomous regional organisation and that the offer by the Government of Western Samoa to host the new organisation should be accepted. Accordingly, in January 1992, SPREP relocated from Noumea, New Caledonia to Apia, Western Samoa. Negotiations on the terms of an agreement to give legal effect to SPREP resulted in the Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) being signed on 16 June, 1993. Upon ratification by the tenth signatory, SPREP formally obtained full autonomy on 31 August, 1995.

Significant Institutional and Policy Initiatives

8. A number of major institutional and policy matters have been addressed over the past five years as a means of establishing the basis for SPREP's autonomous status. These have included:

- Action Plan;
- Action Strategy for Nature Conservation;
- Corporate Plan;
- SPREP Agreement; and
- Headquarters' Agreement

9. The *Action Plan for Managing the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region* (SPREP Action Plan) was first developed in preparation for approval at the 1982 Ministerial Meeting. The Action Plan provides a regional framework for comprehensive action to contribute to both the protection and continued development of the region. The original Action Plan served the region well from 1982 to 1991 when, in accordance with their mandate, Member governments and administrations reviewed and revised it for adoption by the Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting (July, 1991). The result was the *1991 - 1995 Action Plan for Managing the Environment of the South Pacific Region* (note slight name change) which has again been reviewed for adoption at this Meeting as the 1996 - 2000 Action Plan which will lead SPREP into the next century.

10. The *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific Region* was first developed in 1985 and was reviewed and revised in 1994 following recommendations from the Fifth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. The current Action Strategy provides a clear focus and identifies priority actions with measurable outputs for its 1994 - 1998 timeframe.

11. The first *Corporate Plan for SPREP (1994-1996)* was developed to describe how the organisation is to fulfill its mandate and its legal obligations. It thus provides strategic direction based on elements outlined in the Action Plan, the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation, the SPREP Agreement and decisions taken by members of the SPREP Meeting.

12. The *Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme* (the SPREP Agreement), as stated above, entered into force on 31 August, 1995 following deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification. This Agreement accords SPREP "the full and formal legal status necessary to operate as an autonomous body, to manage fully its own affairs and to provide the basis for the continued operation of SPREP in accordance with the traditions of cooperation in the region." Since entry into force an additional four countries have ratified which means that most eligible member countries have now ratified this Agreement.

13. The *SPREP Headquarters' Agreement* formally developed between SPREP and the Government of Western Samoa defines the status, privileges and immunities in Western Samoa of SPREP and its staff and representatives of member Governments to the SPREP Meetings. The Agreement, together with a 60-years Deed of Lease on land for SPREP's proposed headquarters building, were formalised on 30 April, 1996. A Design Competition was completed during 1995 for the proposed new SPREP Headquarters building. The successful design group, Gazzard Sheldon Australia Limited is currently undertaking more detailed design and documentation.

SPREP Assistance with International Conventions

14. SPREP has continually played a major role both in the negotiation and implementation of Conventions aimed at various aspects of environmental protection of benefit to our member governments. In three cases, SPREP has been nominated as the Convention Secretariat and in others, SPREP provides significant technical assistance to ensure that our member governments are cognizant with these international legal instruments.

15. The *Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (the SPREP Convention)* was one in which SPREP played the key role during negotiations between 1983 and 1986. The Convention entered into force in August 1990, following deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification. This convention gives a legal underpinning to SPREP's mandate and with its two related protocols concerning co-operation in combating pollution emergencies and concerning the prevention of pollution of the South Pacific region by dumping, it provides the region with an important environmental protection tool. SPREP continues as the Secretariat to this Convention as well as the Secretariat for the *Convention on the Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific (the Apia Convention)* which entered into force in 1990. SPREP has also been designated as the Secretariat for the Waigani convention which relates to transboundary movement of hazardous wastes within the region.

16. Member governments also receive SPREP technical assistance relating to other international Conventions of specific relevance to the South Pacific such as the Biodiversity and Climate Change Conventions and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

Reflection of Decisions of World Leaders in SPREP's Activities

17. SPREP played a major supporting role to member governments as they made the Pacific voice heard at international fora. Two major activities included SPREP's role as coordinator of technical support to Pacific leaders at the *United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)*, Rio de Janeiro, 1992 and the *Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*, Barbados, 1994. Support that emanates from these global initiatives is channelled to the region through activities such as support through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) both for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change and Capacity 21 to strengthen national

environmental management capabilities. SPREP also obtained during this period the status of observer with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

Work Programme Implementation in Member Countries and Territories

18. SPREP's Work Programme since the last Ministerial Meeting has been implemented under nine elements, namely: (1) Conservation of Biological Diversity; (2) Global Change; (3) Environmental Management and Planning; (4) Coastal Management and Planning; (5) Prevention and Management of Pollution; (6) Planning and Response to Pollution Emergencies; (7) Environmental Education and Training; (8) Environmental Information; and (9) Regional Environmental Concerns.

19. Significant achievements have been made in all Work Programme areas which are too numerous to list in this overview. However, some highlights over the five years have been:

- Conservation Area establishment in fourteen countries through local management regimes;
- Species conservation activities, such as those for the 'Year of the Sea Turtle';
- Coastal management planning activities;
- Climate change and sea level rise planning and adaptation measures;
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) training;
- Population and sustainable development awareness raising;
- Waste management and pollution response activities;
- National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS) development;
- State of the Environment Reports in most member countries
- Institutional strengthening in member countries and associated policy and legislation development assistance;
- Environmental education and awareness raising in the formal and non-formal sectors; and
- Computer technology and information assistance through print, radio, video and e-mail media.

20. The revised 1996 - 2000 Action Plan integrates these nine elements into five programmes, namely:

- (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; and
- (5) Environmental Education, Information and Training.

Cooperation with other Regional and International Organisations

21. The implementation of SPREP's Work Programme has been successfully carried out with the assistance and collaboration of individuals and institutions in the region and overseas. Such collaboration will continue to flourish and we are always on the look out for new collaborators to ensure the best possible results from limited resources.

22. A major contributor to SPREP since 1991 has been the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). SPREP also maintains close contact and receives financial and valuable technical assistance from the two United Nations bodies which were involved in SPREP's early establishment, namely: the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), particularly through the latter's Pacific Operations Centre in Port Vila. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has also provided valuable financial and technical assistance as has the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)

23. SPREP has forged good working relations with our SPOCC partners: Forum Secretariat, South Pacific Commission (SPC), South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), University of the South Pacific (USP), Tourism Council of the South Pacific (TCSP) and Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP).

24. The Governments of Canada, Japan, Republic of China (Taiwan), all non-member governments, have contributed significantly. The Government of the United States through the Los Alamos National Laboratories in New Mexico, has also provided substantial support.

25. Close collaboration continues with a range of international and regional organisations such as the Asian Wetland Bureau/Oceania Program, Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA), Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC), Community College of Micronesia (CCM), Department of Conservation in New Zealand, East-West Center (EWC), Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific (FSP), Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), Greenpeace, International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Laboratoire d'études et de surveillance de l'environnement (LESE) in Tahiti, Institut Français de recherches scientifiques pour le développement en coopération (ORSTOM) and the Université française du Pacifique Sud in Noumea, Maruia Society, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Traffic Oceania, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Universities of Papua New Guinea, Guam and Hawaii, World Conservation Union (IUCN), World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

26. Other institutions which support SPREP include the University of Sydney, Macquarie University, University of Wollongong, and James Cook University in Australia, and the University of Auckland and Waikato University in New Zealand and the University of Oregon/ Micronesia and South Pacific Program.

Donor Government Extra-budgetary Support

27. Australia and New Zealand, as member governments, continued to contribute generously towards a wide range of programme activities, as well as making their voluntary member contributions towards the Secretariat's operating costs in the Primary Function. The Government of France has also provided assistance additional to its member contributions through secondment of a Legal Officer to the Secretariat.

The End of an Era

28. Dr Vili Fuavao left SPREP at the end of April 1996 after heading SPREP since 1990 - the entire period since the last Ministerial Meeting. He was the first Director of SPREP and played an enormous role in its recent development.

Finance

29. One problem which has consistently dogged the organisation, however, is the nature of, and shortfalls in members' contributions to the core budget. It is expected that this issue will be considered in depth by officials during the Ninth SPREP Meeting.

Recommendation

30. The Meeting is invited to **note** the progress made by SPREP during the five years since the last Ministerial-level Meeting.

23 September 1996



South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Ninth SPREP Meeting

Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga

Ministerial Meeting

27 - 28 November 1996

Agenda Item 5: Consideration of Matters from Officials' Meeting

Purpose of Paper

To advise the Meeting of matters arising from the Officials' Meeting for endorsement by the Ministerial Meeting.

Background

2. Several matters discussed at the Officials' Meeting will be presented for endorsement to the Ministerial Meeting under the following agenda items:

- SPREP Action Plan;
- Financial Matters;
- Appointment of Director; and
- Apia and SPREP Conventions

Recommendation

3. The Meeting is invited to **endorse** matters tabled in the 'Letter from the Officials' Meeting to the Ministerial Meeting'.

23 September 1996



Programme Régional Océanien de l'Environnement (PROE)



Neuvième Conférence du PROE

Documents de travail

Conférence des ministres

27 - 28 novembre 1996
Nuku'alofa, Royaume des Tonga





Neuvième Conférence du PROE

Documents de travail

Conférence des ministres

27 - 28 novembre 1996
Nuku'alofa, Royaume des Tonga





Programme régional océanien de l'environnement (PROE)

Neuvième Conférence du PROE

Nuku'alofa, Royaume des Tonga

Conférence des ministres

27 - 28 novembre 1996

Liste des documents de travail

Point 1 de l'ordre du jour	Ouverture	---
Point 2 de l'ordre du jour	Nomination du président	---
Point 3 de l'ordre du jour	Approbation de l'ordre du jour et des procédures de travail	DT.3 Ordre du jour DT.3/PJ
Point 4 de l'ordre du jour	Exposé du Directeur par intérim sur le PROE concernant la période 1991/1996	DT.4
Point 5 de l'ordre du jour	Examen des questions issues de la Conférence des officiels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plan d'action du PROE ● Questions financières ● Nomination du Directeur ● Conventions d'Apia et de Nouméa 	DT.5
Point 6 de l'ordre du jour	[Débat d'experts]	---
Point 7 de l'ordre du jour	Divers	---
Point 8 de l'ordre du jour	Date de la prochaine Conférence des ministres	---
Point 9 de l'ordre du jour	Approbation du rapport	---
Point 10 de l'ordre du jour	Clôture	---



Programme régional océanien de l'environnement (PROE)

Neuvième Conférence du PROE

Nuku'alofa, Royaume des Tonga

Conférence des ministres

27 - 28 novembre 1996

Ordre du jour provisoire

1. **Ouverture**
2. **Nomination du président**
3. **Approbation de l'ordre du jour et des procédures de travail**
4. **Exposé du directeur par intérim sur le PROE concernant la période de 1991 à 1996**
5. **Questions issues de la Conférence des officiels**
 - Plan d'action du PROE
 - Questions financières
 - Nomination du nouveau directeur du PROE
 - Conventions d'Apia et de Nouméa
6. **[Débat avec experts]**
7. **Divers**
8. **Date de la prochaine Conférence des ministres**
9. **Approbation du rapport**
10. **Clôture**

15 août 1996
Original en langue anglaise



Programme régional océanien de l'environnement (PROE)

Neuvième Conférence du PROE Nuku'alofa, Royaume des Tonga

Conférence des ministres
27 - 28 novembre 1996

Point 3 de l'ordre du jour : Approbation de l'ordre du jour et des procédures de travail

Ordre du jour

L'ordre du jour provisoire est joint au présent document sous la référence 9CP/Min./
Ordre du jour.

Heures de travail

2. Un projet d'horaire de la Conférence est également joint au présent document.

Comités

3. Il convient de constituer un comité de rédaction représentatif qui aidera à préparer le
projet de rapport de la Conférence.

Conférence supplémentaire

4. Une Conférence conjointe des plénipotentiaires représentant les Parties aux Conventions
de Nouméa et d'Apia se réunira en session extraordinaire dans le cadre de la présente
Conférence des ministres.

Recommandation

5. La Conférence est invitée à :

- **examiner** et **approuver** l'ordre du jour ;
- **approuver** l'horaire de travail ;
- **constituer** un comité de rédaction ;
- **prendre acte** de la proposition de convocation de la Conférence extraordinaire des
plénipotentiaires représentant les Parties aux Conventions de Nouméa et d'Apia.



Programme régional océanien de l'environnement (PROE)

Neuvième Conférence du PROE Nuku'alofa, Royaume des Tonga

Conférence des ministres
27 - 28 novembre 1996

Projet d'horaire de la Conférence

Jour 1 – Mercredi 27 novembre 1996

17h00 - Ouverture

Jour 2 – Jeudi 28 novembre 1996

9h00	-	10h00	Séance de travail
10h00	-	10h30	Pause café et photographie officielle
10h30	-	12h00	Séance de travail
12h00	-	13h30	Déjeuner
13h30	-	15h00	Séance de travail
15h00	-	15h30	Pause café
15h30	-	17h00	Séance de travail
17h00	-	-	Clôture

25 septembre 1996
Original en langue anglaise



Programme régional océanien de l'environnement (PROE)

Neuvième Conférence du PROE

Nuku'alofa, Royaume des Tonga

Conférence des ministres

27 - 28 novembre 1996

Point 4 de l'ordre du jour : Exposé du Directeur par intérim sur le PROE concernant la période 1991/1996

Objectif

1. Résumer les faits intervenus au sein du PROE au cours de la période 1991/1996, depuis la dernière Conférence des ministres.

Contexte

2. La dernière Conférence du PROE tenue à l'échelon ministériel a eu lieu à Nouméa (Nouvelle-Calédonie), les 8 et 9 juillet 1991. Les cinq années écoulées depuis lors ont été marquées par d'importants événements. Le PROE est ainsi devenu un organisme régional autonome à part entière et a quitté ses locaux au sein de la Commission du Pacifique Sud (CPS) pour s'installer à Apia, aux Samoa occidentales. Des efforts considérables ont été accomplis durant cette période afin d'établir son statut d'organisation indépendante et d'affirmer le rôle qu'il joue auprès de ses membres en leur prêtant son concours sur les questions de protection et de gestion de l'environnement, ainsi qu'en leur prodiguant des conseils en la matière. Ces efforts se sont traduits, entre autres, par le développement des compétences dont l'organisation dispose pour mettre en oeuvre un programme de travail de plus en plus ambitieux, notamment grâce à la recherche de financements qui permet au PROE comme à la région de bénéficier d'un appui financier considérable ; par la mise en place de relations de travail avec d'autres organisations régionales et internationales, dont certaines continuent de fournir une assistance technique et financière au fil des années ; et par l'élaboration des politiques et des procédures d'ordre institutionnel qui ont conféré à l'organisation l'assise saine dont elle dispose aujourd'hui.

3. La présente conférence est la troisième Conférence du PROE tenue à l'échelon ministériel. La première conférence des ministres de l'Environnement (Conférence sur l'environnement humain dans le Pacifique Sud), qui a eu lieu en mars 1982 à Rarotonga (Iles Cook), a établi le PROE en tant qu'entité distincte au sein de la CPS. A cette occasion, a été rédigé le *Plan d'action pour la gestion des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement de la région du Pacifique Sud* en vue d'orienter les interventions de l'organisation dans l'avenir. Lors de la deuxième Conférence ministérielle de juillet 1991 à Nouméa, les ministres ont convenu que le PROE accepte l'offre du gouvernement des Samoa occidentales et transfère ses bureaux de Nouméa à Apia. Ils ont également décidé de lancer la négociation d'un accord (la Convention du PROE) visant à conférer au PROE le statut juridique d'organisation régionale intergouvernementale. Cette troisième Conférence des ministres est la première depuis que le

PROE est devenu autonome suite à l'entrée en vigueur de la *Convention portant création du Programme régional océanien de l'environnement* (Convention du PROE) le 31 août 1995.

Historique du PROE

4. Certains ministres et représentants de gouvernement connaissent bien, sans aucun doute, l'historique du PROE. Il mérite toutefois d'être rappelé pour mesurer l'ampleur des progrès réalisés en l'espace de plus de vingt ans, après des débuts fort modestes.

5. Suite au lancement par la CPS d'un Projet spécial sur la conservation de la nature en 1974 et suite à la nomination d'un conseiller écologique régional, la CPS, le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE), le Bureau du Pacifique Sud pour la coopération économique (maintenant Secrétariat du Forum) et la Commission économique et sociale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique des Nations Unies (CESAP) se sont mis d'accord, en 1978, sur la nécessité de doter la région d'un programme global responsable de la gestion de l'environnement. Les propositions présentées au Forum du Pacifique Sud et à la Conférence du Pacifique Sud ont abouti à la création officielle du PROE, en tant que composante du Programme des mers régionales du PNUE et en tant qu'initiative commune des deux organisations régionales (le Forum et la CPS) financée par les deux agences des Nations Unies. Ces quatre organismes agissaient en qualité de groupe de coordination qui était chargé, sous la présidence du Forum, de veiller au contrôle exécutif du nouveau programme. Le PROE était alors administré par la CPS et installé dans les bureaux de celle-ci.

6. La première Conférence des ministres en 1982 a marqué les débuts officiels du PROE. Les diverses réunions organisées entre 1982 et 1986 ont eu pour objet de mettre au point les aspects techniques du programme de travail du PROE et également de négocier la *Convention pour la protection des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement de la région du Pacifique Sud* (Convention de Nouméa). Cette Convention, dont le PROE assure les fonctions de secrétariat, s'inscrit dans la ligne du mandat conféré à l'organisation. En 1986, le groupe de coordination a été remplacé par un comité directeur composé de représentants des gouvernements membres et chargé de la surveillance de l'organisation entre les conférences intergouvernementales qui, à ce stade, étaient bisannuelles. Les services de ce comité n'ont plus été requis à partir du moment où la CIG s'est réunie tous les ans pour approuver le programme de travail et formuler des instructions à l'intention du Secrétariat.

7. Lors de la deuxième Conférence ministérielle en 1991, les ministres ont convenu que le PROE devienne une organisation régionale indépendante et accepte l'invitation du gouvernement des Samoa occidentales qui proposait de l'accueillir dans son pays. En conséquence, le siège du PROE a été transféré de Nouméa (Nouvelle-Calédonie) à Apia (Samoa occidentales) en janvier 1992. Les négociations visant à mettre au point les conditions d'un accord établissant le cadre juridique du PROE ont abouti à la signature de la *Convention portant création du Programme régional océanien de l'environnement* (PROE) le 16 juin 1993. Le PROE est devenu une organisation autonome à part entière le 31 août 1995, après réception du dixième instrument de ratification.

Principales initiatives de politique générale et d'ordre institutionnel

8. Un certain nombre de questions de politique générale et d'ordre institutionnel ont été réglées au cours des cinq dernières années en vue d'établir l'assise juridique de l'organisation autonome. Les accords suivants ont ainsi été mis au point :

- le Plan d'action ;
- la Stratégie d'action pour la conservation de la nature ;
- le Plan directeur ;
- la Convention du PROE ;
- l'Accord de siège.

9. Le *Plan d'action pour la gestion des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement de la région du Pacifique Sud* (Plan d'action du PROE) a été élaboré dans un premier temps en vue d'être soumis à l'approbation de la Conférence des ministres de 1982. Ce Plan fournit le cadre régional nécessaire à une intervention globale en faveur de la protection et du développement soutenu de la région. Le premier Plan d'action, qui a porté ses fruits dans la région entre 1982 et 1991, a ensuite été examiné et révisé par les gouvernements et administrations membres conformément à leur mandat, puis présenté à la quatrième Conférence intergouvernementale en juillet 1991. Ce projet est devenu le *Plan d'action pour la gestion de l'environnement de la région du Pacifique Sud 1991/1995* (son titre étant légèrement modifié) qui, à son tour, a été révisé en vue d'être adopté lors de la présente Conférence. Ce nouveau Plan d'action 1996/2000 fixera les orientations à suivre par le PROE d'ici l'an 2000.

10. La *Stratégie d'action pour la conservation de la nature dans la région du Pacifique Sud*, élaborée pour la première fois en 1985, a été examinée puis révisée en 1994 selon les instructions formulées à l'occasion de la cinquième Conférence du Pacifique Sud sur la conservation de la nature et les zones protégées. La Stratégie d'action actuelle définit un axe d'intervention clair et stipule des priorités d'action assorties de résultats mesurables pour la période 1994/1998.

11. Le premier *Plan directeur du PROE (1994/1996)* a été conçu pour décrire la façon dont l'organisation doit remplir son mandat et s'acquitter de ses obligations juridiques. Il prévoit ainsi des orientations de stratégie découlant directement du Plan d'action, de la Stratégie d'action pour la conservation de la nature, de la Convention du PROE et des décisions prises par les membres lors de la Conférence du PROE.

12. Ainsi qu'il est indiqué ci-dessus, la *Convention portant création du Programme régional océanien de l'environnement* (la Convention du PROE) est entrée en vigueur après que le dixième instrument de ratification ait été déposé. Cette Convention a pour objet, d'une part, de doter le PROE "du statut juridique et officiel lui permettant de fonctionner de façon autonome et de gérer pleinement ses propres affaires, et, d'autre part, de mettre en place le cadre lui permettant de continuer selon les traditions de coopération existant dans la région." Quatre autres pays ont ratifié la Convention depuis son entrée en vigueur, ce qui signifie que la plupart des pays membres admissibles y ont maintenant souscrit.

13. L'*Accord de siège du PROE* conclu entre l'organisation et le gouvernement des Samoa occidentales définit le statut ainsi que les privilèges et immunités dont jouissent dans le pays le PROE et son personnel, de même que les représentants des gouvernements membres délégués auprès de la Conférence du PROE. Cet accord a été signé le 30 avril 1996, en même temps qu'un bail d'une durée de soixante ans qui met à la disposition du PROE un terrain sur lequel doit être construit son nouveau siège. Le concours de conception organisé en 1995 à ce propos a été remporté par la société d'architectes renommée Gazzard Sheldon Australia Limited, qui s'est attelée à la préparation des plans et documents nécessaires.

Aide en matière de conventions internationales

14. Le PROE a régulièrement joué un rôle essentiel dans la négociation et la mise en oeuvre de conventions ayant trait à divers aspects de la protection de l'environnement et présentant des avantages pour les gouvernements membres. L'organisation, qui s'est vu confier les fonctions de Secrétariat de trois conventions, informe également ses membres sur d'autres instruments juridiques internationaux et leur apporte une assistance technique importante en la matière.

15. Le PROE a été l'un des principaux acteurs des négociations qui se sont déroulées entre 1983 et 1986 pour mettre au point la *Convention pour la protection des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement de la région du Pacifique Sud* (Convention de Nouméa). Entrée en vigueur en août 1990 après avoir été ratifiée par dix pays, cette Convention confère une assise juridique au mandat du PROE. Avec ses protocoles sur la coopération dans les interventions d'urgence contre les incidents générateurs de pollution et sur la prévention de la pollution de la région du Pacifique Sud résultant de l'immersion de déchets, cette Convention constitue un instrument de protection de l'environnement océanien très important. Le PROE en assure les fonctions de Secrétariat ainsi que celles de la *Convention sur la conservation de la nature dans le Pacifique Sud* (Convention d'Apia), qui est entrée en vigueur en 1990, et de la Convention de Waigani qui régit les mouvements transfrontières des déchets dangereux dans la région.

16. Enfin, le PROE apporte un soutien technique à ses gouvernements membres au niveau des conventions internationales qui concernent le Pacifique Sud, telles que les Conventions sur la biodiversité et les changements climatiques et la Convention sur le commerce international des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages menacées (CITES).

Impact des décisions prises par les dirigeants mondiaux sur les activités du PROE

17. Les gouvernements membres ont bénéficié d'un appui important de la part du PROE lorsqu'il s'est agit de faire entendre la voix du Pacifique sur la scène internationale. Le PROE a ainsi joué un rôle de coordonnateur et de conseiller technique auprès des dirigeants océaniques participant à la *Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement (CNUED)*, Rio de Janeiro, 1992, et à la *Conférence mondiale sur le développement durable des petits Etats insulaires en développement*, la Barbade, 1994. Le soutien qu'il a été décidé d'accorder à la région lors de ces initiatives mondiales se traduit par des interventions diverses, telles que l'assistance apportée par le Fonds pour l'environnement mondial (FEM) dans les domaines de la conservation de la diversité biologique et des changements climatiques ainsi que le Projet Capacité 21 qui vise à renforcer les compétences nationales en matière de gestion de

l'environnement. Durant cette période, le PROE a également obtenu le statut d'observateur auprès de la Commission du développement durable des Nations Unies.

Mise en oeuvre du programme de travail dans les pays et territoires membres

18. Le programme de travail mis en oeuvre depuis la dernière Conférence des ministres a été exécuté dans les neuf domaines suivants : (1) conservation de la diversité biologique, (2) changement planétaire, (3) planification et gestion de l'environnement, (4) gestion et planification des zones côtières, (5) prévention et gestion de la pollution, (6) planification et interventions d'urgence contre les incidents générateurs de pollution, (7) éducation et formation écologiques, (8) information en matière d'environnement, (9) préoccupations régionales relatives à l'environnement.

19. Les succès considérables obtenus dans tous les domaines d'intervention du programme de travail au cours des cinq dernières années seraient trop longs à énumérer. Je me contenterai donc d'en citer quelques-uns.

- Création dans quatorze pays de zones de conservation soumises à un régime de gestion local ;
- protection des espèces par le biais d'activités diverses telles que l'*Année de la tortue marine* ;
- activités de planification appliquée à la gestion des zones côtières ;
- mesures visant à prévoir l'évolution du climat et du niveau de la mer et à s'y adapter ;
- formation à l'étude d'impact sur l'environnement (EIE) ;
- sensibilisation à la population et au développement durable ;
- activités de gestion des déchets et action de dépollution ;
- élaboration de Stratégies nationales de gestion de l'environnement (SNAGE) ;
- préparation de rapports sur l'état de l'environnement dans la plupart des pays membres ;
- renforcement des institutions dans les pays membres et assistance connexe en matière d'élaboration de politiques et de législation ;
- éducation écologique et sensibilisation à l'environnement dans les secteurs public et privé ;
- assistance en matière d'information et de technologie informatique faisant appel à des supports divers : publications, radio, films vidéo et messagerie électronique.

20. Les neuf composantes du programme de travail sont intégrées dans les cinq programmes suivants du Plan d'action révisé pour la période 1996/2000 :

1. conservation de la diversité biologique et des ressources naturelles
2. changement climatique et gestion intégrée des zones côtières
3. gestion de l'environnement, planification et renforcement des institutions
4. gestion des déchets, prévention de la pollution et interventions d'urgence
5. éducation, information et formation en matière d'environnement.

Coopération avec d'autres organisations régionales et internationales

21. La mise en oeuvre du programme de travail du PROE a été menée à bien avec l'aide et la collaboration de particuliers et d'institutions de la région et du reste du monde. Si nous prévoyons que cette collaboration continue de prospérer, nous sommes toujours à la recherche de nouveaux collaborateurs afin d'exploiter au mieux nos ressources limitées.

22. Le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD) est depuis 1991 l'un des principaux bailleurs de fonds du PROE. Ce dernier continue par ailleurs de bénéficier du concours financier et de la précieuse assistance technique des deux organismes des Nations Unies qui ont parrainé ses débuts, à savoir le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE) et la Commission économique et sociale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique (CESAP) – notamment son Centre d'activités pour le Pacifique à Port Vila – avec lesquels le PROE entretient d'étroites relations. La Banque asiatique du développement (ADB) ainsi que le Fonds des Nations Unies pour les activités en matière de population (FNUAP) apportent aussi une contribution technique et financière fort appréciable.

23. Le PROE a noué de solides liens de travail avec ses partenaires du CCOPS, à savoir le Secrétariat du Forum, la Commission du Pacifique Sud (CPS), la Commission de géoscience appliquée du Pacifique Sud (CGAPS), l'Agence des pêches du Forum (APF), l'Université du Pacifique Sud à Suva (USP), le Tourism Council of the South Pacific (TCSP) et le Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP).

24. Une contribution importante a été reçue des gouvernements du Canada, du Japon et de la République de Chine (Taiwan), qui ne sont pas membres du PROE. Le gouvernement américain a également consenti un effort financier substantiel par l'intermédiaire du laboratoire national de Los Alamos au Nouveau-Mexique.

25. Le PROE a par ailleurs continué de collaborer étroitement avec un grand nombre d'organisations régionales et internationales, dont le Programme Océanie de l'Asian Wetland Bureau, l'agence australienne pour la conservation de la nature (ANCA), le Fonds de coopération technique du Commonwealth (CFTC), le Community College of Micronesia (CCM), le ministère néo-zélandais de la Conservation, le Centre Est-Ouest (EWC), la Fondation pour les peuples du Pacifique Sud (FSP), le Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (Office du parc marin de la Grande barrière, GBRMPA), Greenpeace, l'Organisation maritime internationale (OMI), le Laboratoire d'études et de surveillance de l'environnement à Tahiti (LESE), l'Institut français de recherche scientifique pour le développement en coopération (ORSTOM) et l'Université française du Pacifique Sud à Nouméa, Maruia Society, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Traffic Oceania, l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (UNESCO), les universités de Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée, de Guam et d'Hawaii, l'Union mondiale pour la conservation de la nature (UICN), l'Organisation météorologique mondiale (OMM) et le Fonds mondial pour la nature (WWF).

26. Parmi les autres institutions qui apportent leur concours au PROE, il convient de citer l'université de Sydney, l'université Macquarie, l'université de Wollongong et l'université James Cook en Australie, l'université d'Auckland et l'université de Waikato en Nouvelle-Zélande ainsi que le Programme Micronésie/Pacifique Sud de l'université d'Oregon.

Financement extrabudgétaire alloué par les gouvernements membres

27. Les gouvernements australien et néo-zélandais ont, une fois de plus, accordé au PROE, outre leurs contributions volontaires aux coûts de fonctionnement de la fonction primaire, des crédits généreux destinés à la mise en oeuvre d'un ensemble d'activités relevant des programmes. Le gouvernement français a également alloué un financement non statutaire en détachant un conseil juridique auprès du Secrétariat.

La fin d'une époque

28. Fin avril 1996, le Dr Vili Fuavao a quitté le PROE après l'avoir géré depuis 1990, c'est-à-dire durant toute la période écoulée depuis la dernière Conférence des ministres. Il a été le premier Directeur du PROE et a joué un rôle primordial dans son évolution récente.

Finances

29. La nature volontaire des contributions des membres au budget de la fonction primaire et le déficit constant enregistré à ce niveau constituent un problème qui n'a pas cessé de tourmenter le Secrétariat. Il est anticipé que les représentants officiels réunis à l'occasion de la neuvième Conférence du PROE examineront cette question en profondeur.

Recommandation

30. La Conférence est invitée à **prendre acte** des progrès accomplis par le PROE au cours des cinq années écoulées depuis la dernière Conférence des ministres.

23 septembre 1996
Original en langue anglaise



Programme régional océanien de l'environnement (PROE)

Neuvième Conférence du PROE

Nuku'alofa, Royaume des Tonga

Conférence des ministres

27 - 28 novembre 1996

Point 5 de l'ordre du jour : Examen des questions issues de la Conférence des officiels

Objectif

Informer la Conférence sur les questions issues de la Conférence des officiels et soumises à l'approbation des ministres.

Historique

2. Plusieurs questions débattues lors de la Conférence des officiels seront soumises à l'approbation de la Conférence des ministres au titre des points de l'ordre du jour suivants :

- Plan d'action du PROE
- Questions financières
- Nomination du Directeur
- Conventions d'Apia et de Nouméa.

Recommandation

3. La Conférence est invitée à **entériner** les questions présentées dans la "Lettre de la Conférence des officiels à la Conférence des ministres".

23 septembre 1996
Original en langue anglaise

Working Papers

2007 18th SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa
11-14 September 2007

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Working Papers

2007

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SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Eighteenth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa

11-14 September 2007

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Agenda Item 3:	Adoption of Agenda and Working Procedures	WP.3
Agenda Item 4:	Action Taken on Matters Arising from Seventeenth SPREP Meeting	WP.4
Agenda Item 5:	Performance Review/Overview of Developments in 2006	
5.1	Presentation of Annual Report for 2006 and Director's Overview of Progress since the Seventeenth SPREP Meeting	WP.5.1 WP.5.1/Att.1
5.2	Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Report on the 2006 Annual Work Programme and Budget	WP.5.2 WP.5.2/Att.1
5.3	Financial Reports	
	<i>5.3.1 Report on Members' Contributions</i>	WP.5.3.1 WP.5.3.1/Att.1
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Agenda Item 6:	Members' Issues	---
6.1	Country Profiles – Exchange of Information by Members on national developments related to Natural Resources Management Priority of the Action Plan	No paper
6.2	Options to Streamline Reporting by Pacific Island Countries to MEAs (Paper by Australia)	WP.6.2
6.3	Genetic Resources in the Pacific Region (Paper by Australia)	WP.6.3
Agenda Item 7:	Staff Remuneration Issues	---
7.1	Annual Reference Market Data Review (Professional Staff)	WP.7.1
7.2	Sustainable Financing for Periodic Staff Salary Increases	WP.7.2
Agenda Item 8:	2008 Work Programme and Budget	---
8.1	Island Ecosystems Programme Issues	---
	<i>8.1.1 Regional Marine Species Programme Framework and Regional Arrangements for the Conservation of Marine Species of Special Interest</i>	WP.8.1.1 WP.8.1.1/Att.1 WP.8.1.1/Att.2
	<i>8.1.2 Capacity Building through the Pacific Invasives Learning Network: Turning words into Action</i>	WP.8.1.2 WP.8.1.2/Att.1

Agenda Items	Working Paper Title	Working Paper Number
8.2	Pacific Futures Programme Issues	---
	<i>8.2.1 Strengthening GEF Support Services Within the Region</i>	WP.8.2.1
	<i>8.2.2 Regional Project for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol in the Pacific Region: Actions needed to achieve compliance</i>	WP.8.2.2
8.3	Consideration and Approval of Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2008 and Indicative Budgets for 2009 and 2010	WP.8.3 WP.8.3/Att.1
Agenda Item 9:	Institutional Matters	---
9.1	Process for Recruitment of Director	WP.9.1 WP.9.1/Att.1
9.2	Updated Staff Regulations	WP.9.2 WP9.2/Att.1
9.3	TORs for an Independent External Corporate Review of SPREP	WP.9.3 WP.9.3/Att.1
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10.1	CROP CEOs Meeting Report	WP.10.1
Agenda Item 11:	Items Proposed by Members	---
Agenda Item 12:	Statements by Observers	---
Agenda Item 13:	Other Business	---
Agenda Item 14:	Date and Venue of Nineteenth SPREP Meeting	---
Agenda Item 15:	Adoption of Report	---
Agenda Item 16:	Close	---

27 July 2007



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Eighteenth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa
11-14 September 2007

REVISED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Agenda Item 1: Official Opening

Agenda Item 2: Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of Agenda and Working Procedures

Agenda Item 4: Action Taken on Matters Arising from Seventeenth SPREP Meeting

Agenda Item 5: Performance Review/Overview of Developments in 2006

- 5.1 Presentation of Annual Report for 2006 and Director's Overview of Progress since the Seventeenth SPREP Meeting
- 5.2 Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Report on the 2006 Annual Work Programme and Budget
- 5.3 Financial Reports
 - 5.3.1 *Report on Members' Contributions*
 - 5.3.2 *Audited Annual Accounts for 2006*

Agenda Item 6: Members' Issues

- 6.1 Country Profiles – Exchange of Information by Members on national developments related to Natural Resources Management Priority of the Action Plan
- 6.2 Options to Streamline Reporting by Pacific Island Countries to MEAs (Paper by Australia)
- 6.3 Genetic Resources in the Pacific Region (Paper by Australia)

Agenda Item 7: Staff Remuneration Issues

- 7.1 Annual Reference Market Data Review (Professional Staff)
- 7.2 Sustainable Financing for Periodic Staff Salary Increases

Agenda Item 8: 2008 Work Programme and Budget

- 8.1 Island Ecosystems Programme Issues
 - 8.1.1 *Regional Marine Species Programme Framework and Regional Arrangements for the Conservation of Marine Species of Special Interest*
 - 8.1.2 *Capacity Building through the Pacific Invasives Learning Network: Turning words into Action*
- 8.2 Pacific Futures Programme Issues
 - 8.2.1 *Strengthening GEF Support Services Within the Region*
 - 8.2.2 *Regional Project for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol in the Pacific Region: Actions needed to achieve compliance*
- 8.3 Consideration and Approval of Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2008 and Indicative Budgets for 2009 and 2010

Agenda Item 9: Institutional Matters

- 9.1 Process for Recruitment of Director
- 9.2 Updated Staff Regulations
- 9.3 TORs for an Independent External Corporate Review of SPREP

Agenda Item 10: Regional Cooperation

- 10.1 CROP CEOs Meeting Report

Agenda Item 11: Items Proposed by Members

Agenda Item 12: Statements by Observers

Agenda Item 13: Other Business

Agenda Item 14: Date and Venue of Nineteenth SPREP Meeting

Agenda Item 15: Adoption of Report

Agenda Item 16: Close



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Eighteenth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa
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Agenda Item 2: Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair**Purpose of Paper**

1. The "*Rules of Procedure of the SPREP Meeting*" (Rules 8.1 and 8.2), provides that where the Meeting is hosted by the Secretariat, the Chair shall rotate alphabetically, and where the Meeting is not hosted by the Secretariat, the Chair shall be provided by the host country.
2. Accordingly, the **Chair** of the Eighteenth SPREP Meeting shall be **Guam**, the next in alphabetical order since the Secretariat last hosted the SPREP Meeting (16SM Apia 2005) at which time the Chair was **France**.
3. Rule 8.3 also provide that the Vice-Chair shall rotate alphabetically whether or not the Meeting is hosted by the Secretariat. The Vice-Chair of the Seventeenth SPREP Meeting was **French Polynesia**. Under the principle of alphabetical rotation, therefore, **Samoa** should be appointed **Vice-Chair** of the Eighteenth SPREP Meeting.

Recommendation

4. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **confirm** the Representative of **Guam** as **Chair**; and
 - **confirm** the Representative of **Samoa** as **Vice-Chair**.
-



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Eighteenth SPREP Meeting*Apia, Samoa*11-14 September 2007

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of Agenda and Working Procedures**Agenda**

1. The Revised Provisional Agenda appears in the Working Paper documentation as 18SM/Officials/Provisional Agenda/Rev.1.

Hours of Work

2. Suggested hours of work for the Meeting are contained in the attached (18SM/Officials/WP.3/Att.1).

Sub-committees

3. A Report Drafting Committee would need to be appointed to assist with the preparation of the report of the Meeting. While the membership of the Committee is open-ended it should comprise a core of 5 or 6 members at least one of which should be from a French speaking member. The Vice-Chair would chair the Report Drafting Committee.

Recommendation

4. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **consider** and **adopt** the Provisional Agenda;
 - **agree** on hours of work; and
 - **appoint** an open-ended Report Drafting Committee.
-



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Eighteenth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa

11-14 September 2007

Agenda Item 4: Action Taken on Decisions Made by Seventeenth SPREP Meeting

Purpose of Paper

1. To report on action taken on the decisions of the 17th SPREP Meeting as outlined below.

Agenda Topic	Report Paragraph Number	Matters Arising	Action Taken
Agenda Item 4: Action Taken on Matters Arising from the Sixteenth SPREP Meeting	37	The Meeting noted the paper and actions taken by the Secretariat on the decisions of the 16 th SPREP Meeting. It also urged the Secretariat to pursue its discussion with New Zealand and Australia to establish the position as soon as possible, so Members could access GEF funds as early as possible.	Immediately subsequent to SM17, Australia, New Zealand, SPREP and GEF reached agreement on the post which was advertised during the last quarter of 2006, and an appointment made in March 2007. A Tripartite Funding Agreement between NZAID, AusAID and SPREP has been signed.
Agenda Item 5.3: Financial Reports <i>Agenda Item 5.3.1: Report on Members' Contributions</i>	120	The Meeting, having considered the report and addressed the substantial arrears problem, agreed to: a. note the unsatisfactory status of debts relating to Members' contributions; and b. Commit itself collectively and individually to paying current contributions and arrears in full in 2006.	By the end of 2006 subsequent to SM17, members (American Samoa, FSM, RMI and Wallis and Futuna) had either settled all current or owing contributions or made partial payments, leaving a total arrears of \$381,477.
Agenda Item 6: Staff Remuneration — Triennial Reviews <i>Agenda Item 6.1: Triennial CROP Remuneration Review on Professional Staff</i>	140	The Representative of Vanuatu thanked the Secretariat for the presentation. Vanuatu indicated that the reasons for the increases were justified but raised two issues. The first was in relation to the sustainability of the increases. He felt that to continue to fund increases in salary from cost-saving measures only was not sustainable. He requested the Secretariat to come up at the next SPREP Meeting with a long-term strategy so that current and future increases would be considered in an informed manner, taking into account a range of factors such as Member contributions, arrears, delivery of priority programmes, appropriate resourcing for its programmes, and other funding sources.	

Agenda Topic	Report Paragraph Number	Matters Arising	Action Taken
	<p>142</p> <p>150</p>	<p>The Representative of Tonga supported the recommendation to be adopted. Given the Secretariat's explanation that this increase will be funded from gains in cost savings, he recommended that the gains from the cost-savings measures be reported to the next SPREP meeting. He noted the example of Japan's effort at energy conservation and welcomed that an organization such as SPREP was carrying out measures that could set an example for Member countries.</p> <p>The Chair concluded that the discussions had been very positive and that the Meeting's consensus was to approve the recommendations of the paper while noting the proposal by Vanuatu for a longer-term strategy, and by Tonga for a report on cost-saving measures to be tabled at the next Meeting.</p>	<p>A paper by the Secretariat will be addressed under Agenda Item 7.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 8: Island Ecosystems Programme Issues</p> <p><i>Agenda Item 8.1.4: Strategic Priorities for Biodiversity</i></p> <p><i>Conservation: Regional Framework for Marine Protected Areas</i></p>	<p>241</p>	<p>The SPREP Meeting then agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. note the increasing regional and international interest and developments in marine biodiversity conservation; b. invite FFA and SPC collaboration on a regional initiative for the establishment and management of MPAs to strengthen the conservation of marine biodiversity of coasts and oceans; and c. endorse the Secretariat's plan to convene a regional workshop in 2007 in collaboration with relevant CROP Agencies and international partners, to scope and develop a programme of work (including a resourcing strategy for the implementation of a regional framework to support the establishment of MPAs) and report on outcomes to the 18th SPREP Meeting. 	<p>A regional workshop is being planned in conjunction with the Conference on Nature Conservation in PNG (October 2007) to develop the regional framework. A concept note has been developed. Some funds have been secured while more funding proposals are being submitted to a range of donors and partners.</p>

Agenda Topic	Report Paragraph Number	Matters Arising	Action Taken
<p><i>Agenda Item 8.1.5: Regional Arrangements for the Conservation of Marine Species of Special Interest and the Regional Marine Species Programme Framework 2003-2007</i></p>	255	<p>The Meeting then agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. encourage participating PICs to sign the MOU for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific islands region under the auspices of CMS; b. note the development and progress of the MOU for the Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Pacific under the auspices of CMS; c. urge Members who are parties to the CMS, and partners, to support the timely development and finalization of the MOU on the conservation of marine turtles; d. encourage dugong range states and territories to be fully involved in the development of the MOU for conservation and management of dugongs in the South-east Asian region under the auspices of CMS; e. endorse the review process of the Marine Species Programme Framework 2003-2007 and to consider inclusion of other marine species of special interest to the region; f. direct the Secretariat to submit the revised Marine Species Programme Framework to the 2007 SPREP Meeting for endorsement by members; and g. encourage Members who are not parties to CMS to consider becoming parties given the relevance of CMS to the region. 	<p>Regional meetings to review the Marine Species Programme Framework were conducted in Apia on 6-16 March 2007.</p> <p>Consultation for consideration of other marine species for inclusion in the Framework took place during these meetings. Consultations with members continued after the meetings and a paper will be submitted in SM18 on "other selected" marine species.</p> <p>The Marine Species Programme Framework (with Action Plans for 3 groups of marine species of special interest) was revised during the meetings mentioned above. The revised Marine Species Programme Framework will be submitted at SM 18 for endorsement.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 8.2: Pacific Futures Programme Issues</p> <p><i>Agenda Item 8.2.1: Regional Strategy on Shipping-Related Introduced Marine Pests</i></p>	266	<p>The Meeting then agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. approve the draft Regional Strategy on Shipping Related Invasive Marine Pests in the Pacific Islands (SRIMP-Pac) with the change to paragraph 25 in relation to the precautionary principle; and b. commit itself and all Members to fully support and participate in implementing the Strategy. 	<p>The changes in paragraph 25 were made to the SRIMP-Pac document.</p> <p>Certain activities of the Strategy have been included in the IMO Globallast 2nd Phase Proposal to GEF. Other aspects will be addressed in cooperation with the invasive species work carried out through Island Ecosystems.</p>

Agenda Topic	Report Paragraph Number	Matters Arising	Action Taken
<p><i>Agenda Item 8.2.4: Regional Strategy for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol in the Pacific Region</i></p>	303	<p>The Representative of Tuvalu requested technical assistance from the Secretariat to progress on its regulations and licensing system.</p>	<p>Consultations were undertaken with Director Environment of Tuvalu, SPREP legal Adviser, and UNEP to clarify the nature of the problem TORs were developed for review of draft regulations. A Letter of Agreement has been arranged with Tuvalu and funding secured for the finalisation of ODS regulations and the set up of an ancillary licensing system.</p>
	304	<p>The Representative of Vanuatu noted that Vanuatu had phased out CFCs and, like Tuvalu, requested assistance from the Secretariat to progress on its regulations and licensing system.</p>	<p>Consultation was undertaken with the focal point and UNEP to clarify nature of the problem. UNEP and SPREP agreed to provide direct assistance through a joint mission in April</p>
	310	<p>The Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia admitted it had not been compliant for three years, but had returned to compliance with assistance from the Secretariat. It now has national legislation ready for enactment. FSM still requested technical assistance from the Secretariat for a licensing system. She thanked New Zealand for supporting the development of the national strategy and legislation</p>	<p>The Secretariat has followed this up this issue, providing resources to the office of the Attorney General to assist development of regulations and proposing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the option of placing an immediate ban on CFCs at the national level and seek help of the State governments to implement a licensing system • a visit by UNEP or SPREP to raise the profile of ODS in May 2007
	314	<p>The Meeting agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. note progress with the control and phasing out of ODS under the Regional Strategy; b. note the Secretariat plans to continue to provide technical support and advice to countries under the current project until its conclusion at the end of 2006; c. urge countries that have not yet done so to implement ozone regulations as soon as practicable and complete their reporting requirements under the Montreal Protocol; and d. note that SPREP is working with UNEP and the Government of Australia to maintain ongoing support for control/phase-out of ozone depleting substances beyond 2006. 	<p>Formal letters were sent out in March to National Focal Points from the Director SPREP as well as similar letters by the Director of UNEP ROAP reminding them to comply with requirements A project proposal was submitted to the 50th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol in November 2006. The Committee approved additional support for a period of one year through 2007.</p>

Agenda Topic	Report Paragraph Number	Matters Arising	Action Taken
Agenda Item 8.4: Country Profiles as a Means for Members' National Reporting under the SPREP Action Plan (2005-2009)	363	The Meeting adopted the Country Profile template for immediate implementation, while taking note of the issues raised earlier; and agreed that at next year's Meeting members exchange information on developments related to Natural Resources Management, the first focal area of the Action Plan.	An Agenda Item 6 has been included to enable the 18 th SPREP Meeting to exchange information on Natural Resources Management as directed by 17 th SM.
Agenda Item 10: Regional Cooperation <i>Agenda Item 10.1: Report of the CROP Heads Meeting</i>	396 397	The Secretariat noted the concerns and advised that the report was based on the best information given to them at the time; and expressed regret if this was inadequate. The Director would advise other CROP Heads of the concerns. The Meeting agreed to note the report with the concerns expressed by delegates and requested the Director to inform his CROP colleagues of the concerns and comments raised.	The CROP Heads were informed of the concerns and their report was accordingly amended.



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Eighteenth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa
11-14 September 2007

**Agenda Item 5.1: Presentation of the Director's Annual Report for 2006
and Overview of Progress since the Seventeenth SPREP Meeting**

Purpose of the Paper

1. To table the Director's Annual Report for 2006 and to present his Overview of progress since the Seventeenth SPREP Meeting.

Comment

2. The Annual Report for 2006 is attached. The Director will present a general summary overview of highlights of SPREP operations during the year under review. The Director's presentation will not only provide an overview on progress but will also alert Members to emerging issues and trends and raise matters on which he and the Secretariat will need direction and advice.

Recommendation

3. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **comment** as necessary on the issues raised by the Director in his Overview;
 - **provide** any necessary advice and direction to the Secretariat; and
 - **adopt** the 2006 Annual Report.

10 May 2007

**SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME****Eighteenth SPREP Meeting***Apia, Samoa*11-14 September 2007

**Agenda Item 5.2: Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Report (PMER)
on the 2006 Work Programme and Budget****Purpose of Paper**

1. To present to the Meeting the Secretariat's report on the monitoring and evaluation of its work programme performance for 2006.

Background

2. The SPREP Meeting (SM) Rules of Procedure require that the Secretariat include in the SM agenda "a review by the Secretariat of progress with the implementation of the SPREP work programme..." The Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Report not only serves this requirement but it also provides a tool for the Secretariat itself, particularly its Executive and Managers, to identify areas where it would need to improve as well as emerging issues and challenges. This experience guides the formulation of work programmes and budgets for ensuing years.

3. The report provides details of what had been achieved under each programme and each output and performance indicator established for approved activities of the work programme for 2006. The performance monitoring and evaluation report is contained in Attachment 1.

4. This evaluation is useful for management, members and donors. The Secretariat's intention is that with donor support and available funding in the future, this internal assessment would be supplemented with independent evaluations of aspects of its work on a rolling basis.

Recommendation

5. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **review** and comment as necessary on the report.



**Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
(SPREP)**

Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Report

On the

2006 Work Programme and Budget

PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT ON THE 2006 WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

Introduction

The Secretariat's Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Report (PMER), submitted annually to the members and the SPREP Meeting (SM) is to provide a summary of the Secretariat's work progress and achievements of specific work targets throughout the year. Performance is measured against work indicators established in the 2006 Work Programme and Budget, which reflect the priorities of the Action Plan (2005-2009) and the Outputs of the Strategic Programmes (2004-2013).

To complement the PMER, the Secretariat is also providing separate reports on the financial performance and accounts for the 2006 financial year and Director's Annual Report to the SM.

Broad Assessment of 2006 Achievements

SPREP continued to make significant progress in 2006 towards the protection and improvement of the environment of the Pacific islands region. Emphasis was also placed on sustainable development of the region's ecosystems and environmental resources.

Secretariat staff through their professional work and involvement at the community, national, regional and international levels continued to progress with specific targets and outputs. Successful achievements were noted particularly in the areas of natural resources management, pollution control, response to climate change, sustainable development, capacity building, training, environment education and awareness. Strengthening partnership with island members and joining forces with collaborating institutions and donor partners enabled the Secretariat not only to raise its profile and continue to play a central role in key environmental activities in the region but more importantly to provide effective help to Pacific island members. The Secretariat was also able to maintain its involvement and recognition as a major player in the international environment stage.

The achievements are detailed in the document and will be introduced by the staff that implemented them. Brief Power Point presentations will be made to highlight key issues and facilitate discussion of the PMER.

A Note on Interpreting Budget and Expenditure Figures

The preparation of the 2006 work programme and budget began in early 2005 and was circulated to members in July and approved in September for implementation the following year. Although formulation was based on the best information available at the time, many of the assumptions and circumstances judged best at the time the programmes were put together would have changed by January 2006 - some 9 months after formulation.

The financial assumption taken by the Secretariat, for example on membership contributions was that these would be available at the start of the financial year for programme funding at the timeframe envisaged during budget preparation. More often than not, however, for various reasons this would not eventuate.

Within this context, readers would note that while the approved work programme and budget totalled USD8,041,790, actual funds available from all sources came to USD7,465,973, and actual total expenditure for 2006 was USD7,465,973.

In terms therefore of approved budget resources and receipts for the year 2006 operations, the Secretariat, in delivering its work activities to the PICTs, and to maintain the Secretariat and programme support, expended 93% of approved resources. In terms of actual funds received and available for the year, the Secretariat's expenditure matched the resources actually available.

Total Approved Budget USD8,041,790	Total Actual Expenditure USD7,465,973	Rate of Spending against budget 93%
Total Actual receipts USD7,465,973		Rate of Spending against receipts 100%

PROGRAMME 1

ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

1. ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Programme Goal: Pacific Islands countries and territories able to manage island resources and ocean ecosystems in a sustainable manner and that support life and livelihoods.

SPREP's direction in the Islands Ecosystems Programme (IEP) reflects a fundamental commitment to sustaining the livelihoods of island peoples through effective terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystem conservation and management. The Programme focuses on developing the capacities of Pacific islanders to enable them to sustainably manage and conserve the ecosystems and resources of their islands. The programme also focuses efforts to protect priority threatened species, and to protect Pacific island countries and territories (PICTs) from invasive alien species. SPREP's focus in this programme is to address the issues of ecosystem conservation, the sustainable management of natural resources and the protection of priority threatened species from the threats of human-induced impacts, and invasive species. These issues require action at the community, national, regional and international levels. During 2006 the Island Ecosystems Programme provided advice, technical assistance, information and support to build island capacities to help PICTs address these issues and needs.

In 2006, the IEP succeeded in strengthening the scope of services provided to SPREP members to strengthen environmental management and promote sustainable development. Highlights include:

- Commencement of Island Biodiversity Officer (IBO) and Coral Reef Management Officer (CRMO) to strengthen support to Members, and appointment of the Invasive Species Officer.
- Continued implementation of coastal ecosystem and resource management initiatives through the International Waters Project in 13 island countries. The IWP also reached its completion in December, with an overall positive terminal evaluation report.
- A highly successful Year of the Sea Turtle (YOST) campaign that combined community awareness and education activities with conservation science, linking long-term conservation and programmatic objectives. Satellite transmitters were attached to 7 turtles to enable monitoring of migration routes and 4,000 flipper tags distributed to countries.

The campaign also assisted in raising awareness of the link between marine conservation and waste through a major effort with private enterprise partners in the distribution of reusable shopping bags, in conjunction with a major initiative by the Government of Samoa to ban importation of non-biodegradable plastic bags.

- IEP staff played a key supporting role for countries attending the CBD COP8 which saw the adoption of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity, which will underpin much of the IEP work in support of Members.
- The regional MoU under the Convention on Migratory Species for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region was finalized and opened for signature at the 17th SM.
- Implementation of the Ramsar Convention continues to strengthen, with a renewed MoU signed between SPREP and the Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention, which will continue to provide funds for the Associate Ramsar Officer.
- Further important partnership activities included publication of the *Pacific Island Mangroves in a Changing Climate and Rising Sea Report* prepared by the UNEP Regional Seas Programme in cooperation with SPREP and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.
- The Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PLN) continued to develop and is shaping up to be a model capacity development approach for dealing with region-wide issues such as invasive species.
- Although activities have not yet commenced, funding arrangements were finalized for the CRISP project, a primary area of responsibility for the new CRMO.
- Continuing to strengthen the NBSAP process with national agencies and the Roundtable for Nature Conservation.

PROGRAMME 1

ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

- Many island Members benefited from SPREP's ongoing support for training and capacity building including country-to-country training attachments.
- Many wide-ranging education and communication activities were undertaken, including curricula reviews in five countries, communications capacity building for 12 countries and territories, and production of education and awareness resources.
- The Pacific Environmental Information Network (PEIN) project continued to provide support to island Members, including establishing databases and implementing a training attachment programme.

Two disappointments in 2006 were the removal of the regional Pacific Invasive Species Management (PISM) project from the GEF pipeline, despite its approval as a PDF-B, and the failure to secure RNHP funds from Australia for the Aleipata Islands rat eradication programme in Samoa. The PISM project is being reassessed in collaboration with Members for resubmission to GEF given island members continued expression of priority for invasives work.

Comparative financial analysis

Total Budget	Actual Expenditure	Rate of spending
US\$2,860,834	US\$2,560,070	90%

PROGRAMME 1

ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Component: 1.1 – Terrestrial ecosystems management

Objective: Promote and support the sustainable management and conservation of terrestrial ecosystems

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)															
1.1.1 Key terrestrial ecosystems conserved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources available to enable options for assistance to be developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Island Biodiversity Officer commenced August 2006 – position to provide support to Members for terrestrial ecosystem conservation. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>11,015</td> <td>11,661</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>3,500</td> <td>15,977</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>0</td> <td>139</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>14,515</td> <td>27,777</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>(Expenditure of this output should be taken together with the output below)</i></p>		Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	11,015	11,661	Operating Costs	3,500	15,977	Capital Costs	0	139	Sub Total	14,515	27,777
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Sub Total	14,515	27,777																
1.1.2 Increased use of sustainable approaches in the management of natural resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective NBSAP meeting involving all NBSAP Coordinators held with Roundtable Meeting in Fiji – based on meeting evaluation. Improved communication, sharing of lessons and experiences between PICs through functioning NBSAP network. Support provided to at least 5 countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NBSAP working group convened July 2006 in Suva. Meeting report completed and circulated. Improved communication supported through Roundtable NBSAP email group. Planning underway with Niue to support the review of their NBSAP in the first half of 2007. Proposal prepared for EDF 10 consideration to support NBSAP implementation. Solomon Islands being assisted to undertake its NBSAP. <p><i>[Not having the invasive species officer on board during the year made it difficult to achieve more in these activities and indicators]</i></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>31,173</td> <td>30,984</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>58,250</td> <td>21,692</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>89,422</td> <td>52,676</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	31,173	30,984	Operating Costs	58,250	21,692	Capital Costs	0	0	Sub Total	89,422	52,676
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Sub Total	89,422	52,676																

PROGRAMME 1

: ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Component: 1.2 – Coastal and marine ecosystems

Objective: Promote and support the sustainable management and conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)															
<p>Programme Component:</p> <p>1.2.1 Key coastal and marine ecosystems conserved.</p>	<p>1.2 – Coastal and marine ecosystem management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one community in up to four countries (Solomon Islands, Niue, FSM (Yap) and Vanuatu) participating in the IWP actively managing local coastal areas and resources based on an assessment of root causes for non-sustainable resource use Recovery in resource status demonstrated through periodic monitoring relative to baseline situations in locally managed marine areas in up to four countries participating in the IWP. IWP Terminal Reports describe processes and outcomes associated with locally managed sustainable coastal resource use and conservation initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities in Yap (FSM), Vanuatu, Niue and Solomon Islands, implemented local management plans to sustainably manage their coastal and marine resources in collaboration with relevant government agencies. Resource surveys continued and data collected used in support of awareness raising activities. Data from resource surveys in Crab Bay Vanuatu, show that the populations of land crabs are increasing significantly as a result of the IWP-supported pilot project. Two workshops were organized to identify and document Lessons learned and best practices from all IWP country projects including those dealing with coastal fisheries issues. A third workshop to consolidate and share these lessons was held in December 2006. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>93,821</td> <td>115,303</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>544,582</td> <td>301,276</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>1,500</td> <td>12,332</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>639,904</td> <td>428,911</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>(Expenditure of this output be taken together with the next output. USD29,100 anticipated from AFD not received in 2006 but in 2007)</i></p>		Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	93,821	115,303	Operating Costs	544,582	301,276	Capital Costs	1,500	12,332	Sub Total	639,904	428,911
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PROGRAMME 1

: ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review/development of management plans for Ramsar sites in at least 2 signatory countries and at least 3 non-signatory countries progressed to accession to the Ramsar convention. Resources available to enable options for assistance to be developed. Reefbase-Pacific commenced and identification of key marine coastal and marine ecosystems started 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kiribati and Tonga were assisted with Ramsar Small Grants fund (SGF) projects. The Kiribati proposal was on preparatory assistance towards accession to the Ramsar Convention. Tonga was assisted to wrap up their SGF Project and new daily contact initiated to progress remaining steps towards Ramsar accession. Samoa assisted to complete their Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) for their first Ramsar site, Lake Lanotoo and submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Assisted Marshall Islands and Samoa with process and consideration of second Ramsar site nominations. Management planning/review for sites due to occur in 2007 largely due to lack of resources, information on status of site management is currently being sought from contracting parties. This issue will be addressed through the proposed Ramsar site/ Wetland managers' workshop (2007). Funds secured to hold a protected areas workshop in Marshall Islands. Facilitated a wetland practitioner exchange between Kiribati and Tuvalu to share lessons learnt and experiences in partnership with FSP. Support and advice provided to the Pohnpei Conservation Society (PCS) on their efforts to establish and manage community mangrove reserves (MMRs). New Memorandum of Cooperation for 2006-2008 between SPREP and the Ramsar Secretariat finalized and officially endorsed by both parties. Coordinated proposals from PIC Ramsar Parties for 2006 round of the Ramsar Small Grants Fund. Reefbase to start in 2007 – delayed by funding availability. 	

PROGRAMME 1

: ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme of activities to support community based management commenced in at least one site in the French territories Resources identified and secured to support regional networks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approach and activities identified with SPTO Discussion papers prepared and considered by MSWG, Roundtable and member countries and resources identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary discussions held with officials from New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna and French Polynesia on in-country activities at the IFRECOR meeting in New Caledonia and during the 17th SPREP Meeting. Actual activities to await CRISP implementation. Resources were identified for SPREP to convene a meeting of Pacific SocMon (involving GCRMIN and LMMA) during the ITMEMS meeting in Mexico. Resources were also identified to produce the Socio-economic monitoring guidelines for the Pacific region and a reviewing workshop. LMMA representatives were funded through World Fish Centre (WFC) to attend the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium held in Mexico. SPREP and the University of Washington convened a workshop on coastal fisheries and aquaculture featuring lessons learnt from the Pacific region on LMMA community based management. Resources secured for attendance of Pacific Island networks representative to relevant meetings; Database of the Pacific Islands Marine Resource Information System (PIMRIS) successfully loaded onto the SPREP PEIN website providing one stop online access to both the PIMRIS and PEIN databases. Informal discussions and information exchange have taken place and will continue into 2007. A working paper was tabled and approved by the 17th SPREP Meeting on the development of a regional framework to support national implementation of MPAs. 	

PROGRAMME 1

ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)										
1.2.2 Integrated coastal management enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lessons learnt, tools and techniques in coastal and marine management integrated into the adaptation activities by the PICs IWP reports describing governance in relation to ICWM in at least three PICTs. At least two IWP participating countries (Cook Islands and Samoa) have developed and adopted an integrated framework for coastal and watershed management. Refined Programmatic Strategies reflecting an integration of lessons and best practice information from the IWP. Case studies for enhancing institutional capacity for ICM policy and programme completed and outcome disseminated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support given to the coastal management aspects of the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change project during its design phase (four countries focussing on adaptation and coastal management). Funding sourced from McArthur Foundation for two activities related to integrated coastal management and climate change adaptation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a vulnerability assessment of marine biodiversity from climate change impacts in particular socio-economic and institutional aspects of the vulnerability assessment. Enhancing coastal and marine ecosystems resilience to climate change impacts through strengthened coastal governance and conservation measures. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>34,313</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>525,418</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>559731</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>(Expenditure of this output to be read together with those of the previous output)</i></p>	Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	34,313	Operating Costs	525,418	Capital Costs	0	Sub Total	559731
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PROGRAMME 1

: ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies on the economic evaluation of coastal and marine resources and tools for integration in decision making completed at least in one Territory and on PIC and outcomes disseminated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for capacity assessment in 14 countries Protocols for engagement of countries and Territories and adoption of results and lessons learnt developed and agreed to by CRISP partners Communication strategy for CRISP developed and activities started. Collaborations with the US and US territories identified and supported. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following reports by IWP have been released on the SPREP website: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> An economic evaluation of watershed pollution in Rarotonga, Cook Islands; The governance of coastal resources in Fiji; Coastal governance in Solomon Islands -- an evaluation of the strategic governance issues relating to coastal management; Evaluating the governance of coastal resources and environments in Vanuatu. Undertook in-country visits to Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to facilitate the development of pilot projects under SPREP-UNEP GPA MoU on regional implementation of the global plan of Action. UNEP-GPA-SPREP MoU has been renewed by the GPA Office. SPREP/FSPI Report on financial analysis of coral trade in Fiji and Solomon Islands was launched by FSPI in Fiji. SPREP presented the outcomes of the study in a workshop session on Pacific coastal fisheries and aquaculture issues at ITMEMS. Provided guidance as requested on marine and coastal related issues for NCSA implementation in collaboration with HRD/TO involving 14 countries. Deferred to 2007 because of delay in receipt of funds. Activity not started due to continuing delay in payment of AFD-UNF-ICRAN funds under CRISP. Planning underway for Year of Coral Reef 2008 with US Coral Reef Taskforce and the US All Islands Committee Chair. 	

PROGRAMME 1

ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Programme Component: 1.3 – Species of Special Interest
 Objective: Promote and foster conservation of island biodiversity

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)										
<p>Programme Component:</p> <p>1.3.1 Threatened species managed and conserved.</p>	<p>1.3 – Species of Special Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance available provided to at least 5 PICTs in a timely and effective manner. • Key endangered species recovery plans developed, supported and implemented. • Data and documentation on regional summary of threatened species status, distribution and key threats available and used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided assistance to Tonga to review the number of whale watching licences for Vava'u as requested. • Providing technical assistance for Samoa as requested on cetacean stranding. • Secured funding and arranged venue for 2 country attachments on turtle nesting survey for Tonga/Tuvalu officers to Solomon Islands. • Website set up as an information node for Pacific Bats, as part of awareness raising of the conservation issues of Pacific bats. • MoU between BirdLife International and SPREP finalized for signing in 2007. • Anecdotal information from IWP Vanuatu suggests increased sightings of marine turtles in Crab Bay area as a result of traditional bans on fishing in the area. • Satellite tagging undertaken as part of the Year of the Sea Turtle campaign in Samoa and French Polynesia. • Movements of satellite-tagged turtles posted on SPREP website. • Data from returned metals tags to be plotted in 2007 to show turtle movements. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>83,595</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>170,651</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>967</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>255,213</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(Output manager was able during the year to raise considerable additional funds that allowed more work to be done than planned)</p>	Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	83,595	Operating Costs	170,651	Capital Costs	967	Sub Total	255,213
Budget	Actual												
Personnel Costs	83,595												
Operating Costs	170,651												
Capital Costs	967												
Sub Total	255,213												

PROGRAMME 1

ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports to Roundtable for Nature Conservation on progress in the Bird Conservation Working Group. • Key sites supporting aggregations of threatened species/ecosystems identified and major threats identified and addressed. • Request from PICs addressed and training/workshop completed for at least one sub-region. • Regional and national action plans for dugongs, cetaceans (whales and dolphins) and turtles developed, supported and implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions undertaken with key individuals to improve progress reporting of bird working group. • Due to lack of funds, no sub-regional/regional consultations were conducted but in-country training on the regional turtle database (TREDS) conducted for relevant environment and fisheries staff in Vanuatu, Samoa, American Samoa, French Polynesia and Fiji. • No specific requests received from PICTs. However, turtle survey in-country attachments funded for Tonga and Tuvalu officers to Solomon Islands. • Supported a Fiji national 1-week marine turtle conservation training workshop and funded participation of officers from Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Samoa, in collaboration with USP. • Facilitated and financed satellite-tagging training in Samoa and French Polynesia. • Provided assistance to Samoa on developing marine species management plans. • Facilitated partners meeting to update technical information on cetaceans in the region, involving experts. The results will feed into the review of the regional Whale and Dolphin Action Plan scheduled for early 2007. • Secured funding and collaboration of partners for 2 regional training workshops with PDCT-NZ, NOAA-US, DOC-NZ, DEH-Australia, IFAW, SPWRC, WDCC and WSPA on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o capacity building on cetacean research and management, and o managing cetacean strandings. • Supported the review of measures for marine mammal conservation, protection and management in the Pacific Islands region in collaboration with IFAW. • Supported the review of Pacific Islands Whale Watch Tourism in collaboration with IFAW, SPTO & SPWRC. 	

PROGRAMME 1

: ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)										
<p>1.3.2 Threat posed by invasive species reduced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional invasive species, strategy revised, supported and implemented. National invasive species programmes and strategies developed and implemented. Tools and techniques to address key Pacific invasive species developed and shared. Regional and national capacity to prevent, quickly respond to, control and eradicate invasive species strengthened. Management measures for Invasive Marine Species provided to all PICs. Regional Strategy on Shipping Related Invasive Marine Species formulated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deferred to 2007 when the Invasive Species Officer commences work. Activities undertaken through the Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN): Pohnpei invasive species action plan drafted. Palau national invasive species committee action plan drafted. GEF Pacific Invasive Species Management (PISM) project delayed due to removal from GEF funding 'pipeline' – consultations with countries continuing. Evaluation made of benchmarks for the PILN partners relationship. Project management support given to the Aleipata Rat Eradication project in Samoa. Marshall Islands multi-agency workshop held to raise awareness of invasive species issues in country. PILN established as a partner in an RNHP funded project using skill sharing to eradicate rats on 6 atolls in Pohnpei. Project will take place January – February 2007. Country visits made to 5 of the initial PILN founding teams and to 4 of the second group of teams. Impact indicators for the PILN network identified and data collection begun. Ongoing national training courses on shipping-related marine issues. Regional strategy on Shipping Related Invasive Marine Species was presented and endorsed at the 17SM. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>50,027</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>281,677</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>107</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>331,811</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(Although \$100,000 of this output budget was unsecured, the staff contributing to this output raised considerable additional funds that enabled both planned and additional work to be done)</p>	Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	50,027	Operating Costs	281,677	Capital Costs	107	Sub Total	331,811
Budget	Actual												
Personnel Costs	50,027												
Operating Costs	281,677												
Capital Costs	107												
Sub Total	331,811												

PROGRAMME 1

: ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)													
<p>1.3.2 Effective management of migratory populations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional mechanisms and action plans developed for key bird localities or species. Key migratory species habitat identified and included in management agreements. Resources available to enable options for assistance to be developed. Engagement of CMS secretariat and support of key stakeholders towards the development of a CMS MoU for marine turtles. Turtle database on going and demonstrated regionally and beyond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity awaiting finalization and signature of MoU with BirdLife International. Distributed 3650 titanium flipper tags and 34 tag applicators sent out to Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Palau, Fiji, Samoa, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, FSM and Solomon Islands. Purchased and distributed 4000 tags, 100 tag applicators and 100 T-shirts for the tagging programme. Report recovery of tags to SPREP members and individuals concerned when a tag recover is reported. Facilitated and provided advice to SPREP dugong range states and territories for CMS MoU on Dugongs before and during the MoU negotiation meeting. Provided statements encouraging SPREP dugong range members to consider signing the CMS Dugong MoU. In collaboration with IFAW. Facilitated the finalization and opening for signing of the MoU under CMS for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region at 17th SM where 9 Members signed. Negotiations initiated with CMS and Oceania CMS parties for the development of a marine turtle MoU under CMS. Installed TREDIS version 3.3 in Vanuatu, Samoa, French Polynesia and Fiji. Trial of TREDIS in Vanuatu, Samoa, American Samoa, French Polynesia and Fiji is ongoing with regular updates using FTP. Development of TREDIS ongoing and a 'completed' version will be presented to member countries at the review of the Marine Species Action Plans in March 2007. Information on the development of TREDIS was documented on the 'Turtle Talk' newsletter. Funding secured for continuation of the Associate Turtle Database Operator position in 2007. 	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>62,769</td> <td>61,506</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>59,506</td> <td>43,967</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>1,200</td> <td>213</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>123,475</td> <td>105,686</td> </tr> </table>	Personnel Costs	62,769	61,506	Operating Costs	59,506	43,967	Capital Costs	1,200	213	Sub Total	123,475	105,686	
Personnel Costs	62,769	61,506														
Operating Costs	59,506	43,967														
Capital Costs	1,200	213														
Sub Total	123,475	105,686														

PROGRAMME 1

: ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year of the Sea Turtle activities agreed and funding secured for implementation. Ongoing linkages and information sharing with network partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding secured for YOST activities. Coordinating committee established and YOST campaign plan finalized. Launch of the 2006 Year of the Sea Turtle at SPREP and coordinated and provided assistance to national YOST launches in 12 member PICTs. 7 satellite transmitters attached to 7 turtles for the Pacific YOST campaign, in Samoa (2) and French Polynesia (5), including 2 more planned to be conducted in the beginning of 2007 in Tonga (1) and Fiji (1), in collaboration with the Marine Turtle Research Program, NOAA, Honolulu. Awareness and publicity materials produced and distributed. 3 TV commercials produced and distributed for airing. Turtle Talk Newsletter established Established Coordinating Committee for the Year of the Sea Turtle campaign. Marine Species Officer (MSO) and ATDO are members of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group. Exchanged and shared information with IOSEA-MOU Secretariat on activities of the 2006 YOST. YOST webpage under the SPREP website developed and operational. Year of the Sea Turtle 2006 Campaign Plan finalized. Pacific Islands cetacean list server network established at SPREP with 67 members. 	

PROGRAMME 1

: ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Programme Component: 1.4 – People and Institutions

Objective: Equip people and institutions of Pacific island countries and territories with capacity to manage their own environmental development

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)										
<p>Programme Component: 1.4 – People and Institutions</p> <p>1.4.1 Human development strategies in environment departments developed and implementation supported.</p>	<p>1.4 – People and Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity development needs of environment departments in Niue, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Marshall Islands, Cook Islands, Tonga reviewed and priorities identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds mobilized and transferred to support Niue pto build capacity to document and raise awareness of important environment and cultural sites and practices. Plan underway to review RMI Environmental. Protection Agency Strategic Plan and HRD priorities. Funds mobilized and transferred to support Cook Is. Environment Dept., implement of training activities for outer island staff following a previous needs assessment.. Training activities have started and reports expected. Training provided to officers in Tonga to enable the identification of priority capacity needs under the NCSA project. Priority capacity development needs of Solomon Islands Environment Dept. identified and department is awaiting recruitment of new officers. By the end of 2006 these positions had not yet been filled. IWP supported scholarship students from PNG, Kiribati, Tonga, Fiji, Palau, Cook Islands, Tuvalu and Solomon Islands at various institutions in the Pacific. All except two of 11 students graduated in December 2006 or earlier. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>91,979</td> <td>80,982</td> </tr> <tr> <td>147,200</td> <td>158,051</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>575</td> </tr> <tr> <td>239,179</td> <td>239,608</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>(Although \$60,000 was unsecured for this output, staff were nevertheless able to raise considerable additional funds to deliver on services and activities)</i></p>	Budget	Actual	91,979	80,982	147,200	158,051	0	575	239,179	239,608
Budget	Actual												
91,979	80,982												
147,200	158,051												
0	575												
239,179	239,608												

PROGRAMME 1

ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 6 training attachment activities implemented for Environment Department staff in countries that have identified training needs for staff. 1 volunteer placed in Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Tonga assisting Environment Departments implement identified activities and assisting with capacity development of staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training attachments arranged and carried out during the year benefited the following: field workers in Niue (invasives) Kiribati field staff (marine protected areas), Yap EPA staff (invasives), Tonga and Tuvalu environment officers (marine turtle monitoring) Assisted MSO to plan and implement attachments for officers from Tonga and Tuvalu to undertake training on turtle monitoring in Solomon Islands. Training attachment programme involving FSM NGO Officer and American Samoa EPA planned in collaboration with Associate Ramsar Officer - attachments postponed to early 2007. Collaborated with ESCO and IRCM to plan and implement attachments of 2 officers from Kiribati to SPREP in library management and communications - attachments postponed to early 2007. Guide for training attachments reviewed and made available for use by Programme Officers. Assisted IRCM to plan and evaluate training attachment of Tuvalu and Fiji officers in SPREP. Secured resources for training attachments of EIA officers from Tuvalu and Solomon Islands in Suva, Fiji - to be implemented in 2007. Funding transferred and local expert engaged to assist Kiribati Environment Dept with communications work.. The expert will train other staff in communications and awareness raising. Funds secured and transferred to Tonga environment department to support development of SOE Report and related training activities. Repetition 		

PROGRAMME 1

: ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 countries assisted with their National Capacity Self Assessments on the UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD and preparing final reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Department staff in at least 4 countries attending training in Project Cycle Management and applying skills in work place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-country training in NCSA methods and tools provided for Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands, and RMI. Training planned for Fiji in August 2006 and Nauru and Tuvalu in September 2006 could not be implemented as countries had yet to receive funding to start the NCSA. In-country training in NCSA methods and tools provided for Kiribati. Facilitated national workshop to finalise thematic report and assist with planning for the Cross-cutting and Action Plan in Solomon Islands. Planned with FSM to hold inception workshop in February 2007. Facilitated stakeholder meetings in Niue to plan for the development of Thematic Assessment and Cross-cutting Assessment Reports and the Action Plan. Supported training attachments in invasive species for the Pacific Invasive Learning Network. Planned and implemented training activities to assist countries develop project proposals for Medium Sized Projects in Sustainable Land Management. Conducted training in Samoa and Tonga for the development of UNCCD National Action Programmes. Initiated discussions with JICA and USP for coordinated EIA capacity building initiatives in the region. Supported MSO with planning of training on cetaceans. Assisted PILN Coordinator to plan and implement capacity building activities for Yap (FSM), RMI and Niue. Provided training for officers in Kiribati, RMI and Tuvalu for the development of UNCCD 3rd National Reports. Assisted Government of Kiribati to develop a GEF Medium size proposal on capacity building for sustainable land management. 	

PROGRAMME 1

: ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)										
<p>1.4.2 Regional and national environmental education, communications and awareness strategies developed and implementation supported.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least six capacity development activities designed, implemented and evaluated that are addressing PICTs needs and are supported by officers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed training for handling of hazardous waste through the SPREP/Basel Regional Training Centre. Supported training attachments in invasive species for the Pacific Invasive Learning Network. Planned and implemented training activities to assist countries develop project proposals for Medium Sized Projects in Sustainable Land Management. Conducted training in Samoa and Tonga for the development of UNCCD National Action Programmes. Supported MSO with planning of training on cetaceans. Assisted PILN Coordinator to plan and implement capacity building activities for Yap (FSM), RMI and Niue. Provided training for officers in Kiribati, RMI and Tuvalu for the development of UNCCD 3rd National Reports. Assisted Government of Kiribati to develop a GEF Medium size proposal on capacity building for sustainable land management. Reviews completed for Cook Islands, Samoa, Kiribati. Final reviews for Fiji and Vanuatu to be completed in March 2007. Final report to be distributed April 2007. Contributed to development of Pacific ESD Framework for the Pacific as member of ESD Working Group, endorsed by Education Ministers. Established partnership with key agencies –Pacific Youth Environmental Network (PYEN), UNEP (Regional office for Asia Pacific) and PACE-USP, SPC. Confirmation of partner support (in-kind, financial). Planning meeting conducted in November 2006 with key partners. Youth Leadership Forum taking place in Samoa in April 2007. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>131,616</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>330,872</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>462,488</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(Expenditure under this output should be taken together with those of output 2.4.4. \$35,000 of the budget for this output remain unsecured at the end of the year)</p>	Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	131,616	Operating Costs	330,872	Capital Costs	0	Sub Total	462,488
Budget	Actual												
Personnel Costs	131,616												
Operating Costs	330,872												
Capital Costs	0												
Sub Total	462,488												

PROGRAMME 1

: ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased capacity of National Contact Points for EE/ESD in education and communications. Number of people accessing database of experts. Number of resources developed for countries and territories (pertaining to national strategies for education and communication). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated three communications workshops: non-atolls in Suva, atolls in Kiribati, and Cook Islands national communications workshop attended by more than 100 participants. Workshops were made possible through funding from IWP as part of 'Mainstreaming IWP' initiative. Developed communications training guide for workshop participants. Facilitation of Climate Change Communications Workshop with Samoa Supported facilitation of Kiribati communications specialist. Developed listerv of environmental education and communications professionals in the Pacific. Going into the Mangroves education kit for upper-primary, lower-secondary levels in Samoa finalized and launched with teacher-training and media. Developed and submitted <i>Pacific Schools for a Sustainable Future</i> pilot programme focused on schools-based waste management. Developed information booklet on Samoa's regulations on plastic bags. Finalisation of <i>Pacific Forever: exploring environment for sustainable development in the Pacific</i>. Liaised with key partners for funding support for this kit: SOPAC, UNESCO, UNEP. Prepared <i>Pacific Sea Turtle Education Kit</i>. Prepared <i>Pacific Environmental Communications Guide</i>. Prepared draft <i>Climate Change Communications Guide</i>. 	

PROGRAMME 1

: ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1: Awareness Articles and radio programmes in national and regional media; increased utilisation of IWP web pages; number and quality of project videos broadcast on national and regional media; community communications activities (community theatre, competitions etc), number of print materials etc. Phase 2: Social Marketing Campaigns Campaign development workshops, Campaign Teams assembled, Audience Research & Pre-testing completed, Number of media and campaign activities completed, Monitoring & Evaluation Programmes Implemented. IWP web site statistics demonstrate increased utilisation of site-based IWP materials. Number of IWP-related articles in regional magazines. Number of IWP-related articles in national media. Number and quality of videos using IWP source material. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed Turtle Bag initiative (with Solid Waste Officer), as part of the Pacific Year of the Sea Turtle activities in Samoa. Secured funding and support from private sector and media, coordinated distribution, coordinated materials and media, liaised with MNREM regarding supporting materials, coordinated launch etc. Liaised with American Samoa, Kiribati and Fiji regarding replication of Turtle Bags in these countries. Supported integration of IWP Lessons Learnt through re-development of <i>Social Marketing Guide of the Pacific</i>. In Kiribati, the IWP Kiribati Communication Officer has been retained by government to help development of a communications and social marketing campaign plan for the Ministry of the Environment, following the successful implementation of the IWP communications strategy. IWP website utilization averaged 35,000 successful hits per quarter in 2006. Website statistics (see above) confirm increased utilization of site-based IWP materials. Two IWP-related articles prepared and published by Island Business. Communication campaign development workshops undertaken for Tuvalu and Kiribati while awareness raising initiatives (in some cases, involving the media) were carried out in the Cook Islands, Fiji and Tonga. IWP video and brochure completed and a number of radio and TV programmes broadcasted by country projects. Three country videos prepared during period. 	

PROGRAMME 1

: ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)										
<p>1.4.3 Regional and national environmental management capacity, clearinghouses information strategies and developed implementation supported.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication strategies supported and material produced using material from the coastal and marine sub-programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produced <i>Island Life</i> materials: fact sheets, media releases, news articles, promotional material (banner, postcards, posters), coordination of <i>Postcards from the Future</i> youth activity, development of documentary, case studies, multimedia presentation. Coordinated materials/launch/activities for the 2006 Pacific year of the Sea Turtle, including media, materials, newsletters, fact sheets, drafted Pacific Turtle Education Kit (jointly developed with WWF – launched in March 2007), turtle education reader, television commercials, "Turtle song" with video clip. Support provided to international days: World Wetlands Day, World Environment Day. Worked with Pacific Futures Programme to develop waste education kit including education kit, animated doco and 30 second TVCs. Supported the development and finalisation of the SPREP Corporate Communications Strategy. Presentation by Pacific IWP at First World Congress on Communications for Development, Rome, Italy. 4 databases established in the Environment Quality Protection Board (EQPB) and the Bureau of Marine Resources in Palau. Assessment undertaken in FSM and programme initiated for establishing an integrated national clearinghouse. PEIN clearinghouse integrated with the existing Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism hosted by the College of Micronesia and network expanded to include all 4 states in 2007. Assessments conducted and equipment/database installations and training (PEIN Phases I & II) in the following countries: Fiji, Samoa, Niue, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau, Tuvalu, and the Federated States of Micronesia. PEIN continued to assist SPREP's programme areas especially in-country work where the PEIN is establishing integrated clearinghouse mechanisms and networks between related departments (e.g., linking Dept. of Agriculture to the PEIN network in Samoa and Niue). 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>88,253</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>250,837</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>339,090</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>(The expenditure shown under capital were budgeted for under operating costs and relate to the hardware component of the PEIN project)</i></p>	Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	88,253	Operating Costs	250,837	Capital Costs	0	Sub Total	339,090
Budget	Actual												
Personnel Costs	88,253												
Operating Costs	250,837												
Capital Costs	0												
Sub Total	339,090												

PROGRAMME 1

: ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 Member countries operating effective environmental information resource centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 country attachments completed to support resource centre development: 3 to the Secretariat (Fiji, Tuvalu and FSM) and 1 country-country attachment between Samoa and Tuvalu. PEIN/Tuvalu webpage created for environmental information storage and sharing. Samoa learnt server setup skills from Tuvalu. 	
TOTAL PROGRAMME 1			
			Budget
			Actual
			Personnel Costs 756,627 661,447
			Operating Costs 2,095,507 1,777,047
			Capital Costs 8,700 121,576
			TOTAL 2,860,834 2,560,070

PROGRAMME 2

PACIFIC FUTURES

2. PACIFIC FUTURES

Programme Goal: Pacific island countries and territories able to plan and respond to threats and pressures on island and ocean systems.

The Pacific Futures Programme focuses on securing a healthy Pacific islands environment for present and future generations.

The Programme addresses two of the key medium/long-term environmental issues identified by SPREP Members in the regional Action Plan: climate change and pollution/waste management.

In terms of climate change, 2006 saw a significant increase in global awareness and concern, sparked by the release of a major report in the UK (the Stern Report) and the awareness raising activities of former US Vice President Gore. This set the scene for programme work on climate change adaptation and mitigation (through the use of renewable energy sources) as well as high level policy and support for international negotiations.

Pollution prevention and waste management remained a high priority issue, with ongoing attention on management of hazardous chemicals, marine pollution and solid waste.

The Pacific Futures Programme also focuses on improving environmental governance. This ranges from providing support to countries for participation and compliance with international environmental conventions, through to assistance with environmental policy, planning and legal/regulatory frameworks. A significant element of this work is in mainstreaming environmental issues into national sustainable development strategies and the like. Programme staff also provide technical support for specific tools and initiatives such as environmental impact assessments and state of the environment reporting.

Selected highlights for 2006 include:

- Development of a major funding proposal to the GEF on climate change adaptation; the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project.
- Final approval of the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP), designed to address barriers to the use of renewable energy technologies,
- Ongoing development of a strategic approach to the communication of climate information in association with national meteorological services in the region.
- Gaining additional funding to extend the SPREP's support for the regional strategy to phase out ozone depleting substances,
- Provision of support to members in gaining access to GEF funding; including agreement to the appointment of a GEF Support Adviser within the Pacific Futures Programme,
- Providing support for island member countries' participation in international conventions; in particular the at the Conference of Parties to the UN Biodiversity and Climate Change Conventions, but also other conventions dealing with specific aspects of biodiversity, chemicals/waste, etc.
- Support for regional conventions and the operation of the Joint Basel/Waigani centre for technology transfer,

PROGRAMME 2

PACIFIC FUTURES

- Regional coordination through roundtables and other meetings/workshops,
- Assisting development of National Waste Strategies,
- Ongoing participation in the Pops in PICs project,
- Conclusion of a regional strategy on shipping-related marine invasive species,
- Training in chemicals handling and waste management,
- Funding agreement for a regional project on electronic waste,
- Support for legislative reviews and compliance,.
- Specific waste initiatives: options for waste on atolls - focussing on waste minimisation, use of plastic bags, recycling, and
- Regional collaboration with CROP agencies on energy, water/waste, climate change, the Pacific Plan etc.

In terms of programme management 2006 has seen consolidation of the Pacific Futures Programme team with increased focus on medium term objectives and promoting linkages of key work areas (such as climate change and biodiversity) within the organisation and beyond.

New staff have been recruited to work on climate change and sustainable development, but gaps remained in the areas of environmental policy/planning and monitoring/reporting during 2006.

Total Budget	Actual Expenditures	Rate of spending
USD3,323,628	USD3,165,966	95%

PROGRAMME 2

: PACIFIC FUTURES

Component: 2.1 – Managing multilateral environmental agreements and regional coordination mechanisms
Objective: Increase PICTs capacity to manage MEAs and other relevant regional mechanisms and international agreements

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)												
Programme Component: 2.1.1 Management of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and relevant international agreements by PICTS supported.	2.1 – Multilateral environmental, international agreements and regional coordination mechanisms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A plan of assistance ready by early 2006. At least 3 activities commenced. Preparatory meeting held which enables effective participation in CBD COP 8. PICTs supported through CBD process and one high profile side event held. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal assistance provided to support member countries participation in the Convention on Biodiversity and pollution related conventions. 2' MEA activities commenced; negotiations training (Marshall Islands, FSM and Fiji); Tonga work on integrated law on chemical conventions. Preparatory meeting held in Nadi. Based on evaluation, it was very informative and enabled participants to adequately prepare for COP 8, to lobby and strategise where relevant, and to mobilize national level support. Support provided to countries at COP 8. High level side event held on leadership in Island Biodiversity and another day long side event held on community level island biodiversity with UNDP Equator Initiative and was considered highly successful, based on verbal feedback from participants. COP 8 saw the adoption of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity. This represented the culmination of several years' work by Pacific Island Countries, global SIDS, NGOs and SPREP. This provides a globally agreed platform for biodiversity work for the Pacific region. Side event presenting selected case studies was held at COP 8 during Equator Initiative Community Taba. Case studies published by SPREP after COP 8 under the title "Island Life: Celebrating Pacific Island Biodiversity: case Studies of island life", which was distributed to all members. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>103,318</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>258,034</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital costs</td> <td>600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>361,953</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">608,076</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(Again staff contributing to this output were able to raise considerable additional funds to accomplish these achievements relative to budgeted activities. Expenditure for this output to be taken together with output 2.1.4)</p>	Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	103,318	Operating Costs	258,034	Capital costs	600	Sub Total	361,953	608,076	
Budget	Actual														
Personnel Costs	103,318														
Operating Costs	258,034														
Capital costs	600														
Sub Total	361,953														
608,076															

PROGRAMME 2

: PACIFIC FUTURES

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)										
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAPs produced in at least 4 PICs. Draft framework for the SRAP presented to the 17th SPREP Meeting. At least 10 PIC representatives to CRIC 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Action Programme (NAP) for UNCCD land degradation completed by Samoa and officially launched. Tonga and Kiribati have developed draft NAPs and undertaking final revisions Cook Islands, FSM, RMI, Nauru and Vanuatu are developing their draft NAPs for completion in 2007. Regional consultations for the development of Sub-Regional Action Programme (SRAP) has been rescheduled for 2007 when the majority of countries have completed their NAPs. Delegates from Fiji, FSM, Cook Islands, Niue, Kiribati, Samoa, Palau, Vanuatu, Nauru and Tuvalu participated in the CRIC5 preparatory meeting in Bangkok 2006 for the Asia Pacific Region. The CRIC 5 meeting was re-scheduled for March 2007. 											
2.1.2 Implementation of the Apia, Noumea and Waigani Conventions supported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on what activities were completed. A successfully concluded COP. Report on what activities were completed. A plan ready by early 2006. A plan ready before the end of 2006. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on Apia Convention activities completed and presented at COP8. Concept paper delivered at COP8 setting out options for the future of the Convention. The CoP considered the paper however agreed instead to suspend the Convention indefinitely. Apia Convention COP 8 successfully conducted. Report on Noumea Convention activities completed and presented at COP 8. Amendments to the Convention protocols on dumping and pollution emergencies considered, adopted and signed after being held over from the 2005 Conference of Plenipotentiaries – now open for ratifications. Coastal and marine work consistent with the Noumea Convention carried out through integrated programmatic work described under component 1.2. Awaiting placement UNEP-SPREP officer in 2007 before planning joint UNEP-SPREP activities under the Noumea Convention. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>31,198</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>50,644</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>127,863</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>(The staff were again successful in raising additional funds to allow for more activities and services to be provided)</i></p>	Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	31,198	Operating Costs	50,644	Capital Costs	0	Sub Total	127,863
Budget	Actual												
Personnel Costs	31,198												
Operating Costs	50,644												
Capital Costs	0												
Sub Total	127,863												

PROGRAMME 2

: PACIFIC FUTURES

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)															
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A successfully concluded COP. Report on what activities was completed. National Workshop concluded. Consultant hired to assist in drafting the Framework. Progress on at least three recommendations. One new Party to either Convention. A successfully concluded COP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noumea Convention COP 8 successfully conducted. Report on progress of Waigani Convention activities arising from COP 2; report completed and presented at COP 3. Tonga workshop on chemical MEAs concluded (ref component 2.1.1) Framework on chemical MEAs completed. <p>Three STAC 1 recommendations were actioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> strengthened collaboration with the Secretariats of the Stockholm and Basel Conventions Cooperated with the Stockholm Convention Secretariat regarding assistance to countries in finalising National Implementation Plans secured funds to hold a workshop on reporting and inventories of hazardous wastes. No new Parties to either the Waigani or Basel Conventions. Palau investigating ratification of Basel Convention. Vanuatu investigating ratification of Waigani. Waigani Convention COP 3 successfully concluded. 																
<p>2.1.3 PIC environmental legislation enhanced to meet MEA and International Development Goal obligations and objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A timetable of activities drawn up in consultation with each officer within SPREP that requires such assistance. Liaison with appropriate regional or national personnel in determining the optimal way of delivering this assistance. A legal web page developed with relevant legal information (MEAs, coordination mechanisms, national laws, etc). Laws drafted in a form ready for submission to the appropriate legislative body in at least 2 countries. All requests promptly responded to. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A timetable of assistance drawn up in relation to biodiversity and pollution prevention. MEA assistance provided to 3 countries by way of negotiations training and to the region by way of reporting assistance. Legal web page completed (to assist with queries on MEAs and domestic laws). Assistance provided to one country (Nauru) with respect to environmental legislation. There were several requests from PICs, which were answered promptly. The 2 most significant requests were from Nauru (Environment Act) and Tuvalu (ODS legislation). 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>31,198</td> <td>32,269</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>19,238</td> <td>13,330</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>50,436</td> <td>45,599</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	31,198	32,269	Operating Costs	19,238	13,330	Capital Costs	0	0	Sub Total	50,436	45,599
	Budget	Actual																
Personnel Costs	31,198	32,269																
Operating Costs	19,238	13,330																
Capital Costs	0	0																
Sub Total	50,436	45,599																

PROGRAMME 2

: PACIFIC FUTURES

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)														
<p>2.1.4 Coordination mechanisms supporting harmonising environment sustainable development policy and programmes enhanced.</p>	<p>• Effective Roundtable meeting held.</p> <p>• Roundtable management group meeting held, online inventory and volunteer tasks lists updated and reported, and working groups communicating effectively between meetings.</p> <p>• Roundtable meeting of the Coasts and Marine Working Group held.</p> <p>• Meeting reports for the CROP MSWG.</p> <p>• Annual reports to the SPREP Meeting on Secretariat activities associated with the PIROP.</p> <p>• Terminal Report for the IWP reports outcomes and issues associated with Project-related initiatives to address the root causes for priority environmental concerns identified in the 1998 SAP.</p>	<p>• Roundtable for Nature Conservation (Roundtable) meeting held in Fiji involving donors, NGOs, CROP agencies and national biodiversity coordinators affirms outcomes of Monitoring and Evaluation exercise and confirms a new way forward for the Roundtable with greater focus on supporting countries with the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.</p> <p>• Roundtable webpage developed www.sprep.org/roundtable. Data and information needs of the Roundtable supported by the Pacific Biodiversity Information forum following a year of discussion leading to the tools being developed to be available on line and managed including the Pacific Protected Areas Database.</p> <p>• Online inventory of Conservation Activities in the Pacific region available for input into and Volunteer Tasks Database developed.</p> <p>• Working group disbanded at last Roundtable meeting in July 2006 as it was no longer considered the most effective mechanism in light of other activities.</p> <p>• SPREP participated in meetings of the Land Resources WG, Sustainable Development WG and the Marine Sector WG. Minutes of all meetings are circulated to all participating agencies. Major achievement of the MSWG was development of a Blue sector initiative for EU support under EDF 10</p> <p>• Information paper for SPREP meeting prepared on SPREP activities implementing the PIROP. Blue sector initiative to EDF 10 is designed to advance PIROP activities.</p> <p>• Terminal evaluation of the IWP commenced in May and by the time of writing, the report has not been received, although receipt of the report is expected in early 2007. IWP outcomes and issues associated with project initiatives were specific requirements of the evaluation report.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>134,750</td> <td>52,470</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>98,506</td> <td>110,789</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>0</td> <td>1,164</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>233,256</td> <td>164,423</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(Expenditure to be taken together with 2.1.1. Note also the posts of Sustainable Development Adviser and Environmental officer that work on these outputs were vacant during the year)</p>	Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	134,750	52,470	Operating Costs	98,506	110,789	Capital Costs	0	1,164	Sub Total	233,256	164,423
Budget	Actual																
Personnel Costs	134,750	52,470															
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Capital Costs	0	1,164															
Sub Total	233,256	164,423															

PROGRAMME 2

: PACIFIC FUTURES

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established CROP mechanism for collaborative Regional GEF Project Development and Implementation. • Pacific Brief to GEF Governing Councils and dissemination of GEF Report to member focal points elaborating on issues of interest and affecting Pacific recipient countries. • Support from Metropolitan SPREP members for Pacific SIDS GEF Regional Projects. • Clear recommendations from CROP working group on Sustainable Development outlining activities for collaboration amongst CROP on sustainable development programmes. • CROP Heads Decisions reflect progress on collaborative efforts of the CROP in sustainable development. • Environmental Priorities for Regional Collaboration reflected under sustainable development section of Pacific Plan and its Plan of Implementation. • Finalized Pacific Matrix for implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the BPOA, incorporating Pacific environmental policy and partnerships for implementation. • Joint regional submission to the CSD 14. • All requests promptly responded to. • A legal web page developed with relevant legal information (MEAs, coordination mechanisms, national laws, etc). • All requests promptly responded to. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CROP Heads have agreed to designate SPREP as coordinator and facilitator for regional projects for the GEF and SPREP has now recruited a GEF support Adviser to provide support to PICs with the implementation of the GEF's new Resource Allocation Framework. • Briefing material was developed in association with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and provided to GEF Focal points and Pacific Ambassadors in New York in relation to 2 GEF Council meetings, the GEF Assembly and one GEF constituency meeting. • Support gained through GEF Council for PDF-B project on climate change adaptation • Sustainable Development Working Group met several times during 2006. Successful CROP collaboration over participation in CSD 14, but the WG has not always been effective in promoting collaboration, and this is reflected in CROP Heads' decisions. • CROP Heads have consolidated regional agencies collaboration on sustainable development work. • The Pacific Plan acknowledges key objectives and priorities in climate change, pollution and waste, biodiversity, and improved management of natural resources under its sustainable development objective. • SPREP reported on Mauritius strategy implementation at MIS meeting (Apia) and at the Global Oceans Forum (Paris). SPREP contributed to matrix on all Mauritius Strategy initiatives coordinated by PIFS. • SPREP, in collaboration with SOPAC and PIFS, prepared a joint regional submission to the CSD14 and assisted the PICs and PIF Group with briefing materials on the CSD14 thematic cluster of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution and climate change. • See above, 2.1.3, first bullet point. • Website developed, and maintained periodically (http://192.168.10.13/legal/index.asp) • There were several requests from PICs, which were answered promptly. The 2 most significant requests were from Nauru (Environment Act) and Tuvalu (ODS legislation). 	

PROGRAMME 2

: PACIFIC FUTURES

Component: 2.2 – Environment monitoring and reporting

Objective: Improve means to monitor and report on environmental performance and socio economic pressures on the environment

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)										
<p>Programme Component: 2.2 – Environment monitoring and reporting</p> <p>2.2.1 National & regional capacity to monitor and report on the state of environment enhanced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring framework developed and reported to Roundtable Management Group Meeting in January 2007. Indicators for key environmental protection and sustainable development issues agreed by at least 4 PICTs for use in state of the environment reporting. Key environment and sustainable development indicators and available regional data aggregated into a SPREP database and represented in the PRISM (SPC) website. Country Profile template enhanced to incorporate indicators for regional state of the environment reporting Monitoring activities for coastal and marine environments and their use consistent with regional/national frameworks. Integrated information systems used by PICTs to assist SOE and environmental planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft report reviewing the Roundtable, the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation and suggested indicators was presented to Roundtable 10 in Fiji in July 2006. A second report on progress against the Action Strategy and indicators was developed and presented to the Roundtable Management Group Meeting in March 2007 and will be discussed at the 2007 Nature Conservation Conference in PNG. Technical support provided in the context of National Capacity Self-Assessment and capacity development projects. Continued work with CROP on indicators for International Development Goals. Aggregation into SPREP database and link to PRISM not achieved due to lack of resources in this area. country profiles/country reporting adopted by the 17th SPREP meeting Support for monitoring in the coastal and marine environment provided in the context of the Marine Sector Working Group and PIROF. Work continued on identifying data gaps for sustainable development (refer comments on MDGs above) Preliminary discussions held with SOPAC on GIS, but this work not prioritised in 2006. Tonga Environment Dept. opted to use their own staff to progress development of a State of Environment Report and will use resources provided to support consultation costs and publications. MoU with Tonga Environment Dept. completed and funds transferred. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft report reviewing the Roundtable, the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation and suggested indicators was presented to Roundtable 10 in Fiji in July 2006. A second report on progress against the Action Strategy and indicators was developed and presented to the Roundtable Management Group Meeting in March 2007 and will be discussed at the 2007 Nature Conservation Conference in PNG. Technical support provided in the context of National Capacity Self-Assessment and capacity development projects. Continued work with CROP on indicators for International Development Goals. Aggregation into SPREP database and link to PRISM not achieved due to lack of resources in this area. country profiles/country reporting adopted by the 17th SPREP meeting Support for monitoring in the coastal and marine environment provided in the context of the Marine Sector Working Group and PIROF. Work continued on identifying data gaps for sustainable development (refer comments on MDGs above) Preliminary discussions held with SOPAC on GIS, but this work not prioritised in 2006. Tonga Environment Dept. opted to use their own staff to progress development of a State of Environment Report and will use resources provided to support consultation costs and publications. MoU with Tonga Environment Dept. completed and funds transferred. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>33,843</td> <td>15,685</td> </tr> <tr> <td>170,237</td> <td>23,228</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>373</td> </tr> <tr> <td>204,080</td> <td>39,286</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>(Under expenditure reflect the fact the post of Environment Officer was vacant for the year)</i></p>	Budget	Actual	33,843	15,685	170,237	23,228	0	373	204,080	39,286
Budget	Actual												
33,843	15,685												
170,237	23,228												
0	373												
204,080	39,286												

PROGRAMME 2

PACIFIC FUTURES

Component: 2.3 – Climate change, climate variability, sea level rise and atmosphere

Objective: Improve PICTs understanding of and strengthen their capacity to respond to climate change, climate variability and sea level rise

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)																
Programme Component: 2.3.1 National meteorological and climatological capacities strengthened.	2.3 – Climate change, climate variability, sea level rise and atmosphere <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds for the 2006 RMSD meeting secured. • PIGCOS Regional Steering Group Meeting convened and report developed. • At least 10 Officers knowledge and understanding of climate change and meteorological issues increased. • Proposal on CLIPAC Phase II developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate funds secured from NOAA, GCOS, WMO, and AusAID (via Bureau of Meteorology). Meeting held in Noumea, New Caledonia, July 10 – 14th. • PI-GCOS SC meeting held in conjunction with 11RMSD with activities identified for PI-GCOS officer for implementation followed up. • Training workshops conducted late 2005 and mid-2006 in Samoa, French territories and in the USA (Hawaii) involving a total of more than 20 officers. • The CLIPAC proposal was revised and developed and under consideration by potential donors. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>94,109</td> <td>77,711</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>13,698</td> <td>98,292</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>200</td> <td>604</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>108,007</td> <td>176,607</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>(Again, staff of this output were able to raise considerable additional funds to enable a higher service delivery)</i></p>		Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	94,109	77,711	Operating Costs	13,698	98,292	Capital Costs	200	604	Sub Total	108,007	176,607	
	Budget	Actual																	
Personnel Costs	94,109	77,711																	
Operating Costs	13,698	98,292																	
Capital Costs	200	604																	
Sub Total	108,007	176,607																	
2.3.2 Climate information consolidated and available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An MoU between SPREP and East West Centre, University of Hawaii agreed upon and signed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No progress on MoU due to personnel changes at the East West Centre. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>22,579</td> <td>13,847</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>10,228</td> <td>12,144</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>200</td> <td>373</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>33,007</td> <td>26,364</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	22,579	13,847	Operating Costs	10,228	12,144	Capital Costs	200	373	Sub Total	33,007	26,364	
	Budget	Actual																	
Personnel Costs	22,579	13,847																	
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PROGRAMME 2

: PACIFIC FUTURES

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)												
			Budget	Actual											
2.3.3 Measures to adapt to the impacts of climate change strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesis report for the Capacity Building for the Development of Adaptation Measures in Pacific Island Countries project developed. A Full Size Adaptation Project Proposal completed and presented to the GEF Council in 2006. AusAID Vulnerability and Adaptation initiative developed. Full project proposals and stocktaking report for 3 PICs developed and submitted to UNDP/GEF. Five PICs satisfied with SPREP assistance to the development of their NCSA reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesis report in progress for completion in 2007.. GEF approved the PACC PDFB for the development of the PACC Full Size GEF Project. PACC PDFB Inception Workshop held in Nadi, Fiji completed with participation from Cooks, Fiji, FSM, PNG, Niue, Nauru, Samoa, Solomons, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. PACC PDFB national consultations completed for Cooks, Fiji, FSM, PNG, Niue, Nauru, Samoa, Solomons, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. PACC PDFB Project Formulation Workshop held in Nadi, Fiji completed with attendance from Cooks, Fiji, FSM, PNG, Niue, Nauru, Samoa, Solomons, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu The vulnerability and adaptation initiative funded by AusAID is being delivered through bilateral agreements between AusAID and participating countries. SPREP had no further involvement during 2006 Work on the 2nd NATCOM stocktaking and proposal development in progress. The following countries have approval for 2nd NATCOM and funds disbursed (Cook Islands, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Vanuatu). The following have approval for SNC, but funds have not yet been disbursed (FSM, Papua New Guinea, Tonga). The following have not submitted proposals yet for SNC (Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu). Assisted in the carrying out of Vanuatu's NCSA training and inputs from SPREP appreciated. 	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>119,957</td> <td>108,834</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>68,132</td> <td>237,083</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>12,200</td> <td>3,382</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>200,289</td> <td>349,299</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>(Although \$47,000 was unsecured for this budget again staff were able to secure considerable additional funds to enable a higher level of activity and services to PICTs)</i></p>	Personnel Costs	119,957	108,834	Operating Costs	68,132	237,083	Capital Costs	12,200	3,382	Sub Total	200,289	349,299
Personnel Costs	119,957	108,834													
Operating Costs	68,132	237,083													
Capital Costs	12,200	3,382													
Sub Total	200,289	349,299													

PROGRAMME 2

: PACIFIC FUTURES

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)										
<p>2.3.4 Mitigation options promoted and response measures strengthened.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority activities to be addressed in the different components of the Pacific Islands Climate Change Framework Action Plan agreed upon. At least 2 PICs satisfied with SPREP's assistance in the development of their NAPA. Project document completed and official GEF approval of adaptation project. COP briefs prepared. Cumulative carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions reduced by 13.2 kilo tons. At least 2 resources monitoring studies completed. At least 2 renewable energy projects reviewed and assisted to improve sustainability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority activities on adaptation and mitigation relevant to the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change will be incorporated in the Action Plan (under development), and coordinated under the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable. Assisted in the carrying out of Samoa and Vanuatu's NAPA training and inputs from SPREP acknowledged. After extensive consultations with 11 countries and two regional workshops this initiative is now part of the PACCC project (first dot point under 2.3.3). Brief prepared and attendance at COP 12 of UNFCCC in support of PICs. All the activities and indicators in output 2.3.4 were written in anticipation of the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) being approved by the GEF and implementation started in 2006. GEF approval was not concluded until September 2006, so implementation will begin in 2007. Although PIGGAREP was not approved, other activities were delivered under this output as described below (blank indicates that no activity was not undertaken in the absence of PIGGAREP) Resource monitoring studies conducted for all PICs. Consulted meteorology directors on PIGGAREP support for national solar and wind monitoring studies Reviewed the Ha'apai solar electrification programme in Tonga. Shared the successful experiences of Willies Electrical in the Solomon Is with Fiji, Tonga and Tuvalu. Completed a renewable energy assessment study report for Fiji under the PIREP. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>115,159</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>415,217</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>3,620</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>118,774</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(The very low expenditure relative to the budget was due mainly to the \$408,410 we expected from GEF/UNDP to launch PIGGAREP which will now happen in 2007)</p>	Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	115,159	Operating Costs	415,217	Capital Costs	3,620	Sub Total	118,774
Budget	Actual												
Personnel Costs	115,159												
Operating Costs	415,217												
Capital Costs	3,620												
Sub Total	118,774												

PROGRAMME 2

: PACIFIC FUTURES

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 5 Mega Watt of additional renewable energy capacity installed. • At least US\$1 million of additional income generating opportunities. • At least 1000 additional households served with renewable energy. • At least 6 additional social services using renewable energy. • At least 2 PIC nationals are able to design and implement renewable energy projects. • At least 2 PICs have effective national energy coordination committees, clear mandates, strategies and plans. • At least US\$20 million of new investments in renewable energy. • At least 4 feasible projects identified, studied and fully develop as a proposal. • At least 2 PICs with environment / energy legislations that support renewable energy. • Energy sector professionals, politicians, investors, senior govt officials and the general public from at least 2 PICs are aware of renewable energy and local success stories. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot be achieved due to PIGGAREP not started. • Completed drafting and reviewing the US\$2.65 million Action for the Development of Renewable Energy in the Marshall Islands (ADMIRE) • Participated in the development of an Australian Government Strategic Framework to help improve the access to and use of renewable energy in the Pacific region. • Established project country teams in PICs to facilitate effective coordination and closer collaboration among project stakeholders. [This was originally in the dot point below] • Not realised due to project being deferred to 2007. • Completed a preliminary feasibility study of electrifying Vella la Vella with renewable energy. • PIREP renewable energy assessments published. Other activities that were completed but do not relate directly to an indicator • Provided on-site technical training to an officer from Namara village (Fiji). • Assisted SOPAC with the conduct of a sub-regional workshop on renewable energy attended by Fiji, Solomon Is, Tonga and Vanuatu. 	

PROGRAMME 2

: PACIFIC FUTURES

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)										
<p>2.3.5 Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) phase out supported.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National and regional consultation implemented in at least 4 PICs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations carried out for 5 PICs in first half of 2006 towards preparation of Institutional Strengthening Proposals Institutional Strengthening proposals approved for funding at 49th EXCOM. Consultations carried out for remaining 4 PICs in second half of 2006. Proposals approved for funding at 50th EXCOM. Document available on UNEP website Collated comments and responses on proposals as requested from Implementing Agency (UNEP). Third and Final Regional Thematic Meeting held for PICs (Jan 2006), in Suva to discuss outstanding activities, future actions and work-plan for Niue, Nauru and Cook Islands. Report available on SPREP website. Technical advice provided to Cook Islands (10 technicians trained) on post Refrigeration Training activities and procurement of further equipment. Draft legislation for Cook Islands and Niue completed in December 2006. Palau Customs Training completed in August 2006. All draft regulations for 8 PICs (Cook Islands, FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu) completed. Consultations on regulations in progress. Assistance provided to FSM, Vanuatu and Tuvalu in response to specific requests. ODS clean-up proposal developed and funding being sought for implementation. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>68,279</td> <td>54,525</td> </tr> <tr> <td>182,205</td> <td>107,812</td> </tr> <tr> <td>200</td> <td>373</td> </tr> <tr> <td>250,684</td> <td>162,710</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(Lower expenditure than budgeted due to UNEP funds not being released because some PICs participating in project failed to meet agreed milestones)</p>	Budget	Actual	68,279	54,525	182,205	107,812	200	373	250,684	162,710
Budget	Actual												
68,279	54,525												
182,205	107,812												
200	373												
250,684	162,710												

PROGRAMME 2

PACIFIC FUTURES

Component: 2.4 – Waste Management and Pollution Control

Objective: Assist and enhance the PIC capabilities to manage and respond to marine pollution, hazardous waste, solid waste, sewerage and other land-based sources of pollution

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)															
Programme Component: 2.4 – Waste management and pollution control																		
2.4.1 Control of marine pollution by PICTs supported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine spill contingency plans and responses supported/improved in 7 PICs. Environmental management supported/improved in 3 PIC ports. Improved regional networking and representation to IMO, legal drafting assistance provided to 3 PICs and reply to all PIC requests for technical and policy advice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance with Marine Spill Contingency Plans and training provided to Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Palau, American Samoa, Samoa, and Tuvalu. National training course held in each of the PICT's above to train on spill planning and response and exercise their national contingency plans. Assistance with port environmental management provided to Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa and Tonga. Legal drafting assistance provided to Cook Islands, Fiji and FSM. Assistance to Cook Islands was to revise legislation passed in 2000 to enable adoption of new Conventions. Fiji and FSM legislation still in draft form and waiting to incorporate comments from national consultation process. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>70,933</td> <td>73,718</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>137,421</td> <td>46,656</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>0</td> <td>605</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>208,353</td> <td>120,979</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(Lower expenditure relative to budget was due to IMO funds not being received)</p>		Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	70,933	73,718	Operating Costs	137,421	46,656	Capital Costs	0	605	Sub Total	208,353	120,979
	Budget	Actual																
Personnel Costs	70,933	73,718																
Operating Costs	137,421	46,656																
Capital Costs	0	605																
Sub Total	208,353	120,979																
2.4.2 Management of hazardous substances and waste in PICTs supported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 2 work completed in Palau. Permits approved for remaining 5 PICs. Post Country project implementation completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This work was delayed initially as Palau is not a party to the Basel or the Waigani Conventions and the targeted transformers containing the PCB-contaminated oil were removed by a metal recycling company and the oils discharged. Import permits for all remaining countries (except Vanuatu and Palau) were approved by the Australian Government under the POPs in PICs initiative Post project implementation was completed as part of the project in 2006. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>50,830</td> <td>47,769</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>41,688</td> <td>48,524</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>3,000</td> <td>923</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>95,518</td> <td>97,216</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	50,830	47,769	Operating Costs	41,688	48,524	Capital Costs	3,000	923	Sub Total	95,518	97,216
	Budget	Actual																
Personnel Costs	50,830	47,769																
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PROGRAMME 2

: PACIFIC FUTURES

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)															
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input into project report provided to GHD PLC. Post Project Survey completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPREP's input into the project report was not done because the project had not been formally completed. This work will now be undertaken as part of the future regional work on hazardous waste. Technical advice and support was provided to Kiribati in rehabilitating and repackaging of their expired pharmaceutical waste and drawing up a destruction plan for the waste. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>113,950</td> <td>101,813</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>50,996</td> <td>17,626</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>3,000</td> <td>373</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>167,946</td> <td>119,812</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	113,950	101,813	Operating Costs	50,996	17,626	Capital Costs	3,000	373	Sub Total	167,946	119,812
	Budget	Actual																
Personnel Costs	113,950	101,813																
Operating Costs	50,996	17,626																
Capital Costs	3,000	373																
Sub Total	167,946	119,812																
<p>2.4.3 National Implementation Plans (NIPs) for Stockholm Convention produced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans (NIPs) developed. Preparatory arrangements for Regional Stockholm Convention Centre completed. Draft guidelines for proper chemical management in PICTs developed. Distributed Guidelines to the PICTs and comments received and consolidated National personnel trained on management of solid waste. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisted Tuvalu and FSM in the development of their respective NIPs. Technical advice provided to the UNEP Lessons Learned and Best Practices workshop from the development of NIPs in the region. Preparatory arrangements not made due to Stockholm Convention COP-2 deferring making a decision on the regional centre to COP-3 Draft guidelines developed and scheduled to be finalised in 2007.. The guidelines were not circulated because they were not finalised. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>116,571</td> <td>54,655</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>543,739</td> <td>912,899</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>0</td> <td>755</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>660,309</td> <td>968,309</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>(expenditure under this output should be taken together with those of output 1.4.2)</i></p>		Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	116,571	54,655	Operating Costs	543,739	912,899	Capital Costs	0	755	Sub Total	660,309	968,309
	Budget	Actual																
Personnel Costs	116,571	54,655																
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Capital Costs	0	755																
Sub Total	660,309	968,309																
<p>2.4.4 Management of solid and liquid waste in PICTs supported.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landfill facilities and management in 5 PICTs improved. Regional guidelines on improved waste disposal plans developed. Assistance for National waste management policies provided to 7 PICTs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most recent workshop was held in Nov 2005 so the 2006 course postponed to early 2007. Training course on community-based waste minimisation held for atoll countries in Kiribati New landfills being built in Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, Palau and Guam. Donors (NZAID, AusAID, EU, AFD) informed of cost-effectiveness of semi-aerobic methodology. Regional Strategy and action plan published and distributed to all PICTs. Guidelines on landfilling, semi-aerobic landfills, asbestos management, waste strategy development, waste minimisation published on SPREP website. "Waste is a Resource" DVD-based library produced and distributed. Technical and policy advice provided to Tonga, Kiribati, Samoa, Fiji, Niue, Tokelau, and Tuvalu. Re-usable shopping bags produced and distributed to support Samoa's plastic bag ban. 																

PROGRAMME 2

: PACIFIC FUTURES

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance for National waste management integrated communication mechanisms provided to 7 PICTs. At least one community in up to eight countries (Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Fiji) participating in the IWP actively managing waste and other impacts of land-based sources of pollution. Recovery in environment health demonstrated through periodic monitoring relative to baseline situations in communities in up to eight IWP participating countries implementing demonstration initiatives to address the root cause(s) for poor waste management and threats to the marine environment from land-based sources. IWP input to national-level institutional arrangements for waste management documented and verifiable. IWP Terminal Reports describe processes and outcomes associated with addressing the root causes for threats to the marine environment from waste and other sources of land-based pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance to develop and integrate communications mechanisms in waste strategies provided to Tonga, Kiribati, Samoa, Fiji, Niue, Tokelau, and Tuvalu. Waste reduction programmes are being implemented in Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Palau, Tonga and Marshall Islands. More than one community in most of these countries are actively participating in waste management. Periodic monitoring underway in Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Palau, Tonga and Marshall Islands. Although there is observed cleanliness in pilot sites, it is too early to say if environment health has recovered as a result of IWP input. IWP input has assisted up-scaling of some IWP activities to national level programmes and initiatives in a number of IWP Terminal Evaluation commenced in May but report not received at time of writing. 	

PROGRAMME 2

PACIFIC FUTURES

Component: 2.5 – Environmental policy and planning

Objective: Provide tools to improve the means to respond to pressures, emerging threats and opportunities through integrated assessment and planning processes

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)													
Programme Component: 2.5 – Environmental policy and planning																
2.5.1 EIA and integrated environmental planning tools and mechanisms enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PICTs able to access information on EIA, SEA and integrated planning through advisory services and SPREP website links. • Resources on EIA, SEA and integrated planning availed to PICTs as outputs from the regional training workshop. • Draft toolkit approach for the integrated assessment and planning presented to the 17th SPREP Meeting • Inclusion in SPREP newsletters and website articles on linkages between trade and environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical advice provided to countries on request. • Regional training workshop developed in association with JICA and re-scheduled for January 2007. • Delay in completion of case studies caused this action to be deferred. • Review of environmental impacts of trade agreements (EPA, PICTA, PACER) being developed with PIFS under the PACREIP project. 	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>22,095</td> <td>6,488</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>42,188</td> <td>4,895</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>64,283</td> <td>11,383</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>(The lower than budgeted expenditure for this output reflect the vacancy in the post of Environmental Officer and an unsecured sum of \$30,000)</i></p>	Personnel Costs	22,095	6,488	Operating Costs	42,188	4,895	Capital Costs	0	0	Sub Total	64,283	11,383	
Personnel Costs	22,095	6,488														
Operating Costs	42,188	4,895														
Capital Costs	0	0														
Sub Total	64,283	11,383														
2.5.2 Implementation of national sustainable development strategies to mainstream environment into national planning processes supported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 4 Pacific SIDS supported by SPREP through advice on the development and/or implementation of their National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS's) or the like. • National environment objectives incorporated into NSDSs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support provided in association with PIFS on National Sustainable Development Strategies. • NBSAP meeting focused on mainstreaming environmental and biodiversity issues into NSDSs and enabled coordinators to understand the impediments and how to make it happen. Activities developed by SPREP and others to support this in 2007. 	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>48,982</td> <td>14,909</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>20,688</td> <td>14,537</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td>69,669</td> <td>29,446</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>(The expenditure for this output to be taken together with the previous one)</i></p>	Personnel Costs	48,982	14,909	Operating Costs	20,688	14,537	Capital Costs	0	0	Sub Total	69,669	29,446	
Personnel Costs	48,982	14,909														
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TOTAL PROGRAMME 2			<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td>1,177,751</td> <td>861,905</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td>2,122,857</td> <td>2,287,541</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td>23,020</td> <td>16,520</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>3,323,628</td> <td>3,165,966</td> </tr> </table>	Personnel Costs	1,177,751	861,905	Operating Costs	2,122,857	2,287,541	Capital Costs	23,020	16,520	TOTAL	3,323,628	3,165,966	
Personnel Costs	1,177,751	861,905														
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TOTAL	3,323,628	3,165,966														

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE SUPPORT

3. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE SUPPORT

Goal: To ensure that effective policies and services are in place to support delivery of Secretariat programmes and an efficient and effective organisation.

The Executive Management provides leadership, vision and strategic direction to the Secretariat. Corporate Support provides the necessary services for the efficient and effective delivery of the Secretariat's two Programmes and to the Executive management.

Corporate Support includes Finance, Human Resources & Administration, Information Technology, Communications & Publications and Information Resources or Library.

Summary of Main Focus and Key Achievements 2006:

The main focus for the Executive Management in 2006 was the provision of leadership and direction to the Secretariat team and enhancing organisational partnerships for programme development while Corporate Support concentrated on rendering efficient and effective services and support that enabled the 2 programmes and the Executive to achieve their performance outputs and deliver optimal assistance to the PICTs that they were created to serve. This was achieved through professional coordination, facilitation, and management and monitoring of the overall progress and achievements of the two programmes as well as the 2006 Secretariat Annual Work Programme and Budget.

Key Achievements:

- Executive was eventually able to have all SPREP member States become Contracting Parties to the SPREP Treaty and authorisation for territories to participation as full members
- Successful preparation and professional support to the conduct of the 17th annual SPREP Meeting which took decisions on a number of key issues.

- Successfully conducted Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Noumea Convention which adopted and signed one amended and two new Protocols to the Convention.
- Conducted and completed internal review of the Secretariat identifying areas for improvement, new areas for development and set priorities for their implementation.
- Another clean audit of 2006 Accounts and Financial Statements was obtained.
- Maintained active and high profile participation and involvement in international and regional meetings in support of PICTs.
- Maintained ongoing review and improvement of procedures and processes on financial and asset management, human resources and administration, communications, publications, Information Technology and Information Resources to enhance efficiency and achieve high work standards across the organization.
- Visits to a number of member countries for consultations on their needs and priorities were made by the Executive and management.
- Maintained high standards in the provision of information and negotiating briefs for conferences and negotiations; regional collaboration and cooperation on policy development; guidelines development to support effective PICTs participation.

Comparative Financial Analysis:

Total Budget	Actual Expenditures	Rate of spending
USD1,857,329	USD1,739,937	93%

PROGRAMME 3 : EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE SUPPORT

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)															
Component: 3.1	Executive Management																	
Objective:	To provide improved performance through leadership and vision																	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPREP Meetings properly serviced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting arrangements and documents completed in a timely manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All working papers for 17th SPREP meetings and associated conferences of Parties to the SPREP implemented conventions were produced and circulated 6 weeks in advance of Meetings and subsequent Meeting reports published in print and electronic form, in English and French and distributed to all members before end of the year. Conference of Plenipotentiaries of Noumea Convention adopted, signed and open for ratifications and amended and 2 new Protocols to the Convention. Annual Report 2005 published to high standard Provided members through meetings, country visits, workshops and correspondence all required information on secretariat work and policies and addressed all queries raised. Management has annual trilateral talks with AusAID and NZAID as well as monthly meetings with these donor/members on programme matters and other of common interest. Executive also have regular contact and discussion with various key donors and partners through various means. Agreement already reached with two key donors on multiyear funding. Work continues with other donors. Executive continued to place priority on attendance and providing SPREP input into CROP Heads meetings, Working Groups and Governing bodies of regional sister agencies. SPREP is lead agency for a number of Key environmental initiative under the Sustainable Development priority of the Pacific Plan and is fully involved in delivering on them. Secretariat was able to meet all its obligations and work in timely and effective manner. Management initiated and completed an Internal Review of the Secretariat for continuous development and improvement. Staff Retreat held and issues identified for attention addressed. 	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;"></th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">Budget</th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">396,955</td> <td style="text-align: right;">340,287</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">231,500</td> <td style="text-align: right;">265,979</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,537</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">634,455</td> <td style="text-align: right;">609,803</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>(Expenditure under this output to be taken together with those of 3.4)</i></p>		Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	396,955	340,287	Operating Costs	231,500	265,979	Capital Costs	6,000	3,537	Sub Total	634,455	609,803
	Budget	Actual																
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Operating Costs	231,500	265,979																
Capital Costs	6,000	3,537																
Sub Total	634,455	609,803																
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with members. Donor Liaison maintained and improved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timely, appropriate and clear responses and feedback on policy and work programme implementation issues. 																	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Coordination and International coordination enhanced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-year funding strategies developed and other funding opportunities identified. Effective representation at annual Council Meetings of CROP Agencies and CROP working Groups. 																	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat managed in efficient and effective manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat functioning effectively. 																	

PROGRAMME 3 : EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE SUPPORT

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)													
Component: 3.2	Information and Communication															
Objective:	To provide secure and useable information and communication systems															
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate and programme databases managed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved business systems through use of database application and data management system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training provided by ACCPAC and DBIT, for Finance and IT staff resulted in improved operations of Financial System. Notable improvement in database support services from IT through the recruitment of specialist database officer People and Organisation Database (POD) and Events Database (EDA) ran smoothly throughout the year 	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Personnel Costs</td> <td style="text-align: center;">346,713</td> <td style="text-align: center;">313,709</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Operating Costs</td> <td style="text-align: center;">75,700</td> <td style="text-align: center;">67,211</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Capital Costs</td> <td style="text-align: center;">38,400</td> <td style="text-align: center;">23,233</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Sub Total</td> <td style="text-align: center;">460,813</td> <td style="text-align: center;">404,153</td> </tr> </table>	Personnel Costs	346,713	313,709	Operating Costs	75,700	67,211	Capital Costs	38,400	23,233	Sub Total	460,813	404,153	
Personnel Costs	346,713	313,709														
Operating Costs	75,700	67,211														
Capital Costs	38,400	23,233														
Sub Total	460,813	404,153														
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archive system developed and maintained. Access to Library services provided, maintained and facilitated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased availability of corporate historical information on line. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 578 requests for SPREP publications received and mailed within 5 day return timeframe 1,266 direct information requests actioned successfully within a 2 day return timeframe 121 public visits to the IRC serviced and actioned successfully 1297 items acquired and catalogued into IRC & Library database. Formal and informal requests for research assistance and document supply by SPREP staff responded to effectively and efficiently. 														
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICT services support for the Secretariat provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systems working appropriately and user support/helpdesk service provided according to agreed standards. Secured ICT System Audited Recommendation provided to Management timely on ICT related issues Benchmark and cost clearly defined for ICT main services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily services provided to the secretariat as viewed from weekly reports to management via the Corporate Service Manager. IT staff daily duties reorganised to ensure daily checks of the integrity of the computer system is maintained. Have provided from time to time appropriate recommendations to management on IT issues. Provided setup and logistics support for the SPREP Meeting as well as workshops/trainings at headquarters Support provided to member countries by procurement, installation and helpdesk services Assisted PEIN training attachment for 9 months. Have instituted system of IT services charges within the organization for services such as; usage of telephone system, printing and internet usage. 														

PROGRAMME 3 : EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE SUPPORT

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICT risk management process developed and maintained. Publications, awareness and education materials produced and distributed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a Data Recovery Plans to improve data recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systems installed and measures taken resulting in reduced cost and time spend on recovering failed systems or deploying new application softwares. Production of weekly news items, monthly electronic highlights and quarterly newsletter re-established Backlog of IWP consultancy reports cleared (editing and publication) and distributed Various quality publications produced on Biodiversity, Waste, Climate Change and Education and distributed Continuous incremental improvement of website including section entirely in French PINA/SPREP Environmental Media Awards launched 											
Component: 3.3 Finance													
Objective:													
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate and timely financial statement presented to SPREP Meeting. Accurate and timely financial reports provided to donors. Accurate and timely management financial reports provided to directorate programmes. Integrated financial risk management processes provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unqualified audit opinion, annual accounts, budget reports produced Donor Reports produced to acceptable standard. Preparation of timely management, financial and audit reports Financial Regulations, policies and procedures properly and effectively applied Risk management plan endorsed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unqualified audit opinion obtained on the audit for 2005 annual accounts. All financial reports to donors accepted. Prepared 2007 budget for the 17SM and was approved. Provided timely financial reports and unqualified audit reports to donors in accordance with acceptable requirements. Prepared and disseminated financial and budget reports to Management and Program Officers on monthly basis. Accounting systems and processes continuously reviewed and monitored to ensure adherence to financial regulations, policies and procedures. Provided professional financial services to all areas of the organisation Developed financial risk processes and appropriate steps taken for insurances to safeguard assets of the organisation. Accounting systems upgraded and all finance staff have been trained on latest versions of the accounting packages. Planned and managed investment of reserve funds at premium interest rates at secured bank short -term deposits, and achieved target in the 2006 budget. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Budget</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">218,643</td> <td style="text-align: center;">213,019</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">57,700</td> <td style="text-align: center;">91,876</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7,500</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3,750</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">283,843</td> <td style="text-align: center;">308,645</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Budget	Actual	218,643	213,019	57,700	91,876	7,500	3,750	283,843	308,645
Budget	Actual												
218,643	213,019												
57,700	91,876												
7,500	3,750												
283,843	308,645												

PROGRAMME 3 : EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE SUPPORT

Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	2006 Achievements	Annual Budget vs Actual Expenditure as at 31 December 2006 per Key output (US\$)															
Component: 3.4	Administration																	
Objective:	To ensure effective staff resource management and administration systems																	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment, induction and welfare of staff managed. • Staff Performance management systems in place. • Secretariat's infrastructure and assets managed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated staff regulations policies, and manual provided and continually updated. • Yearly review of performance system and duty statements. • Assets and property maintained and relevant databases updated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Regulations reviewed and continuously monitored for consistency of application • Efficient and effective administration services provided for Human Resource Management issues as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual staff performances reviews ○ Staff Life and Personal Accident Insurance ○ Induction Programme and assistance to expatriate staff to settle in smoothly and quickly ○ Recruitment & Selection ○ General Working Conditions & Requirements • Efficient and effective administration services provided for General Administration & Maintenance issues as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Records Management ○ Properties Management (recruited Property Services Officer as initiative for strengthening administration and management of all Secretariat's properties) ○ Asset Register, Maintenance Plan and Property Insurance Cover ○ Transport, Cleaning and Maintenance Services 	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;">Personnel Costs</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Budget</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Personnel Costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">218,893</td> <td style="text-align: right;">154,308</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">242,280</td> <td style="text-align: right;">243,334</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">17,045</td> <td style="text-align: right;">19,694</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">478,218</td> <td style="text-align: right;">417,336</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>(Expenditure under this to be taken together with 3.1)</i></p>	Personnel Costs	Budget	Actual	Personnel Costs	218,893	154,308	Operating Costs	242,280	243,334	Capital Costs	17,045	19,694	Sub Total	478,218	417,336
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TOTAL PROGRAMME 3																		
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SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Eighteenth SPREP Meeting*Apia, Samoa*11-14 September 2007

Agenda Item 5.3.1 : Report on Members' Contributions**Purpose of Paper**

1. To report to the Meeting on the receipt of Members' contributions.

Background

2. Financial Regulation 14 requires the Director to submit to each SPREP Meeting a report on the receipt of Members' contributions. This report provides an update on the status of Members' contributions received in 2007, (up to 30 June) as well as sharing the status of members' contributions as at the end of 2006.

Members' Contributions received in 2006 and 2007 (to 30 June 2007)

3. Attached for members' information is a statement, which shows the amounts due from respective members as at 30 June 2007. Total contributions outstanding as at 30 June 2007 is USD\$677,319, made up of USD\$313,226 unpaid as at the end of 2006 for that year and prior years and USD\$364,093 for 2007 contributions. The outstanding total is equivalent to 72% of total annual contributions.
4. As the table indicate, a total of USD\$878,306 was received by the Secretariat in 2006 leaving a balance USD\$381,476 of unpaid contribution as at 31 December 2006.
5. Contributions due for 2007, is \$935,572 and so far this year, (as at 30 June 2007), the Secretariat has received only US\$639,729 in respect of 2007 and prior years unpaid contributions.

Outstanding Contributions:

6. Other than members with small outstanding balances, the following member countries are in arrears as at 10 July 2007 for the amounts indicated for both 2007 and prior years contributions:

Member Country	2006 and prior year liabilities	2007 contributions payable	Payments to 30-Jun-07	Balance as at 30-Jun-07
American Samoa	0	10,184	(5,092)	5,092
Cook Islands	0	10,184		10,184
FSM	7,307	10,184		17,491
Fiji	9,214	20,360	(9,214)	20,360
Marshall Islands	0	10,184		10,184
Nauru	138,235	10,184		148,419
Niue	20,369	10,184		30,553
Nth Marianas	47,296	10,184		57,480
Palau	0	10,184		10,184
Samoa	0	20,360		20,360
Solomon Islands	104,123	20,360		124,483
Tonga	0	10,184		10,184
USA	(2,426)	186,787		184,361
Vanuatu	38	20,360		20,398
Wallis & Futuna	17,968	10,184	(20,164)	7,988

Recommendation

7. The Meeting is invited to:

- **consider** the report and **address** the substantial arrears problem;
- **note** the status of non paid membership contributions; and
- **hear** from those members with unpaid contributions on their **plans** and **commitment** to meet the arrears as soon as possible.

16 July 2007

MEMBER'S CONTRIBUTION SCHEDULE

MEMBER COUNTRY	Payments Received as at 31-Dec-03	Balance as at 31-Dec-03	2004 Cont Payable	Payments Received as at 31-Dec-04	Balance as at 31-Dec-04	2005 Cont Payable	Payments Received as at 31-Dec-05	Balance as at 31-Dec-05	2006 Cont Payable	Payments Received as at 31-Dec-06	Balance as at 31-Dec-06	2007 Cont Payable	Payments Received as at 30-Jun-07	Balance as at 30-Jun-07
American Samoa	(14,513)	(2,889)	10,184	(7,284)	0	10,184	(10,184)	0	10,184	(10,185)	0	10,184	(5,092)	5,092
Australia	(153,468)	(1)	185,106	(185,106)	(0)	185,106	(185,106)	0	185,106	(185,106)	0	185,106	(185,106)	(0)
Cook Islands	(8,438)	0	10,184	(10,184)	(0)	10,184	(10,184)	0	10,184	(10,184)	0	10,184		10,184
Federated States of Micronesia	-	3,638	10,184	(11,062)	2,760	10,184	(10,320)	2,625	10,184	(5,502)	7,307	10,184		17,491
Fiji	(35,762)	2,851	20,360	(23,211)	0	20,360	(20,360)	0	20,360	(11,146)	9,214	20,360	(9,214)	20,360
France	(147,847)	(354)	134,202	(133,868)	0	134,202	(134,202)	0	134,202	(134,202)	0	134,202	(134,202)	0
French Polynesia	(11,435)	14,845	20,360	(25,742)	9,263	20,360	(29,623)	(0)	20,360	(20,360)	(0)	20,360	(20,360)	0
Guam	(16,817)	62	20,360	(20,422)	(0)	20,360	(20,360)	0	20,360	(20,360)	(0)	20,360	(20,360)	(0)
Kiribati	(8,382)	30	10,184	(10,184)	30	10,184	(10,184)	31	10,184	(10,185)	30	10,184	(10,184)	30
Marshall Islands	(8,438)	0	10,184	(10,184)	(0)	10,184	-	10,184	10,184	(20,368)	0	10,184		10,184
Nauru	-	107,882	10,184	(117,866)	117,866	10,184	-	128,051	10,184	(23,142)	138,235	10,184	(18,854)	148,419
New Caledonia	-	21,140	20,360	(45,036)	(3,537)	20,360	(15,634)	1,189	20,360	(23,142)	(1,593)	20,360	(18,854)	(87)
New Zealand	(90,963)	0	134,202	(134,202)	(0)	134,202	(134,202)	0	134,202	(134,202)	0	134,202	(134,202)	0
Niue	(16,824)	(81)	10,184	(10,104)	10,104	10,184	(10,103)	10,185	10,184		20,368	10,184		30,553
Northern Mariana Islands	-	16,743	10,184	26,927	10,184	10,184	-	37,112	10,184		47,296	10,184		57,490
Palau	(8,439)	(1)	10,184	(10,184)	10,183	10,184	(10,183)	10,185	10,184	(20,369)	(0)	10,184	(61,776)	(348)
Papua New Guinea	(16,881)	(1)	20,360	(20,359)	20,359	20,360	(20,011)	20,708	20,360		41,068	20,360		20,360
Samoa	(16,881)	(1)	20,360	(20,360)	0	20,360	(20,360)	(0)	20,360		104,123	20,360		20,360
Solomon Islands	-	83,693	20,360	104,053	104,053	20,360	(40,650)	83,763	20,360		104,123	20,360		124,483
Tokelau	(8,411)	0	10,184	(10,184)	(0)	10,184	(10,184)	0	10,184	(10,185)	(0)	10,184	(10,184)	(0)
Tonga	(11,182)	(0)	10,184	(10,184)	(0)	10,184	(10,184)	(0)	10,184	(10,184)	0	10,184		10,184
Tuvalu	(8,412)	0	10,184	(9,534)	651	10,184	(10,835)	0	10,184	(10,337)	(153)	10,184	(10,031)	0
United States of America	(154,280)	(0)	186,787	(186,787)	(0)	186,787	(188,000)	(1,213)	186,787	(188,000)	(2,426)	186,787		144,361
Vanuatu	(15,454)	30,339	20,360	(39,690)	11,010	20,360	(28,977)	2,392	20,360	(22,714)	38	20,360		20,388
Wallis & Futuna Islands	(7,788)	192	10,184	(1,562)	8,814	10,184	-	18,969	10,184	(11,215)	17,968	10,184	(20,164)	7,888
Total	(\$760,814)	\$277,703	\$935,572	(\$694,787)	\$318,483	\$935,572	(\$929,845)	\$324,210	\$935,572	(\$878,306)	\$381,476	\$935,572	(\$639,729)	\$677,519

Note 1 - There were two agreed increases to the members contributions. They are as follows:

- A. Determined at the 11th SPREP Meeting for 2001 contributions 35.318%
- B. Determined at the 12th SPREP Meeting for 2002 contributions 9.913%
- C. Determined at the 14th SPREP Meeting for 2004 contributions 21.070%



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Eighteenth SPREP Meeting*Apia, Samoa*

11-14 September 2007

Agenda Item 5.3.2: Audited Annual Accounts for 2006**Purpose of Paper**

1. To present the Audited Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2006.

Background

2. Financial Regulation 27(e) requires the Director to submit audited financial statements to the SPREP Meeting, while Regulations 30-32 prescribes the manner in which the financial statements are to be presented and audited. Financial Regulation 33 requires the Director to circulate to each SPREP Meeting, the Auditors Report on the financial operations of SPREP, together with such remarks as the Director may wish to offer, prior to the SPREP Meeting.

3. The audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2006 have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Regulations and comprise the following documents:

- Audit Opinion
- Balance Sheet
- Income and Expenditure Statement
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Notes and Supporting Papers to the Accounts
- Auditors' Report to Management

4. Again the auditors have provided a clean and unqualified opinion of the Secretariat's financial operations for 2006.

Recommendation

5. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **review** and **adopt** the audited Financial Statements and Auditors' Report for 2006.


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Certified Public Accountants

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AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE

PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SPREP)

We have audited the financial statements of SPREP as set out on pages 3 to 11, for the year ended 31 December 2006. The financial statements provide information on the financial performance of the organization, and its financial position at 31 December 2006.

Management responsibilities

The management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that comply with generally accepted accounting practice, and that gives a true and fair view of the financial position of SPREP as at 31 December 2006, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date.

Auditors' responsibilities

It is our responsibility to express an independent opinion on the financial statements presented by management, and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of Opinion

An audit includes examining on a test basis, evidence relevant to the amounts, and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes assessing:

- The significant estimates and judgements made by management in the preparation of the financial statements; and
- Whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the circumstances of the organization, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations, which we considered necessary to provide us with sufficient evidence, to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud and error. In forming our opinion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Specific reporting requirements

In accordance with the specific audit reporting requirements of SPREP's Financial Regulation 32 (a) to (f), we report as follows:

- (a) extent and character of examination is as explained in the section above under the heading "Basis of Opinion"
- (b) matters affecting the completeness and accuracy of the accounts, refer to our report to management, which is attached, titled Management Report.
- (c) the accuracy or otherwise of the supplies and equipment records as determined by stocktaking and examination of the records. The fixed assets register has been completed following the physical count of all SPREP assets carried out in December 2006.
- (d) financial procedures of SPREP including internal controls and adherence to draft financial procedures are satisfactory. The Draft Financial Rules and Procedures Manual (DFRPM), Administration Manual and Desk Files are currently being finalised and should be completed when approved by the management in 2007.
- (e) the adequacy of insurance cover for the buildings, stores, furniture, equipment and other property of SPREP. Insurance cover for buildings, furniture, equipment and other property is adequate.
- (f) Other matters, the matters raised in our report to management have been addressed.


We also examined on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts of funds received by the Organisation from NZAID and AUSAID. We confirm that funds were spent in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the respective parties.

Unqualified Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) as of 31 December 2006, and of the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and in accordance with the SPREP Financial Regulations.

Our audit was completed on 12 April 2007 and our opinion is expressed as at that date.

Apia, Samoa

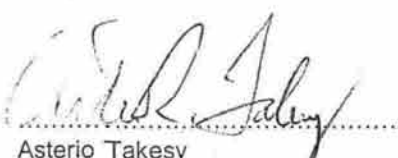

Certified Public Accountants

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2006

2005		2006	Notes
\$	NON-CURRENT ASSETS	\$	
<u>4,683,707</u>	Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>4,733,920</u>	3
4,683,707	Total Non-Current Assets	<u>4,733,920</u>	
	CURRENT ASSETS		
540,486	Cash at Bank and on Hand	61,728	4
3,751,694	Bank Term Deposits	3,861,147	5
<u>86,203</u>	Accounts Receivables	<u>142,387</u>	6
<u>4,378,383</u>	Total Current Assets	<u>4,065,262</u>	
<u>\$9,062,090</u>	TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$8,799,182</u>	
	REPRESENTED BY:		
	FUNDS AND RESERVES		
501,425	Reserve Fund	501,425	7
4,591,313	Capital Reserve	4,591,313	8
<u>583,468</u>	Exchange Variation Reserve	<u>700,615</u>	9
<u>5,676,206</u>	Total Funds and Reserves	<u>5,793,353</u>	
	NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		
<u>70,805</u>	Deferred Income	<u>70,805</u>	10
<u>70,805</u>		<u>70,805</u>	
	CURRENT LIABILITIES		
702,966	Creditors and Accruals	555,509	11
<u>2,612,113</u>	Programme & Core Funds	<u>2,379,515</u>	12
<u>3,315,079</u>		<u>2,935,024</u>	
<u>\$9,062,090</u>		<u>\$8,799,182</u>	

The balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements, which form an integral part of the financial statements.


Asterio Takesy
Director

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

2005 Actual \$	CORE FUNDS INCOME	2006 Actual \$	Notes
929,846	Members Contribution	878,306	
386,946	Programme Management Charge	463,270	
290,873	Interest	294,564	
1,863	Gain on sale of Fixed Assets	-	
50,627	Other income	115,686	13
98,777	Donor Funds	51,883	
1,758,932	TOTAL INCOME	1,803,709	
	EXPENDITURE		
(1,646,064)	Executive Management & Corporate Support	(1,867,919)	14/15
(1,646,064)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	(1,867,919)	
112,868	EXCESS OF INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(64,210)	
500,339	Executive Mgt & Corp Support funds from prior years	613,207	
613,207	Funds to be carried forward	548,997	
5,573,613	PROGRAMME FUNDS	5,429,666	
	Funds received during the year		
	EXPENDITURE		
(5,578,305)	Programme Implementation	(5,598,054)	14/15
(5,578,305)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	(5,598,054)	
(4,692)	Excess of expenditure over funds received	(168,388)	
2,003,598	Programme funds brought forward from prior year	1,998,906	
1,998,906	Programme Funds at year end	1,830,518	
613,207	Core Funds at year end	548,997	
\$2,612,113	TOTAL FUNDS TO BE CARRIED FORWARD	\$2,379,515	

The income and expenditure statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to financial statement, which form an integral part of the financial statements.

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

2005 \$	CASH FLOWS FROM/(TO) OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2006 \$
	INFLOWS	
5,672,390	Donor Funds	5,481,549
929,846	Members Contributions	878,306
386,946	Program Management Charge	463,270
298,994	Interest receipts	258,984
134,163	Miscellaneous receipts	189,689
<u>7,422,339</u>	Cash Generated from Operating Activities	<u>7,271,798</u>
	OUTFLOWS	
(2,528,789)	Salaries and related costs	(2,579,974)
<u>(6,694,288)</u>	Other operating expenses	<u>(5,010,916)</u>
<u>(1,800,738)</u>	Net cash flows provided to Operating Activities	<u>(319,092)</u>
	CASH FLOWS FROM/(TO) INVESTING ACTIVITIES	
	INFLOWS	
17,486	Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment	-
	OUTFLOWS	
<u>(180,988)</u>	Purchase of property, plant and equipment	<u>(50,213)</u>
<u>(163,502)</u>	Net cash flows provided to Investing Activities	<u>(50,213)</u>
(1,964,240)	Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(369,305)
<u>6,256,420</u>	Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	<u>4,292,180</u>
<u>\$4,292,180</u>	Cash and cash equivalents at year end	<u>\$3,922,875</u>
	Represented By:	
592,794	Cash on hand and at banks	134,618
<u>3,915,810</u>	Short-term investments	<u>3,671,110</u>
4,508,604	Cash and cash equivalents as previously reported	3,805,728
<u>(216,424)</u>	Effect of exchange rate changes	<u>117,147</u>
<u>\$4,292,180</u>	Cash and cash equivalents as restated at year end	<u>\$3,922,875</u>

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following summary of significant accounting policies is given in order to assist in understanding

(a) **Accounting System**

- (i) The financial statements are prepared on the basis of historical costs and do not take into account current valuation of non-current assets.
- (ii) The concepts of the accrual method and going concern basis of accounting are applied.
- (iii) The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the accounting standards and disclosure requirements of the International Accounting Standards, except where stated otherwise.
- (iv) All amount shown in the financial statements are expressed in US dollars.

- (b) The Secretariat has adopted a fund accounting system, as considerable part of its annual fund, comprises of aid funds for specified projects and programmes.

The identification of funds is maintained throughout the accounting system thus providing the control necessary to ensure that each fund is used only for the purpose, which it is received.

(c) **Depreciation**

Fixed Assets are not being depreciated as from 2003 to coincide with the Fund Accounting policy and to recognise the fact that to replace and maintain the fixed assets expenditure, provisions are included in the annual budget.

(d) **Foreign Currency Transactions**

All foreign currency transactions during 2006 have been brought to account using the bank exchange rate in effect at the date of the transaction. Realised exchange gain/losses on term deposits matured during the year have been taken to the statement of income and expenditure.

Foreign currency monetary items at balance date are translated at the closing exchange rate existing at that date.

Unrealised exchange gains and losses, arising on translation of monetary items at balance sheet date are taken to the Exchange Variation Reserve to accommodate future losses or gains due to fluctuation of rates in the foreign currency market. The increase in the exchange variation reserve in 2006-year was due to the strengthening of various currencies used for operations against the United States currency.

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

(e) Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognised in the accounts using the cash basis concept of accounting except for interest income. Expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis.

(f) Donor Funds

Donations from Aid Agencies are usually for specified purposes. These funds are separately identified in the accounting system and expenditure recorded against each fund. Donor Funds, which are applied to capital items of programmes are charged to expenditure at time of acquisition and are brought into the accounts as fixed assets at the completion of programmes and are valued at their carrying value.

(g) Commitment Accounting

The Secretariat operates a system of commitment accounting for its non-salary expenditure. Expenditure is recognised when purchase orders are placed and charged against the appropriate code.

(h) Donor Funded Assets

Assets acquired by programmes during the year are not included in SPREP's balance sheet as the ownership of these assets remains with the donor. The treatment at this level is to expense these assets in the Income Statement as the disbursement is incurred. At the completion of these programmes, donors generally donate these assets to SPREP, at which time the assets will be included on the Balance Sheet at their carrying value.

(i) Capital Funds

Capital Funds of \$52,867 has been amalgamated with Reserve Funds under the heading Reserve Funds.

NOTE 2. CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

There have been no significant changes in the Accounting Policies

NOTES 3. NON-CURRENT ASSETS - PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

WDV 31-Dec-05	Description	Cost/Valuation				31-Dec-06
		31-Dec-05	Addition	Disposal	Adj	
3,959,674	Property	4,222,741	8,634		-	4,231,375
145,602	Computer Equip	186,161	31,651			217,812
482,462	Equipment	551,103	9,554			560,657
33,067	Furniture	126,071	374			126,445
62,902	Vehicles	70,148	-	-		70,148
\$4,683,707		\$5,156,224	\$50,213	\$0	\$0	\$5,206,437

Description	Accumulated Depreciation				WDV 31-Dec-06
	1-Jan-06	Depn	Disposal	31-Dec-06	
Property	(263,067)			(263,067)	3,968,308
Computer Equip	(40,559)			(40,559)	177,253
Equipment	(68,641)			(68,641)	492,016
Furniture	(93,004)			(93,004)	33,441
Vehicles	(7,246)		-	(7,246)	62,902
	(\$472,517)	\$0	\$0	(\$472,517)	4,733,920

Fixed assets are not being depreciated in 2006 in accordance with the Secretariat policy adopted in 2003. Assets are shown at the balance sheet at their written down value at 31 December 2002 while assets purchased since 2003 are recorded at their historical value.

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

2005		2006
NOTE 4.	CASH AT BANK AND ON HAND	
	Local Currency	
57,060	ANZ - SAT Account	(65,973)
31,244	WBC - Int Waters SAT Account	(13,238)
96,172	WBC - EU PEIN SAT Account	38,339
181	Petty Cash	186
<u>184,657</u>		<u>(40,686)</u>
	Foreign Currency	
26,707	ANZ - USD Account	42,801
22,894	ANZ - AUD Account	25,252
2,808	ANZ - NZD Account	13,860
(9,131)	WBC - USD Account	(25,628)
217,651	WBC - Int Waters USD Account	12,677
46,229	WBC - Int Maritime Org Account	8,938
48,671	WBC - NZD Call Account	24,514
<u>355,829</u>		<u>102,414</u>
<u>\$540,486</u>	Closing Balance as at 31 December 2006	<u>\$61,728</u>
NOTE 5.	BANK TERM DEPOSITS	
	Local Currency	
798,476	WBC - SAT Account	201,540
936,827	SCB - SAT Account	1,038,625
398,187	NBS - SAT Account	829,675
-	ANZ - SAT Account	373,200
<u>2,133,490</u>		<u>2,443,040</u>
	Foreign Currency	
767,096	WBC - AUD Account	477,101
851,108	WBC - NZD Account	941,006
<u>1,618,204</u>		<u>1,418,107</u>
<u>\$3,751,694</u>	Closing Balance as at 31 December 2006	<u>\$3,861,147</u>
NOTE 6.	ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	
1,996	Debtors	3,860
279	Credit cards	349
63,909	Accrued Interest	99,489
-	Withholding tax	1,350
934	Interbank	15,000
19,085	Prepayments	22,339
<u>\$86,203</u>	Closing Balance as at 31 December 2006	<u>\$142,387</u>

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

2005		2006
NOTE 7.	RESERVE FUND	
448,558	Opening balances as at 1 January 2006	448,558
52,867	Add: Capital Funds balance	52,867
<u>\$501,425</u>	Closing Balance as at 31 December 2006	<u>\$501,425</u>
<p>The General Reserve Fund represents the sum total of accumulated results arising from Primary Function and Project Management activities for the purpose of covering the organisation in cases of emergencies or unforeseen circumstances and unexpected budget shortfalls.</p>		
NOTE 8.	CAPITAL RESERVE	
	Capital Reserve is represented by the following capital donations:	
1,870,480	SPREP Complex by Donor Governments	1,870,480
2,370,833	Training and Education Centre Project by Japan	2,370,833
350,000	Information Resource Centre by European Union	350,000
<u>\$4,591,313</u>	Closing Balance as at 31 December 2006	<u>\$4,591,313</u>
NOTE 9.	EXCHANGE VARIATION RESERVE	
799,892	Opening Balances as at 1 January 2006	583,468
(216,424)	Plus: Exchange difference arising from translation	117,147
<u>\$583,468</u>	Closing Balance as at 31 December 2006	<u>\$700,615</u>
NOTE 10.	DEFERRED INCOME LIABILITY	
88,506	Represents Deferred Income and Assets acquired through Donor Funds	88,506
(17,701)	Less: Accumulated Amortisation	(17,701)
<u>\$70,805</u>	Closing Balance as at 31 December 2006	<u>\$70,805</u>
NOTE 11.	CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS	
143,799	Provision for Leave Entitlement	130,788
136,662	Provision for Repatriation	114,379
366,343	Trade Creditors	279,797
-	Payroll Creditors	1,673
75,197	Other Creditors and Accruals	28,872
<u>\$722,001</u>	Closing Balance as at 31 December 2006	<u>\$555,509</u>

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

NOTE 12 DONOR FUNDS & OTHERS

DETAILS	Balance 1-Jan-06	Income	Expenses	Other Adjs	Balance 31-Dec-06
Asian Development Bank	(4,508)				(4,508)
AusAID Extra Budget	275,677	844,740	(852,721)		267,696
AusAID Extra Extra Budget	17,768	1,680	(6,131)		13,317
Canadian International Development Agency	24,633		(22,133)	(2,500)	-
Commonwealth Secretariat	8,932				8,932
Conservation International Development		141,406	(148,182)		(6,776)
Department of International Development	8,136				8,136
European Union	89,725	196,499	(253,108)		33,116
Government of France	180,284	124,263	(59,678)		244,869
Government of Japan	61,850	310	(49,828)		12,332
Government of the United Kingdom	8,806				8,806
International Maritime Organisation	46,209	301	(42,970)		3,540
John D & Catherine T MacArthur Foundation	20,378	55,000	(37,840)		37,538
Multiple Donors	246,884	219,137	(694,208)	209,303	(18,884)
Netherlands Red Cross Society	7,746				7,746
NZ Aid PIE	27,920	349	(15,093)		13,176
NZ Aid Extra Budget	15,670	605,334	(498,335)		122,669
NZAid Extra Extra Budget	227,212	544,540	(582,167)		189,585
Pacific Development & Conservation Trust	6,920		(51)		6,869
People's Republic of China	160,000		(30,000)		130,000
Other Funds (include core)	760,183	1,743,684	(1,451,187)	(206,803)	845,877
Ramsar Secretariat	4,832	64,485	(56,247)		13,070
The Nature Conservancy	26,366	71,431	(104,943)		(7,146)
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	1,592				1,592
United Nations Development Program	154,476	2,121,647	(1,980,419)		295,704
United Nations Environment Program	180,124	155,155	(262,503)		72,776
United Nations Tech Co-Op Activities (part of UNDESA)	(20,668)				(20,668)
UN Economics & Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific (UNESCAP)	6,646				6,646
UN Office of Project Services	4,103	96,077	(94,089)		6,091
US Additional Member Contributions	2,577				2,577
US Dept of Energy/Los Alamos University	4,801				4,801
US Fish & Wildlife Services	14,625				14,625
US National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration	22,149	129,656	(124,172)		27,633
US Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council	20,065	117,681	(99,968)		37,778
	\$2,612,113	\$7,233,375	(\$7,465,973)	\$0	\$2,379,515

Core funds income/expenditure

1,803,709 1,867,919

Programme funds income/expenditure

5,429,666 5,598,054

7,233,375 \$7,465,973

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

2005		2006
NOTE 13.	OTHER INCOME	
350	Insurance Recovery	-
535	Publication Sale	396
33,545	Rental income	29,252
4,251	Miscellaneous	11,277
2,544	Prior Year adjustments	61,545
3,252	Commission	1,336
6,150	Travel & Other Recoveries	11,880
<u>\$50,627</u>	Total	<u>\$115,686</u>

NOTE 14. EXPENDITURE SUMMARY		Personnel Cost	Operating Costs	Total
2,903,029	Island Ecosystem Programme	702,879	3,124,028	3,826,907
2,637,556	Pacific Futures Programme	691,719	1,079,428	1,771,147
37,720	Core - Programme Funds	-	-	-
1,646,064	Executive Mgt & Corp Support	1,150,082	717,837	1,867,919
<u>\$7,224,369</u>	Total	<u>\$2,544,680</u>	<u>\$4,921,293</u>	<u>\$7,465,973</u>

NOTE 15. ACTUAL VS BUDGET EXPENDITURES		Personnel Cost		Operating Cost		Capital Costs	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
2,903,029	Island Ecosystem Programme	756,627	702,879	2,095,507	3,001,289	8,700	122,739
2,637,556	Pacific Futures Programme	1,177,751	691,719	2,122,857	1,064,072	23,020	15,356
37,720	Core - Prog Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
1,646,064	Executive Mgt & Corp Support	1,181,204	1,150,082	607,180	667,624	68,945	50,213
<u>\$7,224,369</u>	Total	<u>\$3,115,582</u>	<u>\$2,544,680</u>	<u>\$4,825,544</u>	<u>\$4,732,985</u>	<u>\$100,665</u>	<u>\$188,308</u>

NOTE 16. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES
The Secretariat has no contingent liabilities as at 31 December 2006.

NOTE 17. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS
The Secretariat has no commitments with respect to capital expenditure.



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Eighteenth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa
11-14 September 2007

**Agenda Item 6.2: Options to Streamline Reporting by
Pacific Island Countries to MEAs**

(Paper presented by Australia)



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Water Resources

Options Paper

**Options to streamline reporting by Pacific Island
countries (PICs) to multilateral environment
agreements (MEAs)**

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Executive Summary

The Australian Government's Department of the Environment and Water Resources, in collaboration with the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), has prepared the following options paper to streamline reporting by Pacific Island countries (PICs) to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

The paper was developed in response to the increasing burden placed on countries to report against a range of MEAs. Fulfilling reporting requirements is difficult as the process of reporting to MEAs is often onerous, duplicative and lacking in clear guidance and purpose. For nations with small environment agencies - which is the case for many PICs - reporting can be particularly difficult and resource-intensive. The primary objective of this work is therefore to minimise the duplication of reporting and to reduce the resources required for PICs to prepare and submit their MEA reports.

Options

Four options to streamline reporting by PICs to five of the biodiversity-related MEAs are presented here. The five MEAs considered are the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the World Heritage Convention (WHC); Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar).

The four options outlined in this paper are:

- **Option One:** Consolidated template for reporting against the biodiversity-related MEAs;
- **Option Two:** Tailoring State of the Environment reports to meet the requirements for biodiversity-related MEAs;

- **Option Three:** Using the proposed SPREP Country Profiles as a template to report on the biodiversity-related MEAs; and
- **Option Four:** Sub-regional reporting approach to the biodiversity-related MEAs.

Recommendation

SPREP members are invited to discuss the options at the 18th SPREP Meeting in September 2007 and to consider supporting the trial of a preferred option.

This paper recommends that further consideration be given to 'Option One: Consolidated template for reporting against the biodiversity-related MEAs' for a number of reasons. Firstly, this option will result in less duplication of reporting for PICs who are Party to more than one of the biodiversity-related MEAs. Secondly, it will be tailored specifically to meet the information requirements of PICs. Thirdly, this approach links in with the current work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), which is exploring options for a consolidated template for reporting to the biodiversity-related MEAs. There is therefore scope to ensure that approaches to streamline and harmonise reporting are consistent at the regional and global scale.

Part One

Introduction

This paper has been developed by the Australian Government's Department of the Environment and Water Resources, in collaboration with the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), to provide options to streamline¹ reporting by Pacific Island countries (PICs) to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

The project has been funded under the Australian Agency for International Development's (AusAID) Pacific Governance Support Program (PGSP). The PGSP funds governance activities which link Australian Government agencies directly with Pacific counterparts and which support regional governance approaches.

After outlining the issues relating to reporting to multilateral environmental agreements, the paper presents four options to streamline reporting by PICs to MEAs. The options have been prepared in consultation with SPREP and SPREP members, and are presented for consideration at the SPREP Annual Meeting in September 2007. SPREP members are invited to endorse a preferred option which will be trialled subject to the approval and provision of additional funding.

Background

This project was developed to address the increasing burden placed on countries to report against the expanding range of MEAs. The size of the reporting burden is indicated by the fact that to date '90% of [the Global Environmental Facility's (GEF)] resources have been provided for Enabling Activities' for countries to meet reporting requirements to international conventions (The World Bank, 2007, p. i).

¹ **Definition of streamlined and harmonised reporting:** In this paper, streamlined reporting refers to simplifying the process of reporting by reducing the extent or amount of reporting required. Harmonised reporting refers primarily to the process of standardising, improving compatibility and information sharing across MEAs.

Fulfilling reporting requirements is difficult for both developed and developing countries as the process of reporting to MEAs is often onerous, duplicative and lacking in clear guidance and purpose. For developing countries, particularly those with small environment agencies, reporting can be particularly difficult and resource-intensive. It can put pressure on national environment agencies in terms of staffing and resource requirements, and can often require the collation of data that is neither readily available nor relevant to the environmental situation and objectives of developing countries.

Despite this, reporting on the implementation of MEAs is important for a number of reasons. It provides information to MEA Secretariats on the activities that Parties have undertaken to meet their international environmental obligations and on national progress with the implementation of the agreement. Reporting can also assist Parties in assessing their own progress in achieving environmental outcomes and their obligations under agreements, and can aid countries in identifying successes as well as challenges and gaps in their national environmental governance.

While reporting is an important mechanism to determine how nations are progressing with meeting their international obligations, the number of reports that countries are now required to complete is extensive. This reporting burden has resulted in issues such as non-submission of reports, the submission of incomplete reports, or submission of inaccurate data due to a lack of capacity to fulfil the reporting requirements. Reducing the burden of reporting by streamlining the process could result in better rates of submission and could also allow PICs to redirect resources towards other activities in line with their national environmental priorities.

This project therefore focuses on options to streamline reporting to assist PICs with their reporting compliance and responsibilities under MEAs. It aims to complement and build upon existing work on the harmonisation of reporting that has been underway for a number of years at the international level. The options have been tailored to take into account the capacity of PICS to meet current reporting requirements. It aims to eliminate the requirement to report on information that is not of use or relevance to PICs, and to ensure that PICS are not required to report more than once on the same information.

Geographical Coverage

The paper focuses on PICs which are independent and self-governing states due to the nature of the funding agreement for this project.

The following 14 countries have therefore been included in this project:

- Cook Islands
- Fiji Islands
- Kiribati
- Marshall Islands
- Micronesia (Federated States)
- Nauru
- Niue
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

Part Two

Streamlining reporting to the biodiversity-related MEAs

Streamlining reporting across the broad range of MEAs is difficult as the objectives and priorities of MEAs can vary significantly from one agreement to another. There is, however, scope to focus on a group of similarly themed MEAs (i.e. a 'cluster' group) and to identify synergies and linkages within a cluster group.

The cluster group chosen for this paper includes five of the biodiversity-related MEAs. This cluster has been chosen for a number of reasons. Firstly, consultation with Australian Government focal points for the biodiversity-related MEAs indicated that the reporting requirements for these MEAs are extensive, resource intensive and time consuming. Secondly, consultation with officers in SPREP identified that the conservation and protection of biodiversity is a pressing issue for many PICs and that assistance with the biodiversity-related MEAs would be beneficial. Thirdly, work is progressing under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) relating to the harmonisation of reporting to the biodiversity-related MEAs. This provides scope to build upon existing work and move towards a strategy for reporting that is appropriate in the Pacific context.

The biodiversity-related MEAs (or conventions) considered for this project are:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- World Heritage Convention (WHC);
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS); and
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar).

The reporting requirements for these conventions are linked closely to the obligations set out in the convention texts. They seek information primarily on the progress made by Parties with domestic implementation of the convention's requirements.

However, a number of commonalities (or common themes) are apparent across the five MEAs. UNEP has undertaken substantial work to identify common themes of four of the MEAs within the biodiversity-related cluster. Table One identifies these common themes. This information provides a base upon which a streamlined reporting approach could be established.

Table One: Common themes among the biodiversity-related MEAs

Source: UNEP-DELIC & UNEP-WCMC (draft, in preparation), *Joint core reporting elements of biodiversity-related conventions and agreements: A report from the UNEP Knowledge Management project*

Theme	CBD	CITES	Ramsar	CMS
Overview of obligations	✓			✓
National strategies, policies and programmes	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indigenous and local communities	✓		✓	
Capacity-building	✓	✓	✓	✓
Protected areas	✓			✓
Monitoring	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indicators	✓			
General in situ conservation measures	✓		✓	✓
Restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems and threatened species	✓		✓	✓
Sustainable use	✓	✓	✓	
National finances			✓	✓
Co-operation between agreements		✓	✓	
Transboundary co-operation	✓	✓	✓	
Technical and scientific co-operation	✓			
Communication, education and public awareness	✓	✓	✓	✓
Information exchange		✓	✓	
Legislative measures		✓		✓
Research		✓		
Training			✓	
Information management		✓		

A more in-depth study of information requirements shared among the biodiversity related MEAs is provided in **Appendix One: Summary of main information for the biodiversity-related MEAs.**

Activities relating to harmonising and streamlining reporting to MEAs

Harmonising and streamlining reporting to MEAs is an issue that has been under consideration for some time by MEA Secretariats and key environment agencies and organisations.

In general, work at the MEA Secretariat level has focused on:

- General revisions to reporting formats in response to concerns from MEA Parties about the length of reports;
- Promoting coordination between MEA Secretariats to report using a common format and dataset to overcome the problem of duplication and overlap;
- Promoting online reporting to improve the ease of reporting; and
- Developing a central, online depository to assist with reporting to the biodiversity-related MEAs.

Further information on the work undertaken at the MEA Secretariat level is provided in **Appendix Two: Overview of the work at the MEA Secretariat level to improve and facilitate reporting to the biodiversity-related MEAs.**

A number of initiatives designed to address the issue of MEA reporting have been previously undertaken or are presently being undertaken by international agencies and regional bodies. Commonly, these focus on addressing the burden of reporting by harmonising reporting requirements. More information on this work is presented in **Appendix Three: Overview of projects underway to streamline and harmonise MEA reporting.**

Part Three

State of reporting against the biodiversity-related MEAs in the Pacific

All PICs included in this project are Party to at least one of the five biodiversity-related MEAs; most are Party to two or more of the MEAs. Table Two provides the total number and details of the MEAs to which PICs are Party.

Table Two: Status of ratification by PICs to the biodiversity MEAs						
PIC	CBD	CITES	CMS	Ramsar	WHC	TOTAL
Cook Islands	✓		✓			2
Fiji Islands	✓	✓		✓	✓	4
Kiribati	✓				✓	2
Marshall Islands	✓			✓	✓	3
Micronesia (Federated States)	✓				✓	2
Nauru	✓					1
Niue	✓				✓	2
Palau	✓	✓		✓	✓	4
Papua New Guinea	✓	✓		✓	✓	4
Samoa	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5
Solomon Islands	✓				✓	2
Tonga	✓				✓	2
Tuvalu	✓					1
Vanuatu	✓	✓			✓	3

The biodiversity-related MEAs are just one cluster group of MEAs that PICs are required to report to. Other clusters of MEAs include the climate change conventions (i.e. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), the chemical conventions (i.e. Rotterdam, Stockholm), and the marine pollution conventions. All require some level of reporting by Parties to meet the obligations of the agreements. The burden placed on PICs to provide national environmental information is therefore quite high, especially for those with small environment agencies, limited staff, and limited funding to direct towards MEA reporting.

Consultation with a number of PICs in the form of a written questionnaire and meetings with environment ministries was undertaken in May and June 2007. The PICs indicated a desire to address the issue of reporting and were keen to develop a strategy to reduce the reporting burden.

The questionnaire responses from PICs identified the following difficulties with reporting:

- Current reporting requirements for MEAs often do not address issues that relate to the capabilities or environmental concerns of PICs;
- Insufficient staff in department or ministry to undertake MEA reporting;
- Lack of available environmental data to answer all questions required in MEA reporting templates;
- Lack of funding to complete MEA reporting;
- Difficulties in coordinating the collation of data for MEA (i.e. cross-agency collation); and
- Lack of incentive and/or clear benefits from MEA reporting.

Part Four

Options to streamline reporting by PICs to the biodiversity-related MEAs

Four options have been identified that could assist PICs to streamline reporting to the biodiversity-related MEAs:

- **Option One:** Consolidated template for reporting against the biodiversity-related MEAs;
- **Option Two:** Tailoring State of the Environment reports to meet the requirements for biodiversity-related MEAs;
- **Option Three:** Using the proposed SPREP Country Profiles as a template to report on the biodiversity-related MEAs; and
- **Option Four:** Sub-regional reporting approach to the biodiversity-related MEAs.

The primary objectives of all these options are:

- to eliminate the duplication of reporting; and
- to reduce the resources required for PICs to prepare and submit their MEA reports.

Additional benefits to PICs that may result from adopting one of the options include:

- Improvements in the quality, timeliness and availability of environmental information that could assist PICs with their environmental governance;
- Increased integration of national environmental approaches and improvements in cross-agency information sharing;
- Development of linkages between MEAs and regional bodies;
- Improvements in information sharing between PICs; and
- Improvements in SPREP's knowledge of the environmental issues facing its members.

Issues for consideration

There are a number of issues that need to be addressed when considering options to streamline reporting. These are outlined below.

• Differing time frames of reporting cycles for MEAs

A key issue when attempting to streamline or harmonise reporting is that the reporting schedules differ for the individual MEAs. For example, with the five biodiversity-related MEAs the time frames for reporting cover one to six years. This means that negotiation with MEA Secretariats to phase in a standardised reporting time frame will have to be undertaken. An appropriate time period for reporting will also have to take into account the capacity and needs of PICs. It will be probable that the time frames for reporting will have to be disassociated from the timing of the Conferences of the Parties (CoP), which may be an issue for some MEAs as discussion and outcomes from reporting is often required at CoPs. The time frames for reporting to the five biodiversity-related MEAs and the upcoming CoPs are outlined below.

Table Three: Timeframe for next biodiversity related MEA Conferences of the Parties (CoP) and reporting timeframes

MEA	Next report due	Next CoP
CBD	2009	9 th CoP for CBD, 19-30 th May 2008, Bonn, Germany
CMS	2008	9 th CoP for CMS, 9-21 st November 2008, Rome, Italy
CITES	2008	15 th CoP for CITES, June 2010
Ramsar	2008	10 th CoP for Ramsar, 28 th October-4 th November 2008, Republic of Korea
WHC	2009	32 nd World Heritage Committee Meeting, June-July 2008

- **Fragmented responsibility and decentralised administration of biodiversity-related MEAs**

The data required to complete MEA reporting and the administration of the biodiversity MEAs is not always coordinated or centralised through the same national ministry or agency. This can be problematic if there is a lack of coordination between the administrative ministries or agencies to meet the reporting requirements. It will be important, therefore, to consider the different institutional and administrative arrangements for MEA reporting in each PIC when considering trialling a preferred option.

- **Differing types of information requirements for the biodiversity-related MEAs**

Even within a specific cluster-group such as the biodiversity-related MEAs, not all agreements require the same information or use the same data. This complicates the data gathering and consolidation process as well as the resourcing implications.

- **Not all PICs will currently be able to source the national data required for reporting**

There is a need to determine what would be the essential data required for the selected reporting option and whether the majority of PICs have the capacity to collate this data.

- **Not all PICs are Party to the same MEAs**

As not all PICs are Party to the same MEAs in the biodiversity cluster (see Table Two), the selected approach will have to accommodate those PICs who are Party to one or two of the MEAs as well as those who are Party to the full set of biodiversity-related MEAs.

- **Reporting to MEAs has an implementation focus**

Whichever option is adopted, it will still need to provide a means for MEA Secretariats to assess countries' progress in implementing their obligations under the individual agreements. Options to streamline reporting to MEAs therefore need to be acceptable to the requirements of MEA Secretariats. Should an option to streamline reporting be endorsed by SPREP members, the approval of the relevant MEA Secretariats and CoPs will need to be sought before trialling the option in the Pacific.

The four options are described in detail in the remainder of this part of the paper.

Option One: Consolidated template for reporting against the biodiversity-related MEAs

General outline

This option would establish a consolidated template for reporting against the five biodiversity-related MEAs. A consolidated template would contain information that has been determined to be of use and relevance to PICs and would incorporate components of all five biodiversity-related MEAs.

The consolidated template would contain sufficient information to meet the requirements of the individual MEA Secretariats for their assessment of countries' progress in implementing MEAs. However, its primary purpose would be to enable PICs to undertake reporting which could support their national environmental priorities and objectives.

PICs would only be required to complete the components of a consolidated template for those MEAs to which they are a Party. Only one report would be required to address all the biodiversity-related MEAs, even when a nation is Party to multiple MEAs.

Process required to establish a consolidated template for reporting against the biodiversity-related MEAs

Should this option be selected, the steps for its further development would be:

- Consult with MEA Secretariats regarding core requirements for information in a consolidated template.
- Establish commonalities among the set of biodiversity-related MEAs and determine their relevance to PICs. Preliminary work that could be used to determine components of a consolidated template has been undertaken by the UNEP and UNEP-WCMC in their report entitled 'Joint core reporting elements of biodiversity-related conventions and agreements' (UNEP-WCMC, draft, in preparation).
- Draft outline of a consolidated template in consultation with PICs, either through group workshops or individual sessions to establish national requirements.

- Ensure that the information can be easily accessed and extracted from the consolidated template for use by MEA Secretariats and other agencies who require this information.
- Identify a timetable for reporting that is agreed upon by both Parties and MEA Secretariats and that allows for a suitable review period.
- Seek agreement on the consolidated template from all PICs and MEA Secretariats.
- Select PICs to trial the consolidated template.

Components of a consolidated template

Given that the majority of PICs are Party to the CBD and that it is quite comprehensive in its requirements and covers a wide range of biodiversity aspects, a consolidated template could be based on the CBD. The consolidated template would also have to meet the requirements for the other MEAs. For example, it is likely that it would need to address species information requirements for CITES and CMS, and would also need to feature site-based information requirements to address Ramsar and WHC. There would also be a requirement for information on progress with implementation of each of the MEAs.

Suggested topics that could be reported on for a consolidated biodiversity reporting template relevant to the Pacific include:

- Habitat types;
- Status of species;
- Traditional use of ecosystems;
- Key identified threats to biodiversity;
- Trends (i.e. noted changes in biodiversity, etc);
- Impacts of changes in biodiversity on human well-being;
- Funding for biodiversity conservation and rehabilitation;
- Efforts to implement Convention requirements; and
- Site details for Ramsar and WHC.

Advantages of this option

- Eliminates duplication, cost and burden of reporting for PICs to multiple biodiversity-MEAs as only one report is required.
- Provides a report that will have multiple uses in a broader biodiversity context. For example, the information could be used to assist countries with their State of the Environment reporting.
- Provides a basis for assessing progress/gaps in national policy development and decision-making processes.
- Provides a template tailored specifically to feature information that is of relevance to PICs and takes into account capacity issues such as data availability and reporting capacity.
- May free up resources (for example, staffing and funding) which will enable countries to focus on other tasks that may be of higher priority in achieving national environmental objectives.
- Will facilitate comparability of biodiversity-related information across the Pacific as the information will be presented in a standardised format.
- Could foster coordination and cooperation between national focal points and agencies by encouraging information sharing across agencies and countries.
- Could lead to a greater submission rate for reporting which will benefit MEA Secretariats in their assessment of progress with implementation of MEAs.
- If successful, this model could be applied to other clusters of MEAs.
- May present an opportunity to streamline access to funding sources for MEA reporting.

Disadvantages of this option

- Could require significant national coordination across agencies to source the information required to feed into the consolidated template. It is likely that there would have to be a main coordination agency responsible for the overall management, coordination and completion of the consolidated template. This may be difficult for some PICs with limited resources and capacity.
- Difficulties may exist in establishing a template that is tailored to meet PICs' requirements yet still meets the needs of the MEA Secretariats.

Option Two: Tailoring State of the Environment reports to meet the requirements for biodiversity-related MEAs

General outline

This option would build upon the State of the Environment (SoE) reporting processes that many countries already have in place to facilitate reporting to MEAs. Some countries have already linked international reporting requirements into their SoE reporting processes and there is the potential to consolidate them. Linking these processes could provide a simpler and more coordinated approach to reporting and the collation of information. It may also result in more efficient use of human, technical and financial resources for PICs.

In general, SoE reports are required to report on the following topics:

- Atmosphere;
- Biodiversity;
- Coasts and oceans;
- Human settlements;
- Inland waters;
- Land and natural resources; and
- Natural and cultural heritage.

Components of the biodiversity-related elements of the SoE could be consolidated to include specific information on ecosystems and species, as well as cross-cutting issues such as international cooperation, conservation and sustainable use technologies, traditional knowledge, monitoring and evaluation, research and training, communication, education and public awareness, and financial resources.

This option could be piloted in a country that already has a SoE reporting process in place or one that is looking to commence a SoE reporting process.

PICs that already have SoE reporting processes in place include:

- Cook Islands (prepared for 1992)
- Federated States of Micronesia (prepared for 1992)
- Fiji (prepared for 1992)
- Kiribati (prepared for 1994)
- Marshall Islands (prepared for 1993)
- Palau (prepared for 1994)
- Niue (prepared for 1994)
- Samoa (prepared for 1993)
- Solomon Islands (prepared for 1992)
- Tuvalu (prepared for 1993)
- Tokelau (prepared for 1994)

Process involved in tailoring SoE reports to meet the requirements for biodiversity-related MEAs

Should this option be selected, the steps for its further development would be:

- Consult with MEA Secretariats regarding core MEA reporting requirements that could be included under the SoE reporting process.
- Draft outline of requirements to be included in SoE reporting that is agreed upon by all PICs and MEA Secretariats.
- Ensure that the information required by MEA Secretariats can be easily accessed and extracted from the SoE report.
- Establish a time frame for reporting that is agreed by MEA Secretariats and PICs. Identify a suitable review period before updating is required.
- Define linkages between SoE reporting and MEA reporting.
- Select PICs to trial the consolidated template.

Advantages of this option

- Potential to extend the existing SoE reporting processes to incorporate the reporting requirements of MEAs.
- Builds upon existing reporting structures in some PICs.
- Reduces duplication and burden of reporting for PICs to multiple biodiversity-MEAs.
- Could be used as an opportunity to enhance inter-agency communication and collaboration and could encourage communication to promote a top-down approach to managing environmental data and reporting requirements.
- Supports the production of a report that has multiple uses in a broader biodiversity context and which can be used to assess progress/gaps in national policy development and decision-making processes.
- May free up resources (for example, staffing, funding) which will enable countries to focus on other tasks that may be of higher priority in achieving national environmental objectives.
- May encourage countries to undertake more regular SoE reporting.

Disadvantages of this option

- SoE reporting is not a requirement under international obligations whereas reporting to MEAs is. Countries may be unwilling to devote considerable resources to something that is not an obligation.
- Difficulties may still exist in coordinating the collation of information across national ministries and agencies.
- There are a number of gaps between the SoE and MEA reporting processes that would need to be addressed as they are not identical processes. There are differences in data and information required for reporting to MEAs compared to that which is required in a SoE report, for example.
- For most countries, SoE reporting has not been a regular process to date. SoE reporting would need to occur on a much more regular basis if it were to provide a basis for MEA reporting.
- By making MEA reporting a component of SoE reporting, the focus would be on meeting the information needs of PICs to ensure better national governance, rather than on meeting the requirements of MEA Secretariats. It may therefore be difficult to ensure the information requirements for MEA Secretariats are fully met.

Option Three: Using the proposed SPREP Country Profiles as a template to report on the biodiversity-related MEAs

General outline

This option utilises SPREP Country Profiles as a template to report to the biodiversity-related MEAs. The SPREP Country Profiles are currently designed to enable PICs to report against the SPREP Action Plan.

By consolidating requirements for reporting to the biodiversity-related MEAs into the SPREP Country Profile template, the reporting burden could be reduced. The template for SPREP Country Profiles may, however, require adjustment to accommodate other components necessary to meet the current requirements for the five biodiversity-related MEAs. Given the alignment of some aspects of the biodiversity components of the SPREP Country Profile template with some of the information requirements for the CBD, this could be a viable option to reduce the reporting burden.

It is important to note, however, that the primary purpose for reporting under the SPREP Country Profile is to measure progress against the SPREP Action Plan. This has a broader environmental focus than the reporting requirements for the biodiversity-related MEAs.

At the 17th SPREP Meeting, members agreed to report on one component of the SPREP Country Profile per year. This means that reporting against the biodiversity-related components of the SPREP Country Profile will not occur on a regular basis. SPREP Country Profile reporting against the biodiversity-related components and on the implementation of MEAs may not fit in with the reporting deadlines of the MEA Secretariats. This may reduce the viability of this option.

Process involved for using the proposed SPREP Country Profiles as a template to report on the biodiversity-related MEAs

Should this option be selected, the steps for its further development would be:

- Consult with MEA Secretariats regarding additional information that may need to be incorporated into the SPREP Country Profile Template.
- Identify any aspects of the SPREP Country Profile Template which may require modification to meet information requirements for MEA reporting
- Undertake a process to revise the SPREP Country Profile Template where relevant.
- Ensure that the information can be easily accessed and extracted from the SPREP Country Profile for use by MEA Secretariats and other agencies who require this information.
- Identify a timetable for reporting that is agreed upon by Parties and MEA Secretariats and that allows for a suitable review period.
- Seek agreement for reporting to SPREP Country Profile Template from all PICs and MEA Secretariats.

Advantages of this option

- Consolidates two types of reporting into one, reducing the number of reports required for completion.
- Provides a means of information sharing which will have a combined benefit in documenting a country's progress under the Action Plan as well as gathering important environmental information that is relevant to meeting international requirements.
- It can be used as a means of assessing gaps and priorities in environmental governance.
- It can be used as a comparative exercise to gauge national progress with implementation of environmental activities which will be of benefit to the Pacific region in general.

Disadvantages of this option

- The current format of the SPREP Country Profile is linked primarily to reporting against the SPREP Action Plan. Revisions to the template would therefore have to be undertaken to accommodate all information requirements.
- Consolidating the template to meet formatting and information requirements of both SPREP and MEA Secretariats may be more difficult to instigate than a reporting format that is tailored specifically to meet MEA reporting objectives.
- The timeframes for the submission of the biodiversity components of the SPREP Country Profiles might not align with MEA Secretariats' requirements.

Option Four: Sub-regional reporting approach to the biodiversity-related MEAs

General outline

This option involves developing a sub-regional reporting approach that would identify sub-groupings of PICs that share commonalities in terms of size, the MEAs to which they are Party, and their capacity to report. A small range of consolidated templates would then be developed and tailored to suit the needs of these sub-groupings. This option would use a similar methodology and implementation process to that described in Option One.

Process required to establish a sub-regional reporting approach

Should this option be selected, the steps for its further development would be:

- Consult with MEA Secretariats regarding core requirements for inclusion in MEA reporting.
- Determine PIC sub-groupings through consultation.
- Determine reporting priorities for each sub-grouping then work towards customising information for each sub-grouping.
- Draft templates in consultation with sub-groupings.
- Ensure that the information required by MEA secretariats can be easily accessed and extracted from the consolidated template.
- Identify a timetable for reporting that is agreed upon by both Parties and MEA Secretariats as well as a suitable review period before updating is required.
- Seek agreement on all templates from PICs and MEA Secretariats.

Advantages of this option

- Tailored specifically to capture information that is of relevance to PICs and takes into account capacity issues such as data availability and reporting capacity.
- Eliminates duplication and burden of reporting for PICs to multiple biodiversity MEAs.
- Provides a report that will have multiple uses in a broader biodiversity context. For example, the information could be used to assist countries with their State of the Environment reporting.
- Provides a basis for assessing progress/gaps in national policy development and decision-making processes.
- Could foster coordination and cooperation between national focal points and agencies by encouraging information sharing across agencies and countries.

Disadvantages of this option

- Very resource intensive (in terms of both cost and time) and will not necessarily guarantee a more successful outcome.
- Would likely require extensive negotiation with MEA Secretariats and CoPs before it could proceed.
- Would probably involve significant coordination and consultation, both nationally across agencies and within sub-groupings of PICs, to agree on an approach.

Recommendations and next steps

SPREP members are invited to consider the advantages and disadvantages of each option and endorse the trial of a preferred option.

The paper recommends consideration be given to trialling 'Option One: Consolidated template for reporting against the biodiversity-related MEAs'. Several reasons underlie this conclusion. Firstly, this option will result in less duplication of reporting for PICs who are Party to more than one of the biodiversity-related MEAs. Secondly, it will be tailored specifically to meet the information requirements of PICs. Thirdly, this approach links in with the current work program of UNEP and UNEP-WCMC, which is exploring options for a consolidated template for reporting to the biodiversity-related MEAs. There is therefore scope to ensure that approaches to streamline and harmonise reporting are consistent at the regional and global scale.

Upon adopting a preferred option to trial in the Pacific, the next stages would involve:

- Determining the location for a trial, or 'pilot' approach. The pilot approach should be identified through workshops with national environmental agencies and national focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions. Further work will be required to set out the details of the pilot approach and coordinate it on a national scale.
- Once the details of the pilot approach have been established, this approach should be discussed with the MEA Secretariats and/or Conferences of the Parties of the biodiversity-related conventions.

Progressing these next stages depends on securing funding. Possible sources include the Pacific Governance Support Programme (PGSP) managed by Aus AID or the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Other avenues for funding should also be explored, such as the Asian Development Bank, UNEP and the World Bank.

Possible Future Work

It is important that in conjunction with any pilot approach to streamline and harmonise reporting there is ongoing investment in improving capacity at the national level for environmental data collation, data management and data transfer.

Ensuring appropriate management of databases and data flows is important to assist with implementation and reporting to MEAs. It also supports the achievement of other national reporting requirements and improvement of domestic governance.

The development of an information infrastructure that can be shared and built upon (i.e. an agreed set of data interchange formats, such as communications protocols as well as regional databases) could assist PICs to strengthen their capacity to meet reporting requirements and in monitoring the state of the environment. Projects such as PRISM (the Pacific Regional Information System under the Secretariat of the Pacific Community), which involve the establishment of a centralised database designed to hold socio-economic and environmental data for PICs, should be supported.

References

The World Bank (2007), *Draft Working Paper: GEF Pacific Alliance for Sustainability*. Washington D.C.

UNEP-DELIC & UNEP-WCMC (in preparation), *Draft - Joint core reporting elements of biodiversity-related conventions and agreements: A report from the UNEP Knowledge Management project*, Cambridge, UK

UNEP-WCMC (1998) *Feasibility Study for a Harmonised Information Management Infrastructure for Biodiversity-related Treaties*, accessed 2nd July 2007, http://www.unep-wcmc.org/convent/treaties_2.htm

Appendix One: Summary of main information for the biodiversity-related MEAs

Summary of main information requirements for the biodiversity-related MEAs					
Source: UNEP-WCMC (1998) <i>Feasibility Study for a Harmonised Information Management Infrastructure for Biodiversity-related Treaties</i>					
Information	CBD	CITES	CMS	Ramsar	WHC
ECOSYSTEMS					
Ecosystems and habitats					
ecosystems	✓				
habitat types	✓			✓	✓
traditional use	✓				
SPECIES					
		#1	#2	#3	#4
Classification, names and identification					
higher taxonomy	✓	✓	✓	✓	
scientific name	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
common names	✓	✓	✓	✓	
identification materials		✓	✓	✓	
Status					
conservation status	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
protection status (national and international)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ecology					
range and distribution	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
population data (size and trends)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
habitat requirements/availability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
migration routes	✓		✓	✓	
<i>In situ</i> and management activities					
legislation	✓	✓	✓		
<i>in situ</i> conservation and management activities	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Threats					
threats (direct, habitat destruction, indirect, etc)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
illegal trade		✓	✓		
invasive/exotic species	✓		✓		
Use					
use of species (medicinal, agricultural, economic etc)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
traditional knowledge	✓	✓	✓		
sustainable use (including levels and effect of trade)	✓	✓		✓	
number, quantity and type of specimens being traded		✓			
source/destination of specimens and permits details		✓			

Summary of main information requirements for the biodiversity-related MEAs

Source: UNEP-WCMC (1998) *Feasibility Study for a Harmonised Information Management Infrastructure for Biodiversity-related Treaties*

Information	CBD	CITES	CMS	Ramsar	WHC
trade in wetland products				✓	
waterfowl hunting statistics			✓	✓	
GENES					
Genes and genomes					
social, scientific or economic importance	✓				
legislative, administrative and policy measures	✓				
SITES					
		#5		#6	#7
Site details					
geographic location	✓	✓		✓	✓
site description	✓			✓	✓
boundaries and map				✓	✓
Ecology of site					
physical features	✓			✓	✓
<i>In situ</i> and management activities					
legislation	✓			✓	✓
conservation measures and management of site	✓			✓	✓
Threats					
threats	✓			✓	✓
Use					
land use	✓			✓	
hydrological values				✓	
social and cultural values	✓			✓	✓
land tenure/ownership	✓			✓	✓
economic value	✓			✓	
role of site to local communities	✓			✓	✓

Key:

- #1 fauna and flora listed in the Appendices of CITES
- #2 migratory species listed in Appendices of CMS
- #3 waterfowl and waders and any threatened/notable species of fauna or flora that occur on Ramsar sites
- #4 any threatened/notable species of fauna and flora that occur on World Heritage sites
- #5 protected sites for certain species (eg. Tiger)
- #6 Internationally important wetlands
- #7 sites of cultural or natural importance

Appendix Two: Overview of the work at the MEA Secretariat level to improve and facilitate reporting to the biodiversity-related MEAs

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

National Reports under the CBD are due every four years; the Fourth National Report to the CBD is due in 2009. The format for this report has been revised to incorporate a more practical approach to reporting. This approach has moved away from a multiple choice format to a more text-based format, which appears to be preferred by many Parties. After some criticism over the length of the past template for reporting, it has been significantly shortened.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Parties to CITES are required to submit two types of reports - an annual report, and a biennial report.

Annual Reporting - The annual report contains quantitative information on the trade in species listed under CITES, as well as a summary of information on, inter alia, the number and type of permits and certificates granted, the States with which such trade occurred, the quantities and types of specimens, and the names of species as included in Appendices I, II and III. Trade with a Party which fails to continuously submit annual reports without an adequate justification can be suspended. This type of reporting is integral to the success of CITES and would be difficult to simplify as the reporting is linked to trade sanctions.

Biennial Reporting - The second type of reporting under CITES is biennial reporting, under which Parties to the Convention are required to report on the legislative, regulatory and administrative measures taken to enforce the Convention. Feedback on the format of the biennial report is currently being sought by the CITES Secretariat as some Parties have indicated that a reduction in the length of this type of reporting would be welcome. There appears to be more scope to adapt the requirements of CITES biennial reporting into a streamlined reporting framework because of the types of information required in the reports.

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar)

Reporting under the Ramsar Convention is required every three years. The format for reporting under the Ramsar Convention is linked closely to the Convention's Strategic Plan. A sub-committee comprised of a number of Ramsar Parties is currently reviewing the format for reporting in the lead up to the next submission of national reports in 2008.

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

The timing for reporting on the CMS follows the schedule of the Conference of the Parties, which takes place every two to three years. The reporting template for the CMS has been recently revised but it is yet to be formally adopted. The format for CMS can be completed electronically and is customised for each Party (UNEP-WCMC, 2007).

World Heritage Convention (WHC)

Regional reporting is required under the WHC every five to six years. The World Heritage Convention Committee (the decision-making body for the WHC) is currently undertaking a review of the WHC reporting format in an attempt to improve the reporting process and to allow for better data collection for analytical purposes. The review of the current format is currently underway. There has also been some consideration of whether the reporting process for WHC can feed into other processes such as the National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSAs) programme funded under the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAPs) which are required under the CBD. Results from the review are pending.

Appendix Three: Overview of projects underway to streamline and harmonise MEA reporting

UNEP-WCMC – Harmonisation of National Reporting to the Biodiversity-related Treaties

The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) has been working to harmonise the MEA reporting process for a number of years under a project entitled the 'Harmonisation of National Reporting to the Biodiversity-related Treaties'. This project focuses on drawing out synergies and linkages between the biodiversity-related MEAs to facilitate reporting.

The work undertaken to date is quite comprehensive. A key achievement was the completion of four Pilot Projects carried out in Ghana, Indonesia, Panama and Seychelles which tested different approaches to streamline and harmonise MEA reporting. These approaches included the use of a modular reporting style, a consolidated template for reporting, and state of the environment reporting to meet reporting requirements for MEAs. A review of these Pilot Projects was undertaken in 2004. Further Pilot Projects to trial approaches in the future may be launched.

UNEP-WCMC is also considering whether the draft model to harmonise reporting for the human rights treaty system could be applied to the biodiversity-related cluster. This model involves the development of a core report that meets the requirements of a group of biodiversity-related MEAs, supplemented by information specific to the implementation of each MEA (UNEP-WCMC, 2007). Currently, UNEP-WCMC is in the process of identifying the core joint reporting elements for the biodiversity-related MEAs.

Consultation between UNEP-WCMC and the Australian Government is continuing to draw out similarities between the PGSP project and the UNEP-WCMC work program and to ensure the approaches are complementary.

European Community

The European Environment Agency (EEA) has undertaken work to streamline reporting to MEAs to which the European Community (EC) is a Party. The work also explores the effectiveness of reporting on environmental measures and has included the development of summary charts of reporting obligations for the EC. One of the outcomes of this work is a web-based Reporting Obligations Database (ROD) which supports countries with their individual environment reporting. This is part of a broader program of work under the European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET).

Substantial material is available on the internet regarding analysis of the reporting obligations, as well as the design of systems to assist EC countries to access reporting information. It is unclear if this work has now extended to developing approaches to actually reduce the volume of reporting required. Although the study is focused on the EC it provides a useful overview of the problem and suggestions for addressing the issue which may be applicable to the Pacific.

Inter-Linkages

The Inter-linkages study undertaken by the United Nations University (UNU) in collaboration with SPREP was targeted towards improving coordination between the various MEAs at the national level and used case-studies from the Pacific to identify MEA synergies. Part of this work included the production of a handbook to assist PICs with the implementation of the chemical and hazardous waste MEA cluster. No further work appears to be underway at this stage on this program.

Biodiversity Liaison Group

The Biodiversity Liaison Group was established by the Secretariats of the five biodiversity-related MEAs to consider synergies and linkages among these conventions. This group holds regular meetings and is working towards establishing a more coordinated approach to exchange information across these MEAs.

2010 Biodiversity Target

The 2010 Biodiversity Target was established in 2002 by Parties to the CBD. The aim is to reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss. This target has been endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations General Assembly. It has also been incorporated within the Millennium Development Goals.

The 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (2010BIP) has been established to progress work towards this target and is coordinated by UNEP-WCMC. 2010BIP is currently developing a range of biodiversity indicators which will be applied to ensure a more comprehensive and consistent process for monitoring and assessing global biodiversity.



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Eighteenth SPREP Meeting*Apia, Samoa*11-14 September 2007

Agenda Item 7.2: Sustainable Financing for Periodic Staff Salary Increases**Purpose of Paper**

1. To report back to the Meeting on the matter of staff salary increases and how these could be sustainably financed in the future.

Background

2. During the discussion of the recommendations of the triennial CROP-wide review of staff terms and conditions, the SPREP Meeting at its annual session last year was unanimous that the increases being recommended were justified and that these be met from savings. In taking this decision, the Meeting was concerned that continually having justifiable salary increases met from savings was unsustainable and it asked the Secretariat to report back to this year's Meeting with a strategy on how future increases in staff terms and conditions could be met sustainably by the organisation.

Comments and Discussion

3. The regional practice of having 3 yearly reviews of CROP staff salaries, terms and conditions of service had been in place for many years, even at the time SPREP became the newest regional organisation in 1993. The reviews for professional staff are done collectively for all regional agencies by one reviewer – because they are recruited from the same market (the Pacific region and internationally), while support staff are done against the relevant CROP base station market from where these staff are recruited.
4. In addition, as part of this practice, it had also become customary for representatives of CROP agencies to get together and review findings and recommendations of the triennial reviewers from the perspectives of fairness, practicality and affordability and to arrive at a collective CROP position before tabling by the respective agency at its governing council for consideration and approval. In the interests of maintaining harmonisation and fairness to all regional civil servants, in almost all instances, reviewer and CROP agreed recommendations for CROP wide application are approved by the respective governing bodies.

5. For SPREP as for CROP, up to 2001, the prevailing regional salary scheme provided for a fixed salary for the duration of contracts (3 years). In 2000/01, the region adopted for the CROP agencies a new benchmark for professional staff salaries – the mid-point of the Australian public sector market. SPREP applied the CROP system in January 2002. When the next CROP triennial review was due and done in the latter half of 2003, the reviewers found and recommended that to maintain parity and relativity with movements in the reference market (Australian public sector) over the previous 2.5 years, CROP salaries would have to be increased by between 5.6% to 32.8% over the 5 grade levels of the scale.

6. Because of questions of cost and affordability, CROP organisations' Members severed benchmarking to the Australian public sector market, agreed that regional agencies including SPREP be offered a 5% interim increase across the board, the new reference market be three (Australian public sector, New Zealand public sector and Fiji all organisations markets) and annual market surveys against these 3 reference markets were put in place.

Staff Salary Increases Since 2002

7. As indicated in paragraph 5 above, there were no salary increases for SPREP staff in 2002 and 2003. There were minimal to modest salary adjustments to professional and support staff for 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 both as a consequence of triennial reviews in (2003 and 2006) as well as the required annual market reviews for professional staff referred to in the foregoing paragraph. The one year cost for the increases: 2004 – USD65,654 for professional staff and USD8,495 for support staff; 2005 - \$67,534 for professional staff; 2006 - \$120,000 for professional staff and \$21,442 for support staff, 2007 - \$79,000 professional staff and \$43,260 for support staff.

Core and Programme Budget Staff

8. Only a small fraction of the staff population is funded from the Core budget whose main source of income is membership contributions and interest income. For 2007, only 34% of staff are supported by the Core budget representing about 31% of total staff costs. So for any total staff salary increase only about a third is met by the Core budget while the bulk of the cost is borne by donors who fund programmes.

Initial and Ongoing Costs of Salary Increases

9. When salaries are increased, there is the initial cost of introducing it in the first year and then the sum of this increase and the previous total salary bill would become the new base until a further upward adjustment is approved and its initial cost would then be on top of the earlier increase and previous base.

10. Taking the professional staff increase of 2006 as an example, the total estimated additional cost of adjusting all professional staff salaries and allowances was US\$120,000 broken down into \$38,840 (32%) for core funded staff and \$81,160 (68%) for donor funded staff. The total base (2005 salaries) professional staff bill amounted US\$2,675,482 to which the above increase would be added and become the new base for 2006. The new total base for all professional staff after the increase was added was US\$2,795,482 for the rest of 2006. The salary increase approved in 2006 by the SPREP Meeting for application in 2007, of US\$79,000 (\$30,850 for Core budget staff and \$48,150 for donor funded staff) would be added to the new 2006 base and become the base for any future increase (i.e. US\$2,874,482).

11. The point to note about total professional staff costs is that only about 30% of it relate to core budget funded staff. This situation is mirrored in total staff cost increases.

Financial Gains from Improved Efficiency and Management

12. As already alluded to in earlier paragraphs, the staff salary adjustments for Core funded staff in 2004, 2005, 2006 and this year had not been passed on to members via increased membership contributions but financed through savings by the Secretariat through improved efficiency, better financial and operational management and other fortuitous circumstances like vacant positions in the process of being filled. The SPREP Meeting last year asked the Secretariat to report back on these savings.

13. As already clarified, only about a third of the staff are funded by the Core budget. The Core budget's main sources of revenue are membership contributions, interest and other income. As donor funds are specifically for programme/project application the rest of this section will deal mainly with Core Budget issues.

14. In terms of savings by the Secretariat in the Core Budget, the Secretariat achieved a surplus of US\$99,453 in 2002 which was transferred to the Reserve Fund. Another surplus of US\$124,697 was achieved after its operations in 2003, a further surplus of US\$375,642 achieved at the end of 2004, another of US\$112,868 in 2005 while last year's operations resulted in a deficit of US\$64,210. Note here that because of accounting and auditing procedures, the above surpluses, while available for use in succeeding years (except for 2002), are not accounted for in the operations of that year and hence is additional to either a surplus or deficit being achieved in any particular year. Hence, although 2006 operations resulted in a Core budget deficit of US\$64,210, with accumulated surpluses of US\$613,207 (from 2003, 2004 and 2005), the Secretariat had available for this year's operations a surplus of US\$548,997.

15. These surpluses or savings are in part the outcome of Secretariat efforts at increasing efficiency and improving financial and administrative management over these years and in some years savings because of vacant positions that were in the process of being recruited.

Increases in Membership Contributions

16. Although much is said by SPREP members of increased membership contributions and the need to avoid it where necessary, in actual fact, in its 15 year life in Samoa, SPREP had only approved three membership contributions increases: US\$170,461 (35.3%) for 2001, US\$64,743 (9.9%) for 2002 and US\$162,820 (21%) for 2004. While the percentages look formidable (because of the low total base contributions), the sums are not, particularly considering that while most CROP agencies have 16 or 17 contributors, SPREP has 25. The resulting increases for most Pacific island members are insignificant and only a fraction of the benefits they draw from SPREP membership, services and programme support rendered.

Salary Costs/Lost of Doing Business

17. For SPREP, its work programmes and activities are its staff. It is staff and their capabilities and range of expertise that enable services and activities to be delivered to PICTs in SPREP's designated areas of operation and regional environment priorities. This is true for both professional and support staff who enable and facilitate the work of their professional colleagues.

18. As salaries and associated benefits enable competent staff to be employed, the cost of salaries and staff terms and conditions are the essential cost to the organisation of "doing its business".

Features of CROP and SPREP Salaries

19. SPREP salaries and benefits are determined collectively with other participating CROP agencies (eg. Forum Secretariat, SPC, FFA, SOPAC and SPBEA) as part of regional harmonisation and rationalisation. Since this practice of CROP wide reviews have been in place, by and large review recommendations are approved and applied across CROP agencies by their respective governing bodies.

20. For SPREP, only about a third of its staff are Core budget financed, the majority are supported by donors. Hence for any staff salary increase the Core budget and potentially membership contributions, is only required to finance about 30% of the cost while 70% is met by donors through project/programme funding.

21. The view that expecting salary increases or the increased costs of doing business to be financed by savings to be made by the Secretariat is unsustainable and even unreasonable, is supported by the Secretariat. The members would have to take a decision and commitment that if the service provided is needed and effectively delivered then it would have to meet its share of the costs of this "business". Donors have the potential for these costs increases built into their programme funding or willing to meet these where they might not have been anticipated.

Considerations for Financing Core Budget Costs of Staff Salary Increases

22. The following could be some of the considerations or options for financing the Core budget and members' share of future staff increases.

- (i) Modest and planned regular increases in membership contributions;
- (ii) Donor funding of Members' (Core budget) share of staff cost increases;
- (iii) Freezing SPREP salaries; and
- (iv) Reducing the number of Core budget funded staff.

23. The only obstacle to the first option is the willingness and commitment of members. It would be dependent on how members view and value the work and work performance of the Secretariat and its staff. Membership contributions increases to meet the essential costs of doing business is otherwise natural and essential.

24. With the second consideration, while this is possible it would be difficult from two points of view: (a) donors normally expect members and recipients to make some contribution to their own development and particularly the corporate aspects which is the Core budget, and (b) the Core budget and members' collective stake in the Organisation is a mere 23% of the costs indicating SPREP's extreme dependent on donors. To reduce this minimal stake further would render the organisation more vulnerable to donor domination.

25. In respect of option (iii), apart from being unfair, this would, in the regional practice of CROP harmonisation of terms and conditions, mean SPREP would no longer be part of that. It would spell the end of CROP harmonisation.

26. Option (iv) would be difficult to contemplate given the Core budget supports only a small fraction of total staff and that those staff under it were a selected few considered essential to keeping the organisation going in the (unlikely) event of donor funding not being available. If this is pursued, it would amount to an arbitrary decision on which post would be the sacrificed so others could have their raise. It would likely be a support staff post because of their low cost. In any case, making a post, even a support staff post, redundant is likely to end up more costly than the outlay for salary increases because of any severance compensation.

27. There could be other options or combinations of them but the above should be sufficient for the Meeting and members to have a good debate and sort out its thinking on this important issue.

Recommendation

28. The Meeting is invited to:

- **consider** and **discuss** the paper;
- **note the gains** from cost-saving measures as requested in last years Meeting;
- **decide** on the suggested options; and
- **direct** the Secretariat on the course of action.

27 June 2007



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Eighteenth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa

11-14 September 2007

**Agenda Item 8.1.1 : Regional Marine Species Programme Framework
and Regional Arrangements for the Conservation
of Marine Species of Special Interest**

Purpose of Paper

1. To table the revised Regional Marine Species Programme Framework for the next five years, 2008-2012, and seek the Meeting's approval of it. The paper also proposes the inclusion of sharks as one of the marine species of special interest in the Framework and provides an update on the progress of regional arrangements for the conservation of Cetaceans, Dugongs and Marine Turtles under the auspices of the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in the Pacific islands region.

Background

2. As a result of a working paper presented by the Secretariat to the 17th SPREP Meeting (17SM) last year seeking endorsement of the Meeting for the review of Regional Marine Species Programme Framework 2003-2007, the Meeting:

- *Endorsed the review process of the Marine Species Programme Framework 2003-2007 for the next five years, 2008-2012 and to consider inclusion of other marine species of special interest to the region.*
- *Directed the Secretariat to submit the revised Marine Species Programme Framework for 2008-2012 in the 2007 SPREP Meeting for endorsement by members.*
- *Encouraged participating PICTs to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands region under the auspices of CMS.*
- *Noted the development and progress of the MoU for the Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Pacific under the auspices of CMS;*
- *Urged members who are parties to CMS, and partners, to support the timely development and finalization of the MoU on the conservation of marine turtles;*
- *Encouraged dugong range states and territories to be fully involved in the development of the MoU for conservation and management of dugongs in the South-east Asian region under the auspices of CMS.*

Regional Marine Species Programme Framework

Review of the Framework 2003-2007

3. The Framework encompasses 5-year Action Plans for three groups of marine species of special interest in the Pacific. The three groups of marine species are Dugongs, Marine Turtles, and Whales & Dolphins. Species within these groups continue to be in various states of conservation concern globally. Certain species from these groups continue to be listed in Appendix I¹ of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Appendices I² and II³ of the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals.

4. In preparation for the region-wide review of the Framework, a technical meeting to update available information on whales and dolphins in the region took place in Apia, in August 2006. Due to financial constraints, it was not possible to conduct similar technical meetings for marine turtles and dugongs.

5. During March 2007, a series of regional meetings on marine species was held in Apia, Samoa, to which all SPREP members were invited. The series of meetings included the CMS Outreach Workshop and First Meeting of Signatories to the MoU for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region, the Department of Environment and Water Resources (Australia) workshop on cetacean/fisheries interaction, and the reviews of the regional Marine Species Programme Framework Action Plans. During the review meetings, revised focus areas and sets of priority actions were developed and identified by member country/territory participants, and collaborating partners. This series of meetings was made possible with financial assistance from the CMS Secretariat, Government of Australia (Department of Environment and Water Resources) and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (NOAA, USA). The revised draft Marine Species Framework for 2008-2012 is presented as Attachment 1.

Consideration for inclusion of other marine species in the Framework 2008-2012

6. As endorsed in 17SM in 2006, discussion on an additional priority marine species of special interest to be included in the Framework was conducted during the review of the Action Plans discussed above. The initial results were subsequently validated with participants after the meeting as well as with members who did not attend the meetings. The list was subsequently ranked according to the most listed species. The results are summarised in Table 1, starting with the species most listed. The top four most listed species were sharks, giant clams, seabirds and the hump-head wrasse. A total of 16 (64%) of SPREP member States and Territories participated. Fifteen (71%) of the 21 Island States and Territories participated.

¹ Appendix I lists species that are the most endangered among CITES-listed animals and plants of the Convention. These are threatened with extinction and CITES generally prohibits commercial international trade in specimens of these species. However trade may be allowed under exceptional circumstances, e.g. for scientific research. In these cases, trade may be authorized by the granting of both an export permit (or re-export certificate) and an import permit.

² Appendix I lists species that are endangered and Parties that are Range States shall prohibit the taking of these animals except for scientific purposes, enhancing propagation or survival and traditional subsistence use.

³ Appendix II lists migratory species which have an unfavourable conservation status and which require international agreements for their conservation and management, as well as those which have a conservation status which would significantly benefit from the international cooperation that could be achieved by an international agreement

Regional arrangements for Cetaceans, Marine Turtles and Dugongs under the auspices of CMS

MoU for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region

7. SPREP has been collaborating with CMS in developing the MoU for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region since 2003. This included 3 regional meetings involving SPREP members and partners and which eventually resulted in a finalized MoU in 2006. The MoU was opened for signing during the 17SM in Noumea, Caledonia, 2006. Nine (9) SPREP members and four collaborating organizations signed the MoU when it was opened for signature. The MoU became effective on that date as it only requires four signatures to be effective.

8. The First Meeting of Signatories to the CMS Cetacean MoU was held on 6 March 2007, Apia, Samoa. During that meeting, two additional SPREP members (Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands) and 1 collaborating organization (WWF South Pacific) also signed the MoU. The current listing of signatories to the MoU is recorded on Table 2.

MoU for the Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Pacific

9. A meeting to develop and negotiate an MoU for the conservation of marine turtles in the Pacific under CMS has not taken place yet. SPREP continues to negotiate with the CMS Secretariat and the Oceania CMS lead party to initiate this first meeting. Due to the migratory nature of turtles in different phases of their life cycle, this meeting is envisaged to include Pacific rim countries and distant water fishing nations that potentially impact on turtle populations in the region. It has been envisaged that the first meeting will provide an opportunity for members to decide whether a Pacific-wide MoU would be warranted.

10. The 16SM in 2005 directed the Secretariat to progress regional arrangements for dugongs and marine turtles including under the auspices of the CMS. In line with that decision, a proposal was submitted by Australia during the 8th CMS Conference of Parties in November 2005, encouraging Parties and range states in the Pacific to cooperate to develop and conclude an MoU and associated conservation plan for the conservation and management of marine turtles under the CMS.

Dugong Conservation and Management

11. As reported earlier, dugongs only occur in six countries and territories in the SPREP region. These include, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Palau, Vanuatu and New Caledonia. Given the limited number of SPREP dugong range members, a separate MoU for the Pacific Islands region under CMS is not warranted and the SPREP dugong range states have been encouraged to participate in the CMS Dugong Conservation and Management MoU being negotiated for the south-east Asian region.

12. The second intergovernmental meeting on the above MoU was held in Thailand, 25-28 April 2006. SPREP communicated with organizers of this meeting to ensure participation of all SPREP dugong range members. SPREP was also represented in this meeting, working with SPREP dugong range members. SPREP and IFAW circulated a joint briefing paper in that meeting. From that meeting, an agreed draft MoU and Conservation and Management Plan, was circulated towards the end of 2006 for consideration by range states. SPREP and IFAW again circulated a briefing paper encouraging SPREP range states to sign the MoU given the relevance to regional effort and in particular the SPREP regional Dugong Action Plan.

Recommendation

13. The Meeting is invited to:

- **endorse** the revised Marine Species Programme Framework for the next five years, 2008-2012;
- **consider** the inclusion of sharks as a species of special interest to the regional Marine Species Programme Framework 2008-2012;
- **direct** the Secretariat to collaborate with other relevant regional IGOs, in particular, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), SPC, and FFA in progressing an appropriate approach in developing a Regional Action Plan for sharks, noting the decision 2006/05 by the Third Regular Session of WCPFC on Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;
- **encourage** participating PICTs who have not signed the MoU for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region under the auspices of CMS to sign;
- **note** the forthcoming report of the First Meeting of Signatories to the CMS MoU for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region;
- **encourage** dugong range states and territories to sign the MoU for Conservation and Management of Dugongs in the south-east Asian region under the auspices of CMS when it is open for signature; and
- **urge** members who are parties to CMS and the CMS Secretariat, in collaboration with SPREP, to initiate the first meeting to develop the MoU for the Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Pacific.

Table 1: Results of the listing of another marine species to be Included in the Regional Marine Species Programme Framework.

Species	Total	Members Only
Sharks (including Whale Sharks)	13	10
Giant Clam Species (Native)	9	9
Seabirds	9	7
Humphead (Napoleon/Maori) wrasse	7	6
Mangroves	6	6
Sea cucumbers	6	5
Mangrove crab	4	4
Corals	3	3
Green humphead parrotfish	3	3
Giant triton	3	3
Saltwater crocodile	1	1
Bonefish	1	1
<i>Epinephelus lanceolatus</i>	1	1
Sawfish	1	1
Tuna	2	1
Rays	2	1
Lobsters	1	1
Green snail	1	1

Table 2: Signatories to the CMS MoU for the Conservation of the Cetaceans and their habitats in the Pacific Islands Region as of March 2007.

<u>SPREP Member</u>	<u>Date Signed</u>
Australia	15/9/06
Cook Islands	15/9/06
Federated States of Micronesia	15/9/06
Fiji	15/9/06
France	15/9/06
New Zealand	15/9/06
Niue	15/9/06
Papua New Guinea	6/3/07
Samoa	15/9/06
Solomon Islands	6/3/07
Vanuatu	15/9/06
<u>Collaborating Organizations</u>	
CMS	15/9/06
SPREP	15/9/06
IFAW	15/9/06
WDCS	15/9/06
WWF South Pacific	6/3/07



**SPREP
PROE**

MARINE SPECIES
PROGRAMME
2008-2012

PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Animals and Plants
CMS	Conservation on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CMT	Customary Marine Tenure
COP	Conference of Parties
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
DAP	Dugong Action Plan
DWFN	Distant Water Fishing Nation
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
FFEM	Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondiale (French Global Environment Facility)
IAC	Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
IFAW	International Fund for Animal Welfare
IFREMER	Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea)
IGO	Inter-Governmental Organization
IOSEA	Indian Ocean-South-East Asia Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IUCN	The World Conservation Union (International Union for the Conservation of Nature)
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
IWC	International Whaling Commission
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSO	Marine Species Officer
MSPF	Marine Species Programme Framework
MTAP	Marine Turtle Action Plan
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan
NCSA	National Capacity Self Assessment
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NSDS	National Strategies for the Development of Statistics
NZ	New Zealand
PICT	Pacific Island Countries and Territories
PIR	Pacific Islands Region
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisations
RMTCP	Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SPTO	South Pacific Tourism Organization
SPWRC	South Pacific Whale Research Consortium
TK	Traditional Knowledge
TRM	Traditional Resource Management
UK	United Kingdom
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USP	University of the South Pacific, Fiji
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission
WDAP	Whale and Dolphin Action Plan
WDCS	Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society
WPRFMC	Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

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OVERALL VISION

The SPREP¹ Marine Species Programme for the Pacific Islands Region outlines a strategy for the cooperative conservation management of shared dugong, marine turtle, whale and dolphin resources which will be implemented through Action Plans for 2008-2012. This strategy will enable the peoples of the Pacific Islands to take a primary role in achieving the following vision:

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

INTRODUCTION

The Pacific Islands region served by SPREP covers 32 million sq km and is situated in the middle of the largest continuous marine habitat on the planet, the Pacific Ocean. This region is home to a diverse range of large marine fauna including cetaceans, sirenians and marine turtles. Over half of the world's known species of cetaceans are found in the region. The area also supports the world's largest remaining populations of dugongs, green, hawksbill, and loggerhead turtles.

The diversity of these marine creatures is recognized as a fundamental element of Pacific Islands' culture and heritage, and maintenance of healthy populations is essential to maintaining a healthy Pacific Ocean.

Dugongs, turtles whales and dolphins play a significant ecological role in the functioning of coastal and oceanic habitats. They are widely regarded as flagship species for Pacific marine ecosystems and often feature prominently in promotional tourist material for many Pacific Island states.

Many Pacific island cultures have legends, stories and traditional uses of marine mammals and turtles, indicating the importance of these creatures in the identities of people, their way of life and their heritage.

Most of these species are long-lived and have low reproductive rates, making them vulnerable to over-harvesting. Dugongs and turtles have been hunted extensively in the region both for traditional and subsistence purposes and more recently for commercial gain. They are now considered endangered throughout their range and many small and /or isolated populations are vulnerable to extinction. Dolphins have also been used as source of food and resources, often through local drive hunts. These species remain a highly valued food (meat and oil), medicine (oil) source and the shells, skin and bones are often used for jewelry and ornaments. Dugong bone and the teeth of small cetaceans have been important in certain ceremonies e.g., in marriages and funerals in New Caledonia, Manus Province (PNG), and Malaita (Solomon Islands). In Fiji, *tabua* (sperm whales teeth) are a highly valued commodity in cultural ceremony and exchanges.

¹ SPREP Members: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna

While subsistence hunting of dugongs and turtles may have been sustainable in the past, the combination of increasing human populations and the introduction of new technologies (e.g. outboard motors and gill nets) has impacted severely on several species resulting in fragmentation of populations and even local extinction.

For many species of large whales, the impacts of commercial whaling during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, largely by countries from outside the region have reduced the breeding populations of South Pacific whales to extremely low levels, possibly to local extinction for some species.

For all of these species, there is a growing awareness of their non-consumptive values for social, economic and cultural benefit of local communities, e.g. boat or shore-based watching of whales, dolphins, turtles and dugongs as tourism activities.

Most of these species have distribution and migratory pathways that extend across and beyond several jurisdictions. Thus Pacific Islands have a shared responsibility to ensure the recovery and maintenance of viable populations of these species, including under the provisions of various international agreements such as Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Conventional on the Conservation on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Animals and Plants (CITES).

In our lifetime, there has been a growing awareness of the increasingly threatened status of many of these iconic species and of the need for a concerted and coordinated approach amongst Pacific Island nations to arrest and reverse declining population trends.

CONSERVATION CHALLENGES

In addition to threats facing these species, the overarching problems and challenges surrounding conservation effort in the Pacific Islands Region include:

- Lack of data and information including basic population parameters and long-term data sets;
- Absence and lack of on-going and long-term research, survey and monitoring programmes;
- Limited public awareness and education programmes;
- Limited in-country skills/capacity to provide leadership in marine species conservation management;
- Limited national management mechanisms to protect these marine animals and their habitats;
- Lack of resources including accessing sustained funding;
- Limited of information exchange, linkages and collaboration.

The implementation and coordination of the 2003-2007 Regional Marine Species Programme Action Plans was significantly constrained by the lack of consistent funding for the SPREP Marine Species Officer (MSO) position to facilitate sourcing of funding for implementation. This will be addressed in the 2008-2012 Action Plans by the development of a resourcing strategy. Despite this situation, substantial progress has been achieved.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

Pacific Island peoples are stewards of their marine environment and depend on these resources for their way of life. The Marine Species Programme 2008-2012 supports their role by:

- **Identifying and mitigating threats;**
- **Promoting customary management practices and traditional stewardship;**
- **Improving the status of these species and their habitats;**
- **Ensuring these species populations recover and continue to fulfill their ecological roles;**
- **Fostering sustainable use, including non-consumptive uses such as tourism;**
- **Building capacity and securing human and financial resources;**
- **Enhancing cooperation and coordinated action at national, regional and international levels; and by**
- **Increasing knowledge, awareness and understanding of these species and their habitats, and their ecological and cultural values.**

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

These Action Plans and their implementation are the collective responsibility of SPREP member states, the SPREP Secretariat, partner non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, and private sector organizations.

COMMITMENT, FUNDING AND HUMAN RESOURCES

The SPREP Secretariat will continue to play an important role in facilitating information exchange, coordination, capacity building, securing resources and in regular monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Action Plans.

It is recognized that, beyond existing in-country capacity, significant additional resources will be needed to achieve the aims and objectives of these Action Plans. We call upon all donor partners and supporters of SPREP's Regional Marine Species Programme to assist in providing the necessary resources to implement the Action Plans at regional and national levels.

NETWORKING, REPORTING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The SPREP Secretariat will take the primary responsibility for networking, information management, archiving and regional reporting. It will continue to rely on reporting and information from members and partners to achieve this.

IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION

OBJECTIVE: <i>To ensure successful Marine Species Programme implementation through effective and sustained management, coordination and communication.</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
<p>1 Provide sustained regional and national facilitation and coordination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure continuation of MSO position within SPREP; • Facilitate the establishment of an additional SPREP dedicated officer to be recruited at the Associate project level or through other partnership arrangements; • Nominate appropriate national officers for implementation and reporting of the Marine Species Programme Action Plans at the national level. 	<p>SPREP</p> <p>SPREP</p> <p>Members</p>	High
<p>2 Build and strengthen the Dugong, Marine Turtle, and Whale & Dolphin Networks consisting of SPREP members and partners including IGOs, NGOs, donors, technical experts and other interested parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish list servers; • Maintain contacts database; • Disseminate the Action Plans network list of contacts on a regular basis; • Ensure SPREP has updated information; • Encourage in-country networks; • Facilitate access to information and resources including scientific and technical reports. 	<p>SPREP</p> <p>SPREP</p> <p>SPREP</p> <p>Members</p> <p>Members</p> <p>SPREP/ Partners</p>	High
<p>3 Develop and implement a Resourcing Strategy (including financial and human resources and associated capacity building required) for the Action Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and secure the human and financial resources and partnerships required for the management and coordination of the Action Plans; • Develop proposals and secure resources for the implementation of Action Plan priorities; • Encourage interested parties, individuals and agencies to develop and implement project proposals consistent with Action Plan and national priorities of target countries. 	<p>SPREP</p> <p>SPREP/ Members/ Partners</p> <p>Partners SPREP/ Members/ Partners</p>	High

<u>4</u>	<p>Develop and implement a Communication Strategy that ensures effective outreach and buy-in at the national, regional and international levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a communication outreach package in consultation with Members and partners; • Provide training for national coordinators to effectively utilize and communicate information, including support for language translation; • Ensure target audiences include politicians, local communities, donor agencies, IGOs, NGOs, technical experts; • Promote understanding and support buy-in from communities and decision-makers. 	<p>SPREP/ Members</p> <p>SPREP/ Partners/ Members</p> <p>Members</p> <p>Members</p>	High
<u>5</u>	<p>Develop and implement Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting mechanisms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a streamlined and simple reporting format for Members and partners, drawing from lessons learnt from other reporting requirements. Further develop this as an on-line reporting mechanism; • Incorporate information from Action Plan reports into other national reporting mechanisms where possible and appropriate (e.g. CBD, CMS, UNFCCC, CITES and UNCCD); • Prepare annual report on Action Plans implementation for SPREP meeting with a focus on in-country progress, including successes and constraints, and also implementation of arrangements under CMS; • Undertake mid-term and final review of Action Plans implementation, including lessons learnt, and provide status report to Members and partners. 	<p>SPREP</p> <p>Members/ SPREP/ Partners</p> <p>SPREP</p> <p>SPREP/ Members</p>	High
<u>6</u>	<p>Develop and maintain an Information Management System that includes databases covering lessons learnt, achievements and investments that is accessible and promotes information sharing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximize on-line access to Action Plans information and databases; • Secure archiving of reports and information through the SPREP Library and Information Center; • Ensure information system is readily available and easily accessible; • Ensure that any restrictions on source information should be respected. 	<p>SPREP</p> <p>SPREP/ Members</p> <p>SPREP</p> <p>SPREP</p> <p>SPREP</p>	High
<u>7</u>	<p>Promote the integration of Marine Species Programme and Action Plan priorities into national strategies, plans and projects as appropriate and relevant to national needs.</p>	Members	High

8 Promote the integration of Marine Species Programme and Action Plan priorities into regional and international strategies, plans and projects as appropriate and relevant to regional and international needs.	Members/ SPREP/ Partners	High
9 Facilitate an informal and open-ended technical Working Group, comprising scientists, policy developers, managers, etc to provide technical advice on Action Plan implementation as required. As part of this technical working group, promote linkages with the relevant groups of the IUCN Species Survival Commission.	SPREP	High
10 Continue to foster collaboration with the CMS.	SPREP	High
11 Further national, regional and international collaboration and cooperation by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiating dialogue and collaboration with the fisheries, tourism and transport sectors at the regional and national levels in relation to information, awareness raising and management actions to address impacts • Fostering interagency collaboration at national level and engagement with private sector • Fostering NGO partnerships at the national, regional and international levels 	Members Members Members/ SPREP/ Partners	High
12 Identify and develop appropriate responses for the conservation needs of other marine species for SPREP Members consideration		
<p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Dugong, Marine Turtle and Whale & Dolphin Networks established/strengthened and fully operational. ⊙ Resource Strategy in place and implemented. ⊙ Communication Strategy in place and implemented. ⊙ Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting mechanisms in place and implemented. ⊙ Information Management System in place and operational. ⊙ Marine Species Programme priority actions integrated into national, regional and international plans and projects. 		



1. DUGONG ACTION PLAN 2008-2012

PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

GOAL

To maintain and improve the status of dugong populations and their habitats, in keeping with the traditions of the people of the Pacific Islands Range States

INTRODUCTION

The dugong (*Dugong dugon*) has high biodiversity value as the only member of the family Dugongidae and the only strictly marine herbivorous mammal. Dugongs are long-lived and slow breeders. Dugongs first breed at age 6 to 17 years and suckle their young for up to 18 months. Females produce only one calf every 2.5 to 7 years depending on food supply. They are thought to live for more than 70 years. For dugongs, adult survival is the most critical life history parameter and populations can only be sustained through low levels of human-induced mortality.

Dugongs spend most of their time feeding in shallow waters less than 10m deep where their critical habitats of sea-grass beds occur. Being sea-grass specialists, dugongs play an important ecological role in structuring the sea-grass ecosystem. If sea-grass habitat loss occurs, dugongs may postpone their breeding and move to other areas. Dugongs are capable of undertaking long-distance movements of up to several hundred kilometers over 2 to 3 days.

Given the above life history characteristics, populations of dugongs are slow to recover if they are lost from a particular area. In addition, without the influence of their grazing activities, the sea-grass communities in the area may change to less favourable species for dugongs, discouraging their return.

Dugongs are also highly significant as a subsistence food source, for the maintenance of cultural traditions and for their iconic status and high biodiversity value to the human populations of the Pacific Island States where they occur.

SPECIES DISTRIBUTION

Dugongs have a large range that spans 140,000 km of coastline across 48 countries and territories and includes tropical and subtropical coastal and island waters from east Africa to Vanuatu.

It is generally believed that throughout much of its range, the dugong is represented by relict populations separated by large areas where its numbers have been greatly reduced or already extirpated. The only large remaining populations of dugongs are those in northern Australia and south-western Papua New Guinea as well as the Arabian Gulf.

Dugong occurs in six countries and territories in the SPREP region: Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Palau, Vanuatu and New Caledonia. The dugong population in Palau is believed to be the most isolated in the world and unlikely to be supplemented by recruitment from any other area. "The Vanuatu Archipelago is the eastern limit of the dugong's range. Sea-grass beds become less frequent and less diverse progressing eastwards across the Pacific, placing a natural barrier to the eastward extension of the dugong's range"¹.

Being highly mobile, dugongs are capable of moving across the Exclusive Economic Zones of different countries.

SPECIES STATUS

The 2006 IUCN Red List classifies dugong as vulnerable to extinction at the global scale. All populations of the dugong are also listed on Appendix 1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) which prohibits commercial international trade of the species. Dugong is listed in Appendix II of CMS, which means they are considered to have an unfavourable conservation status and require international agreements for their conservation and management.

In the Pacific Islands Region, with the exception of the Torres Strait, the status of dugong populations are generally unknown but of concern, particularly in Palau waters where the population is likely to be facing extinction.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND CUSTOM

The dugong plays a significant part in the culture of communities in the Pacific Islands where they occur. In some societies, the dugong is considered an important totem because of its large size and strength, and it also features prominently in the stories and legends. The activities associated with the hunting of dugongs and preparing the meat also have great significance and are an expression of the continuance of long cultural traditions.

Specific parts of the dugong are used in customary events (such as weddings, funerals and other traditional feasts) as well as for making traditional equipment including drums, spoons, scrapers, hooks, laces, and necklaces. While dugong meat is a traditional, and sometimes highly prized, meat in some societies, others have traditional taboos against killing them.

¹ Dugong Status Report and Action Plans for Countries and Territories. UNEP/DEWA/RS.02-1. ISBN 92-807-2130-5. Compiled by Helene Marsh, Helen Penrose, Carole Eros and Joanna Hugues.

INCOME GENERATING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH ECO-TOURISM

Similar to other eco-tourism activities based on marine animals such as whales and dolphins, dugong watching/cruise and "swim with" operations have been established in several countries including Australia and the Philippines. Swimming with dugongs is a tourism activity in Vanuatu.

THREATS

Threats to dugong have been broadly categorised into two areas, those that cause direct mortality to the animals and those that cause their habitat loss or degradation.

Threats that cause direct dugong mortality include:

- Harvesting for food, medicine and artefacts: This is perhaps the greatest threat in the Pacific Islands Region given the low numbers or unknown status of populations in some areas. For most countries, it is unknown whether the level of harvest is sustainable. However, there is concern that the use of modern equipment for hunting is a major threat.
- Incidental by-catch, destructive fishing methods and vessel strikes: The incidental drowning of dugongs caught in fisheries gear, such as nets, is believed to have contributed to the decline of dugongs in some areas of the Pacific Range States. The increase in vessel traffic also increases the likelihood of dugongs being impacted by vessel strikes.

Because of their dependence on seagrasses, dugongs are very vulnerable to habitat loss/disturbance. Threats to their habitat include:

- Coastal development including human settlement: These activities increase sedimentation and turbidity in the coastal waters where sea-grass is found. Sedimentation and turbidity not only smother sea-grasses but also reduce light reaching the seagrasses, resulting in degradation of seagrass extent, density and productivity.
- Agricultural pollution: herbicide runoff from agricultural lands also presents a potential risk to the functioning of sea-grass habitats.
- Nutrient run-off from land: This causes nutrient enrichment that leads to increases in epiphytic growth in the water column with the result being reduced light levels for the sea-grass. Nutrient enrichment may also change the community structure of sea-grass habitats.

THEMES AND OBJECTIVES

THEMES	OBJECTIVE
1. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS	• Raise awareness about the importance of dugongs and their habitats
2. HABITAT PROTECTION	• Enhance protection of dugong foraging and breeding habitats
3. MANAGEMENT	• Improve protection mechanisms for dugongs and their habitats
4. TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, CUSTOMARY MARINE TENURE & TRADITIONAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	• To recognize the value of preserving and protecting the integrity of traditional knowledge, TRM and CMT and incorporating into management practices
5. CAPACITY BUILDING	• Build in-country capacity to enhance dugong management
6. THREATS - KEY DUGONG CONSERVATION ISSUES	• Reduce direct and indirect causes of dugong injury and mortality
7. RESEARCH AND MONITORING - INFORMATION/DATABASES	• Improve our understanding of dugong population status through research and monitoring
8. NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION	• Enhance national, regional and international cooperation
9. HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES	• To ensure on-going and efficient facilitation of implementation, management and coordination of the Dugong Action Plan

THEMES AND PRIORITY ACTIONS

THEME 1: EDUCATION AND AWARENESS		
OBJECTIVE: <i>Raise awareness about the importance of dugongs and their habitats</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
1.1 Provide assistance to the Pacific Islands range states to enable them to deliver an effective and appropriate education programme to their peoples.	SPREP/ Partners	High
1.2 Increase community awareness of threats and the need for conservation of dugongs and their habitats.	Range Members/ Partners	High
1.3 Encourage and support the incorporation of dugong life history information and conservation issues into school and other awareness programmes.	Range Members/ Partners	Medium
1.4 Facilitate and encourage networking and linkages to community monitoring groups, such as Seagrass Watch (http://www.seagrasswatch.org) and other NGOs in information exchange.	SPREP/ Range Members	Medium
1.5 Create a dugong web page on the SPREP website and to include inter alia links, with content guidance, on SPREP website for educational materials on dugongs.	SPREP	High
1.6 Declare 2010 as the Pacific Year of the Dugong and support the planning, development and implementation of in-country and regional range states conservation campaigns.	SPREP/ Range Members/ Partners	Medium
1.7 Encourage the use of informal/traditional methods of education within villages utilising appropriate local knowledge custodians/competent village authorities, as resource people.	Range Members /Partners	High
1.8 Work with watercraft users to raise awareness on the importance of dugongs and their habitats in order to encourage responsible boating behaviour (such as slower speeds, anchoring in seagrass etc).	Range Members/ Partners	High
1.9 Develop a code of practice for responsible watercraft operation to avoid adverse effects on dugong.	SPREP/ Partners/ Range Members	High
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Appropriate education programme delivered to Pacific Island dugong range states. ⊙ Information sheets on threats produced, translated where necessary, and distributed to communities and all relevant stakeholders. ⊙ Dugong conservation issues and information included in school programmes in 3 Pacific range states. ⊙ Dugong web-page established on SPREP website by 2010 for the Year of Dugong campaign ⊙ Watercraft code of practice developed and implemented. ⊙ Year of the dugong campaign celebrated in 2010 		

THEME 2: HABITAT PROTECTION		
OBJECTIVE: <i>Enhance protection of dugong foraging and breeding habitats</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
2.1 Facilitate and support review of all levels of relevant legislation to incorporate habitat protection for dugongs.	Range Members	High
2.2 Identify and map areas of dugong habitat particularly sea-grass beds, taking note of their condition, e.g. intact, partially disturbed degraded	Range Members/ Partners	High
2.3 Encourage and support the establishment of measures, including customary measures, to protect and conserve dugong habitats.	Range Members/ Partners	High
2.4 Assess the risk of, and develop measures to mitigate against, the degradation of dugong habitats.	Range Members/ Partners	High
2.5 Where appropriate, rehabilitate degraded dugong habitats.	Range Members/ Partners	Medium
2.6 Promote protection of water quality and where possible undertake monitoring from impacts of land-based and maritime pollution, including but not limited to, marine debris, sedimentation etc, which may adversely affect dugongs and their habitats.	Range Members/ Partners	Medium
2.7 Seek opportunities to strengthen the enforcement and awareness of existing laws against the use of poisonous chemicals, explosives etc in the marine environment.	Range Members/ Partners	Medium
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Legislation review completed and other measures for dugong habitat protection incorporated. ⊙ Important dugong habitat, particularly sea-grass beds, mapped in at least 2 Pacific Island Range States. ⊙ Risk of degradation assessed in at least 2 Pacific Island Range States. ⊙ A 5-year monitoring programme of dugong habitat initiated in one Pacific Island Range State 		

THEME 3: MANAGEMENT		
Objective: <i>Improve protection mechanisms for dugongs and their habitats</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
3.1 Encourage the establishment of legislation to protect dugongs and their habitats while recognizing and promoting existing traditional management systems.	Range Members	High
3.2 Review and strengthen, where necessary, domestic policies and laws to improve dugong conservation e.g. EIA processes for coastal development.	Range Members/ Partners	High
3.3 Seek opportunities to strengthen protection mechanisms for dugongs and their habitats e.g. MPA development, traditional closures,, boat speed restrictions etc.	Range Members	High
3.4 Strengthen enforcement and engage local communities in monitoring, surveillance and reporting of illegal activities.	Range Members	High
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Legislation and policies that recognize appropriate traditional management systems to protect dugongs and their habitats in place in all Pacific Island Range States. ⊙ Mechanisms, such as MPA and EIA processes in place, to strengthen protection of dugongs, including enforcement of laws relating to dugongs. 		

THEME 4: TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, CUSTOMARY MARINE TENURE & TRADITIONAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT		
OBJECTIVE: <i>To recognize the value of preserving and protecting the integrity of traditional knowledge, TRM and CMT and incorporating into management practices</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
4.1 Support the documentation of TK, practices and values based on agreements that respect and protect the rights of knowledge holders.	Range Members/ Partners	High/Med
4.2 Ensure that information collected be held and maintained by appropriate in-country authority and the use of traditional knowledge is protected (IPR).	Range Members	High/Med
4.3 Incorporate relevant traditional knowledge and TRM, CMT into dugong and habitat management.	Range Members	High
4.4 Promote and support appropriate community-based management and conservation.	Range Members/ SPREP/ Partners	High
4.5 Provide feedback to local communities on dugong management particularly if the local people are involved in surveys, monitoring and/or enforcement.	Range Members	High
4.6 Where appropriate, promote awareness regarding the value of traditional knowledge and practices in the management of dugongs and habitats.	Range Members/ SPREP Partners	High/Med
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Traditional knowledge in all dugong Pacific Island Range States documented, maintained and where appropriate, incorporated into management. ⊙ Community-based management supported. ⊙ Information and survey results etc disseminated to communities. 		

THEME 5: CAPACITY BUILDING		
OBJECTIVE: <i>Build in-country capacity to enhance dugong management</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
5.1 Identify skills required by relevant government authorities and local communities to improve capacity for dugong management.	Range Members	High
5.2 Build national capacity to participate in dugong management, research and monitoring. (access to expertise/ resources).	SPREP/Partners	High
5.3 Build the capacity of communities to participate in dugong management, research and monitoring including the ability of authorities involved in dugong management to work with local communities (e.g. cultural awareness training).	Range Members	High
5.4 Secure student scholarships for developing dugong and related marine science expertise in the region.	Partners/ Range Members/SPREP	High
5.5 Encourage Australia to strengthen its partnership with Pacific Island range states to increase provision of technical advice and support for effective dugong conservation management e.g. internships in Australian dugong projects.	Australia/SPREP/ Partners	High
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ At least two scholarship students from the Pacific Island Range States enrolled in post graduate studies on dugong. ⊙ Training to build national and community capacity in dugong management conducted. ⊙ Internships from Range Island States completed. 		

THEME 6: THREATS - KEY DUGONG CONSERVATION ISSUES		
OBJECTIVE: <i>Reduce direct and indirect causes of dugong injury and mortality</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
6.1 Identify, assess and evaluate threats and potential threats to dugong populations.	Range Members with access to expertise/resources if required	High
6.2 Develop appropriate management measures to address identified threats.	Range Members	High
6.3 Reduce to the greatest extent practicable the incidental injury and mortality of dugongs.	Range Members	High
6.4 Reduce to the greatest extent practicable the illegal take of dugong.	Range Members	High
6.5 Ensure that subsistence and customary use of dugong is sustainable in areas where it is permitted.	Range Members	High
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Assessment and report on threats (identification and evaluation) completed in at least three Pacific Island Range States. ⊙ Measures to address identified threats to dugongs developed and implemented in at least three Pacific Island Range States 		

THEME 7: RESEARCH AND MONITORING - INFORMATION/DATABASES		
OBJECTIVE: <i>Improve our understanding of dugong population status through research and monitoring</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
7.1 Determine the distribution, abundance and trends of dugong populations to provide a base for conservation efforts and actions using traditional knowledge and/or scientific methodologies.	Range Members with access to expertise as required	High
7.2 Collect genetic samples through non-lethal means and including from strandings in accordance with procedures (such as the Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks Authority necropsy manual) and undertake genetic analysis to determine the distinctness/connectivity of Pacific Island dugong populations.	Range Members with regional compilation by SPREP supported by Australia	Medium
7.3 Where appropriate, undertake satellite tagging to assist in understanding migratory patterns in the region.	Range Members with regional compilation by SPREP supported by Australia	Medium
7.4 Distribute book, <i>Sirenian Conservation: Issues and Strategies in Developing Countries</i> , edited by Ellen Hines <i>et al</i> , when published.	SPREP	High
7.5 Develop appropriate rescue/stranding protocols for dugong range states.	SPREP/Partners	Medium
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Updated baseline surveys completed for distribution and abundance for all Pacific range states by 2012. ⊙ Relevant information on dugong population status distributed. ⊙ Genetic sampling initiated in all Range States and satellite tagging conducted in at least one. ⊙ Rescue/stranding protocol developed. 		

THEME 8: NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION		
OBJECTIVE: <i>Enhance national, regional and international cooperation</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
8.1 Collaborate with Range States to combat illegal trade, and to cooperate in enforcement activities relating to dugong products.	PNG, Australia, and others as appropriate	High
8.2 Encourage Pacific Range States to sign the CMS MOU for the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats.	SPREP/Partners/Range Members	High
8.3 Develop and implement national databases of relevant information in relation to dugong conservation and management and ensure data is accessible to Range Members.	Range Members as needed	Medium
8.4 Encourage and strengthen partnerships amongst governments and all other existing and new stakeholders in research, conservation and management efforts.	Range Members/Partners	Medium
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ CMS MoU for the Conservation of Dugongs signed by all Pacific Island Range States. ⊙ Collaboration and partnership formalized to eliminate illegal trade of dugong products. ⊙ Partnerships developed for research and conservation effort amongst most Range States and stakeholders. 		

THEME 9: HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES		
OBJECTIVE: <i>To ensure on-going and efficient facilitation of implementation, management and coordination of the Dugong Action Plan</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
9.1 Encourage Member Range States to incorporate dugong actions for implementation as part of other national projects and/or programmes (such as NBSAP)	Range Members	High
9.2 Identify and seek opportunities to secure funding through bodies such as universities, NGOs, etc	Range Members	Medium
9.3 Encourage Range State Members to develop and prepare funding proposals specifically to address dugong issues	SPREP/Range Members	Medium
9.4 Encourage "Developed" Range States to collaborate with other Range States in dugong work e.g. Australia/PNG partnership, Vanuatu/New Caledonia.	Range Members, particularly Australia	High
9.5 Request the Government of Australia to provide a technical adviser(s) to the Dugong Action Plan (Dr Donna Kwan and/or Prof Helene Marsh)	SPREP	Medium
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Actions incorporated and carried out through national projects/programmes. ⊙ Funding proposals submitted and work carried out. ⊙ Partnership developed for all Pacific Island Range States. ⊙ Technical adviser available. 		



2. MARINE TURTLE ACTION PLAN 2008-2012

PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

GOAL

To conserve marine turtles and their habitats, in keeping with the traditions of the people of the Pacific Islands Region.

INTRODUCTION

Marine turtles have lived in the world's oceans for over 100 million years. Of the world's seven marine turtle species, six occur in the waters of the Pacific as follows:

- Flat back turtle (*Natator depressus*)
- Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
- Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)
- Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
- Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*)
- Olive Ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)

Turtles play an integral ecological role in the functioning of marine habitats throughout the Pacific region. They are very much a part of the traditions of Pacific island people, featuring in legends and traditional uses. Turtles are highly migratory and use a range of habitats at different stages of their life cycle. As a result, they readily cross jurisdictional boundaries and face a range of threats. They are long-lived and slow to mature facing a range of threats over their lifetime. This migratory nature means that their survival and conservation requires a rigorous coordinated regional effort amongst range states and territories. Information exchanges, linkages and collaboration are needed at the national, regional and international levels in order for conservation and management efforts for marine turtles to be effective.

SPECIES DISTRIBUTION

Of the six marine turtle species that occur in the Pacific region, the green and hawksbill turtles are the most widely recorded species with confirmed records in almost all countries and territories, whilst the flatback turtle is known to occur only in Australia and southern Papua New Guinea. The green and hawksbill turtles also nest in most Pacific countries and territories, whilst the flatback turtle is only known to nest in Australia.

Table 1: Marine Turtle Species Occurrence in the Pacific Islands Region

Species	A M S	A U S	C O K	F S M	F I J	F R P	G U A	K I R	R M I	N A U	N E C	N E Z	N I U	N M I	P A L	P N G	S A M	S O L	T O K	T O N	T U V	V A N	W & F
Leatherback		√			√	√	√ ¹ ?		√		√	√			√	√	√ ²	√		√	√	√	
Green	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Hawksbill	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
Loggerhead		√	√ ³ ?		√			√			√	√			√	√		√	√				√
Olive Ridley		√			√	√ ⁴		√	√		√				√			√		√	?		√
Flatback		√														√							√ ⁵ ?

SPECIES STATUS

Marine turtles are recognised internationally as species of conservation concern. The 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals lists marine turtle species found in the Pacific as follows:

- Leatherback Turtle - CRITICALLY ENDANGERED
- Hawksbill Turtle - CRITICALLY ENDANGERED
- Olive Ridley Turtle - ENDANGERED
- Loggerhead Turtle - ENDANGERED
- Green Turtle - ENDANGERED
- Flatback Turtle - Data deficient.

All species of sea turtles are listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This means all sea turtle species are listed as threatened with extinction under this convention and CITES generally prohibits commercial international trade in specimens of these species. Under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), sea turtle species are listed in Appendix I (migratory species that have been categorized as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant proportion of their range) and Appendix II (migratory species that have an unfavourable conservation status or would benefit significantly from international co-operation organised by tailored agreements).

The status of marine turtles in the Pacific region is generally unknown. In response to growing concern in the last 10 years on the need for conservation and sustainable use in the region, an increasing number of initiatives are being undertaken at local and regional levels.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND CUSTOMS

Marine turtles have long held economic, cultural and spiritual value to the Pacific Island peoples. The spiritual and cultural importance of marine turtles to Pacific peoples is illustrated through their stories, traditions and customs including contemporary ceremonies.

Marine turtles have been an important source of food for many coastal people for hundred of years. Many communities continue to utilise marine turtles for protein on the subsistence level as well as their shell for traditional crafts. In many places in the Pacific, local people are extremely knowledgeable about marine turtles and are able to provide information of the biology of the species in the local areas, for example, where they occur what time of year, their habitat preferences etc. Such information is often lacking within local government wildlife authorities, yet traditional knowledge is often overlooked.

Sometimes local communities are the best conservationists. Traditionally, people would not take more than what was needed for their community and would only take animals at particular times of the year or from particular areas, thus ensuring that this resource was available to them in the future.

Unfortunately, in many places this traditional knowledge and sustainability of resources has been lost or is often ignored. This Action Plan recognises the fundamental role that traditional knowledge and customs play in turtle conservation and aims to address the issue of community based and driven management.

TOURISM INCOME GENERATING OPPORTUNITIES

In some places, marine turtles are fast becoming an eco-tourism attraction whether it is watching nesters on the beach or experiencing their grace whilst on a dive. Responsible eco-tourism with turtles can generate income for local communities in a positive way whilst conserving turtles and their habitats, potentially offsetting the black market trade and overfishing.

Local fishermen are often best placed to provide information on the local marine environment and make skilled and knowledgeable guides. There is potential for local fishermen to earn enough as guides to offset the money that they may otherwise make on the black market or from fishing.

Eco-tourism provides direct employment as well as a trickle-down effect to jobs in other businesses such as hotels, restaurants, and taxis. In this way, it can become an incentive for entire communities to safeguard their natural environment, thus creating an economy where turtles are worth more alive than dead.

THREATS

The IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group (<http://www.iucn-mts.org/hazards>) has identified five major threats to sea turtles as follows:

- Fisheries Impacts
- Direct Take
- Coastal Development
- Pollution and Pathogens
- Global Warming

The above threats are considered to have the most significant impacts to sea turtles and without mitigation, will result in decline, local extinction and/or prevent recovery of sea turtles.

Within the Pacific Region the main threats for marine turtle include:

- Unsustainable harvesting (direct take for meat and handicraft and egg harvesting);
- Feral animal predation on turtle nests (eggs);
- Incidental capture in commercial fishing;
- Degradation of habitat including through coastal development and natural disaster;
- Pollution and marine debris (e.g. plastic bags and fishing gear) and pathogens;
- Boat strikes;
- Climate change.

The main challenges for effective conservation of marine turtles in the region include the lack of information and data on populations, harvesting and interactions with fishing activities due to limited research and monitoring. A major constraint is the limited resources, both financially and in terms of manpower (including skills) that are available for implementing management actions in the region.

THEMES AND OBJECTIVES

THEMES	OBJECTIVES
1. COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase regional collaboration and partnerships for turtle conservation and management.
2. THREATS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the management and protection of marine turtles and their habitats by reducing threats to marine turtles in the Pacific Islands region.
3. CAPACITY BUILDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve capacity within each participating country and territory for marine turtle protection, management, and population research and monitoring.
4. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide assistance to the participating member agencies to enable them to deliver effective and accurate education and awareness programs to the people of the Pacific Islands region.
5. POLICY AND LEGISLATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure a more cohesive approach in policy and legislation in SPREP member countries and territories to support the Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme [RMTCP] that incorporates traditional knowledge and CMT.
6. TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND CUSTOMARY PRACTICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage a more cohesive approach in policy and legislation in SPREP member countries and territories which supports, promotes and formally protects traditional knowledge, practices and resource management.
7. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote the sustainable use of marine turtles.
8. TURTLE DATABASE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDS) is implemented effectively in SPREP member countries and territories
9. RESEARCH AND MONITORING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify all major Turtle Nesting Beaches in the Pacific Islands Region • Identify major turtle stocks in the Pacific • Identify major foraging grounds in the Pacific.

THEMES AND PRIORITY ACTIONS

THEME 1: COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP		
OBJECTIVE: <i>To increase regional collaboration and partnerships for turtle conservation and management</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
1.1 SPREP members decide by 2008 on whether to participate in a CMS arrangement that expands on current SPREP region.	SPREP/CMS/ Members	High
1.2 Dr George Balazs (Marine Turtle Research Program, NOAA, Honolulu) and Dr Colin Limpus (Queensland Environment Protection Agency, Australia) to continue as Technical Advisers to SPREP and the RMTCP.		High
1.3 Establish direct contact and formal communication with various actors in turtle conservation (IAC, WCPFC, SPC, FFA, USP, IOSEA, NMFS, WPRFMC, IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group, collaborating universities, and laboratories (for genetic analysis), and relevant Australian Institutes & Departments).	SPREP	High
1.4 Foster partnerships to support MTAP implementation at national and regional levels (including governments, NGOs and the private sector).	Members/ SPREP	High
1.5 Develop regular communication with countries/ territories through media such as the Turtle Talk newsletter and MTAP list-server.	SPREP	Medium
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ MoU under CMS for the conservation of sea turtles in the Pacific finalized and signed by most members. ⊙ Communication with agencies working on turtle conservation established and active. ⊙ Partnership established for MTAP implementation. ⊙ More than 80% of Members participating and collaborating in the regional network. 		

THEME 2: THREATS		
OBJECTIVE: <i>To improve the management and protection of marine turtles and their habitats by reducing threats to marine turtles in the Pacific Islands region</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
2.1 Identify and prioritize the threats on turtles regionally including harvest of turtles and eggs, tourism, pollution and waste (plastic debris), fisheries by-catch, habitat destruction, and climate change.	SPREP/SPC	High
2.2 Quantify the impacts of threats identified for each PICT, on the national level.	All	High
2.3 Develop and implement management and mitigating actions for top 3 regional priority threats identified in 2.1.	All/SPC/FFA/ WCPFC/ WPRFMC	High
2.4 Reduce use of non-biodegradable materials (imported plastics) and encourage the development of alternative materials (e.g. cloth bags instead of plastic shopping bags).	All	High
2.5 Assess and document information on the level of turtle harvest including collection of turtle eggs on national level, where possible.	Members/ SPC/ SPREP	High

2.6	Strengthen EIA process for coastal development by furthering survey work to identify critical turtle habitat and by building the capacity of policy makers and legislators to understand implications of decisions for turtle conservation management.	Members	High
2.7	Work with the fishing industry, Fisheries authorities, RFMO's and other IGOs/NGOs to reduce turtle by-catch in coastal & oceanic fisheries.	SPC/FFA/ WCPFC/ WPRFMC	High
2.8	Promote observer programs and improve documentation, identification, reporting, and observer coverage for information collection on turtle by-catch.	SPC/FFA/ WCPFC/ WPRFMC	Medium
2.9	Promote protection of nesting beaches and use mitigating measures for impacts to nesting beaches.	Members	High
Indicators:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ All PICTs have identified, quantified and ranked threats. ⊙ Management actions and/or mitigation measures of at least 3 prioritized threats are developed and implemented. ⊙ At least 50% of PICTs introducing management measures to reduce the use of non-biodegradable materials. ⊙ Number of PICTs involved in the observer programme has increased by 25%. ⊙ Inventory, maps and protection plans of top 2 critical nesting beaches in each PICTs are produced and implemented. ⊙ Inventory, maps and protection plans of critical foraging areas are produced and implemented. ⊙ At least 50% of PICTs have started collection of baseline information on nesting populations. ⊙ AT least 50% of PICTs documenting information on turtle harvest and turtle egg collection increased. ⊙ EIA procedures including legislations have been improved and strengthened. 			

THEME 3: CAPACITY BUILDING

OBJECTIVE: *Improve capacity within each participating country and territory for marine turtle protection, management, and population research and monitoring.*

Actions:	Lead	Priority
3.1 Identify skills required by relevant government agencies and local communities for turtle management and protection by utilizing mechanism such as NCSA.	Members	High
3.2 Facilitate the provision of appropriate training including attachments, tools, materials, technical assistance and expertise.	SPREP/USP/ Partners	High
3.3 Provide a regional workshop for policy and legislation drafters to build capacity in relation to turtle management.	SPREP/ Partners	Medium
3.4 Undertake a regional turtle nesting beach monitoring/survey training workshop, including survey methodologies, turtle tagging, best handling practices and genetic sampling.	SPREP/USP/ Partners/	High
3.5 Undertaken in-country turtle nesting beach monitoring/survey training workshops for local staff, including survey methodologies, turtle tagging, best handling practices and genetic sampling.	Members/ Partners	High
3.6 Provide training to Members in the use of TREDs and in data analysis.	SPREP/ Members	High
3.7 Encourage partnerships with tertiary institutions, researchers, government agencies, local communities, NGOs, IGOs etc.	SPREP/ Partners	Medium
3.8 Provide training to relevant personnel in relation to cultural awareness.	SPREP/ Partners	Medium

Indicators:

- ⊙ National reports by at least 50% of PICTs include documentation of required national skills for turtle conservation.
- ⊙ At least 1 regional and 10 in-country nesting beach monitoring/survey training workshops undertaken.
- ⊙ Policy and legislation workshop conducted.
- ⊙ Tools/materials made readily available to Members.
- ⊙ Partnerships developed with tertiary institutions, IGOs, NGOs to provide technical assistance and expertise.
- ⊙ All members with marine turtle programmes effectively using TREDIS.

THEME 4: EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

OBJECTIVE: *To provide assistance to the participating member agencies to enable them to deliver effective and accurate education and awareness programs to the people of the Pacific Islands region.*

Actions:	Lead	Priority
4.1 Collate and review existing available education materials on marine turtles, such as those available on Sea Turtle.org, to suit the needs of the region.	SPREP/ Members	High
4.2 Provide relevant education materials (e.g. turtle migration, turtle biology and ecology, tagging) to schools, universities, and local communities.	SPREP/ Partners	Medium
4.3 Investigate options for including turtle information in school curricula.	Members	Medium
4.4 Provide relevant education materials in local languages.	Members	High
4.5 Investigate options for providing scholarships in marine science for tertiary students.	Members/ Partners	Medium
4.6 Provide feedback to communities regarding the results of turtle research and monitoring and other activities including data sharing in accordance with adopted Policy and Protocols.	Members/ SPREP	High
4.7 Promote the tag recovery program and make material available in local languages.	SPREP/ Members	High
4.8 Continue the regional 'Turtle Talk' newsletter established under YOST for SPREP members. Include a column in the newsletter, "Notes from the field", to be coordinated by USP (Dr Kenneth MacKay).	SPREP/USP	Medium
4.9 Seek opportunities to raise public awareness on marine turtle issues through local media.	Members	High
4.10 Develop relevant regional promotional material (e.g. documentary) to be made available to SPREP members.	SPREP/ Partners	Medium
4.11 Document traditional knowledge and customs in relation to turtles and their management that can be used in education and awareness raising activities.	Members	High
4.12 Develop agreements with cultural groups/leaders/individual knowledge holders regarding intellectual property rights, appropriate use and dissemination of information.	Members	High
4.13 Ensure any traditional knowledge and customs documented are properly held and maintained by appropriate in-country authority.	Members	High
4.14 Include traditional knowledge in education and awareness programs.	Members	High

4.15	Promote the value of TRM, TK, CMT and community rights on IPR and ABS through education and awareness at the community level including the preparation and distribution of materials.	Members	High
4.16	Encourage the use of informal/traditional methods of education within villages utilising traditional elders as resource people where appropriate.	Members	High
4.17	Encourage community awareness using successful models such as Wan Smolbag's Vanua-tai Monitors network.	Members	Medium
4.18	Work closely with the organizing committee for the 2009 Sea Turtle Symposium in Australia to ensure significant Pacific Islands participation.	SPREP/USP	Medium
Indicators:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Educational materials collated, reviewed, translated and disseminated. ⊙ Tag recovery programme active in most Member countries and territories. ⊙ At least two issues of the Turtle Talk newsletter produced and distributed per year. ⊙ Educational material available in local languages in at least 50% of PICTs. ⊙ Traditional knowledge and customs documented appropriately and report produced and distributed. ⊙ Traditional knowledge and customary practices incorporated into information materials developed. ⊙ At least 2 students from Member countries and territories on scholarships doing research on turtles in the region. ⊙ At least 5 Pacific Island representatives participate in the 2009 Turtle Symposium. 			

THEME 5: POLICY AND LEGISLATION

OBJECTIVE: *To ensure a more cohesive approach in policy and legislation in SPREP member countries and territories to support the Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme that incorporates traditional knowledge and CMT.*

Actions:	Lead	Priority
5.1 Review and identify gaps and conflicts in current policies and legislation in Member countries and territories that supports/limits the RMTCP including conventions, treaties, MoU's, agreements etc.	Members	High
5.2 Encourage the need to address gaps and conflicts found in the review of policies and legislation as described in action 5.1 where required.	Members	High
5.3 Encourage and support compliance mechanisms that are <i>more</i> effective at the community level, drawing upon and supporting existing laws and controls and conflict resolution systems and utilizing local community members.	Members	High
5.4 Amend relevant policies and legislation regarding size limits of turtles taken to better reflect the impact of removing mature females from populations and where possible, to ensure preference be given to utilizing smaller sized animals.	Members	High
5.5 Incorporate relevant traditional knowledge CMT, and practices into policy, legislation management plans where appropriate.	Members	Medium
5.6 Ensure adequate protection is provided for nesting beaches and other known critical habitats for turtles through policy and legislation.	Members	High
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Review of current national policies/legislation completed and disseminated. ⊙ Policies and legislation in PICTs amended to address gaps for marine turtle conservation which also include the protection of critical habitats and application of minimum size limits that reflect the impact of removing mature female turtles. ⊙ Traditional knowledge and management practices incorporated into legislation, policies and plans. ⊙ Appropriate compliance mechanisms are put in place. 		

THEME 6: TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND CUSTOMARY PRACTICES		
OBJECTIVE: <i>To encourage a more cohesive approach in policy and legislation in SPREP member countries and territories which supports, promotes and formally protects traditional knowledge, practices and resource management</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
6.1 Review and identify gaps and conflicts in relevant policies and legislation that supports/limits the protection and promotion of TRM, TK, IPR, ABS and CMT.	Members	High
6.2 Encourage the need to address gaps and conflicts found in the review of policies and legislation as described in action 6.1 where required.	Members /SPREP	High
6.3 Promote integration of TRM, TK, CMT into national, provincial and community management plans, including NSDP, NBSAP and other development plans.	Members	High
6.4 Promote awareness on the value of TRM, TK, CMT and community rights on IPR and ABS through education and awareness at the community level including the preparation and distribution of awareness materials.	Members	High
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Review of policies/legislation in relation to TK and other customary management and practices completed. ⊙ Traditional knowledge, tenure and management practices integrated into development plans. ⊙ Education and awareness of TK and other customary practices material delivered to local communities in each PICT. 		

THEME 7: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT		
OBJECTIVE: <i>To promote the sustainable use of marine turtles</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
7.1 Develop regional guidelines for responsible and sustainable eco-tourism in the wild.	SPREP/ Partners	High
7.2 Promote best practice eco-tourism in accordance with guidelines.	Members/ SPREP/ Partners	High
7.3 Identify and encourage/facilitate alternative livelihoods (including income generating activities) that are not detrimental to marine turtles and their habitats, in consultation with local communities and other stakeholders.	Members/ SPREP/ Partners	High
7.4 Prohibit the commercial ¹ harvest of marine turtles, parts thereof and their derivatives.	Members	High
7.5 Apply sustainable management principles to permitted traditional/subsistence use of turtles for food.	Members	High
7.6 Discourage the keeping of marine turtle in captivity (except for rehabilitation purposes).	Members	High
7.7 Develop best practice guidelines for turtles permitted to be kept in captivity and make available to SPREP members.	SPREP/ Partners	High
7.8 Identify and remove situations where turtles in captivity are not kept in accordance with best practice guidelines.	Members	High
7.9 Document the extent of marine turtle eco-tourism and turtle related activities.	Members	Medium

¹ The exchange of turtles and turtle parts for money

Indicators:

- ⊙ Guidelines developed and distributed to members on best practice for responsible and sustainable marine turtle eco-tourism and husbandry.
- ⊙ Promotion of responsible eco-tourism ventures for turtles in the wild.
- ⊙ All PICTs have identified, prioritized and implemented some form of alternative livelihoods initiatives.
- ⊙ Policy and legislative frameworks to prohibit commercial use of turtles and products derived from turtles strengthened.
- ⊙ Management principles applied to turtle use permitted for traditional and subsistence use.
- ⊙ The number of marine turtles kept in captivity decreased by 50% with no new undertaking of this nature.

THEME 8: TURTLE DATABASE

OBJECTIVE: *Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDS) is implemented effectively in SPREP member countries and territories*

Actions:	Lead	Priority
8.1 Develop Information and Data Sharing Policy and Protocol for TREDS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In place and used effectively by 2008; • Policy and Protocol to include restrictions to access to data and sharing data with communities; • Members to adopt agreed Policy and Protocol at SPREP Meeting in 2008; • Distribute adopted Policy and Protocol to members. 	SPREP/ Members	High
8.2 TREDS is distributed to all members by early 2008 with in-country training and follow-up for use and report generation.	SPREP	High
8.3 All Members are encouraged to use TREDS in accordance with the adopted Policy and Protocols.	SPREP/ Members	Medium
8.4 Members to submit data annually to TREDS Database Officer.	Members	High
8.5 Reporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members report to SPREP at least annually on tagging records and activities, noting that re-issue of tag will be dependent on reporting; • Report recovered tags immediately to SPREP using appropriate form where available or providing standard information. Provide reward (such a t-shirt, poster etc) for recovered tags; • SPREP to report annually to Members on tags distributed and recovered, results of mapping, and other significant data. 	Members Members/ SPREP SPREP	High High High
8.6 Institutional Commitment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPREP commits to long-term maintenance of the TREDS programme; • Seek long-term funding from Members and partners (including NGOs, IGOs and the private sector) to maintain TREDS Officer and programme. 	SPREP SPREP	High High
8.7 Distribute tags and applicators to Members undertaking tagging activities and engaged in SPREP approved tagging program.	SPREP	High
8.8 Link to other databases where sea turtle data are collected.	SPREP/ SPC	Medium

Indicators:

- ⊙ All members effectively using TREDS and reporting annually to SPREP.
- ⊙ SPREP produce five (5) Annual reports of summary data.
- ⊙ Increased return of tags and reporting of tagging information.
- ⊙ Information from TRF used to provide a picture of turtle distribution and migration at the regional level.
- ⊙ TREDS programme including responsible officer secured for long-term.
- ⊙ Link to other relevant turtle databases completed.

THEME 9: RESEARCH AND MONITORING		
OBJECTIVE: <i>Identify all major turtle nesting beaches in the Pacific Islands Region</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
9.1 Undertake literature search of available information regarding turtle nesting sites in the Pacific Islands region including previous flipper and satellite tagging activities.	USP/SPREP/ WWF/ Members	High
9.2 Identify and report known information including TK provided by communities regarding turtle nesting sites.	Members	High
9.3 Undertake regional aerial rapid assessment of turtle nesting beaches where feasible.	Multi-agency collaboration	Medium
9.4 Identify and map turtle nesting beaches and prioritise index sites for long term monitoring.	SPREP/ Members	High
9.5 Undertake turtle nesting beaches surveys (by relevant trained personnel); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial baseline data collection for at least a 5-year period; • Relevant information is distributed to members via list server and uploaded to SPREP website of relevant information. 	USP/SPREP/ NMFS Members/ SPREP	High
9.6 Initiate long term monitoring at index nesting beaches, to include beach temperature data for climate change baseline information, and beach morphology.	Countries with support of USP/ NMFS/SPREP & other experts	High
9.7 Enter beach turtle monitoring data into TREDIS.	SPREP	High
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Literature search on turtle nesting completed and reported. ⊙ Known information and TK identified and reported by all Members. ⊙ Key index nesting beaches in all PICTs identified and prioritised. ⊙ Long term monitoring initiated at 5 index nesting beaches in the Pacific Region. ⊙ Estimates obtained of current nesting beach populations for Pacific. ⊙ Baseline data collected & inputted into TREDIS including beach temperatures. ⊙ Key turtle nesting sites across the Pacific mapped. 		

OBJECTIVE: <i>Identify major turtle stocks in the Pacific</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
9.8 Develop & distribute Regional Procedures & Protocol for genetic sampling that includes using non-lethal techniques and addresses ownership of genetic information and material collected.	USP/SPREP	High
9.9 Develop partnerships to undertake genetic sampling and analysis with Members and relevant genetic researchers/laboratories such as N. Fitz Simmons (Aus), IFREMER (Indian Ocean), & P. Dutton (NOAA) to analyse and share data, and to publish & report results.	SPREP/ Members/ NOAA/SPC/AU	Medium
9.10 Report to Members results of genetic sampling and identification of major turtle stocks in the region.	USP/SPREP/ NOAA with collaborators	
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Regional procedures and protocols for genetic sampling developed, distributed and implemented by participating PICTs. ⊙ Work towards identifying Pacific stocks of Marine Turtles progressed and results reported and published. ⊙ Map of Pacific stock developed and distributed to Members. 		

OBJECTIVE: <i>Identify major foraging grounds</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
9.11 Collate known and published information on foraging grounds in the region.	Members/SPREP/ collaborators	Medium
9.12 Distribute collated information on foraging grounds to Members.	Members/SPREP/ collaborators	Medium
9.13 Identify and map major/critical in-water sites and prioritise foraging habitats for long-term monitoring.	Members/SPREP/ collaborators	High
9.14 Undertake long-term foraging surveys at 5 major sites.	Members/SPREP/ collaborators	Medium
9.15 Undertake sea grass mapping and monitoring where possible.	Members/SPREP/ collaborators	Medium
9.16 Undertake aerial surveys of foraging grounds (eg ultra light) where possible.	Members/SPREP/ collaborators	Medium
9.17 Undertake satellite tagging to fill information gaps where it is needed, cost effective and feasible.	SPREP/ NOAA/ Members	Medium
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Known and published information of marine turtle foraging grounds in the region collated and distributed to Members. ⊙ Major marine turtle foraging sites identified, mapped and prioritised for monitoring. ⊙ Long term foraging ground surveys initiated on 5 major sites. ⊙ Sea grass mapping and monitoring undertaken in at least 5 sites across the region. ⊙ Results of turtle tracking distributed to PICTs through the SPREP website and the Marine Turtle network. 		



3. WHALE AND DOLPHIN ACTION PLAN 2008-2012 PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

GOAL

To conserve whales and dolphins and their habitats] for the peoples of the Pacific Islands Region

INTRODUCTION

Whales and dolphins are an important component of the marine biological diversity of the Pacific Islands Region. Over half the world's known species of whales and dolphins are found in the region, and for some species such as the humpback whale, the Pacific Islands Region is a vital breeding area. Whales and dolphins are widely regarded as flagship species for Pacific marine ecosystems and feature prominently in promotional tourist material. Many Pacific island cultures have legends, stories and traditional uses and values of marine mammals. These species are generally long-lived and have low reproductive rates.

For many species of large whales, the impacts of commercial whaling during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, largely by countries from outside the region, have reduced the breeding populations of South Pacific whales to extremely low levels, possibly to local extinction for some species

In recent time, many Pacific Island countries and territories have declared whale sanctuaries or marine sanctuaries for marine animals including whales and dolphins.

SPECIES DISTRIBUTION

Based on largely opportunistic and anecdotal records, Miller¹ (2007) reported that at least 30 different whale and dolphin species occur within the Pacific Islands, although this number increases to more than 40 species when Hawaii, New Zealand and Australia are also considered. The checklist of country-specific whale and dolphin species records, classified according to the "reliability" of the record, for the 22 Pacific Island countries and territories is given in Table 3.1 attached. The limited research efforts in the region, coupled with the very large expanse of marine area, makes it plausible that there may be still unreported species that inhabit these waters.

¹ Current State of Knowledge of Cetaceans Threat, Diversity and Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region. A report by the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society for the First Meeting of the Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region.

Our current understanding of whale and dolphin diversity and distribution in the Pacific Islands Region is considered incomplete as there are many locations that have not been surveyed. For example, only 5 whale and dolphin species have been reported to occur in Tuvalu waters, however records for additional species have been reported in EEZs of adjacent countries, which suggests that these species may also be part of the Tuvalu whale and dolphin fauna. In addition, as capacity and research within the region is strengthened, data and information that is gathered will produce increasingly accurate records for the Pacific Islands Region.

Sperm whales are the most widely reported cetacean species in the Pacific Islands Region with all 22 PICTs having records of this species. Rare species for the region include the Southern bottlenose whale and the Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin. A relatively high number of records were reported for both Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, while very few records were available for the Pitcairn Islands and Wallis and Futuna.

SPECIES STATUS

Population status of virtually all species of whales and dolphins in the Pacific Islands Region is basically unknown. The exception to this is for the South Pacific humpback whale and local population estimates for certain species e.g. spinner dolphins in Moorea, French Polynesia. Widely distributed and were heavily exploited in the 20th Century.

The total takes on the humpback whale in the Southern Ocean IWC Management Areas IV, V and VI were approximately 80,000. Recent work by the SPWRC has shown that there are likely to be at least three genetically distinct populations of humpback whales in Eastern Australia, and east Polynesia and two distinct populations in central and west Polynesia. Based on closed population models, Baker *et al* (2006), in a paper submitted for consideration by the Inter-Sessional Workshop for the Comprehensive Assessment of Southern Hemisphere Humpback Whales (Hobart, Tasmania, 3-7 April 2006), estimated regional abundance of humpback whales in Oceania as 472 for the New Caledonia stock, 2311 for the Tonga stock and 1057 for the French Polynesia stock. However, the open-population models yield 15-25% lower estimates. In comparison, the Eastern Australia humpback abundance has been estimated to be approximately 8,000 and this population is increasing by about 10% per annum [re-word to give proper reference]. This difference in abundance could be because the South Pacific populations have been so depleted or were always smaller and/or because some South Pacific whales have shifted migration routes to Australia.

Several whale and dolphin species are listed on Appendix I² of the CITES, and the remaining species are listed in Appendix II³. The CMS also lists whale and dolphin species needing protection on its Appendices I⁴ and II⁵. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2006 lists several whale and dolphin species as endangered and vulnerable with a lot of species having deficient data for categorizing.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND CUSTOMS

Whales and dolphins are important in the cultures, legends, traditions and heritage of many Pacific Island peoples. In Fiji, sperm whales teeth have particular cultural significance. Whales and dolphins are associated with identity, lifestyle and well-being. Migrations of whales are used as an environmental cue on some islands and ceremonies and ritual surround cetaceans across the region. In some traditions, they are viewed as incarnations of humans.

TOURISM INCOME GENERATING OPPORTUNITIES

A recent review of the status of marine mammal tourism activities in the Pacific Islands region, commissioned by IFAW in collaboration with SPREP, SPWRC and the SPTO, showed that the industry experienced strong annual growth for the period 1998 – 2005. The study indicates that between 1998 and 2005, both the number of whales watchers and the number of countries offering whale watching significantly increased (Table 3.2). Whale watching is becoming an important component of tourism development in the region with a total estimated direct economic value of \$US 7.5 million and \$US 21 million in total value in 2005.

Table 3.2: Growth of whale and dolphin watching in the Pacific Islands Region (EcoLarge, 2006)

Pacific Region Findings	Numbers of Whale Watchers	Countries with whale watch operations	Average annual growth in whale watchers (1998 – 2005)	Estimated Direct Value of whale watching industry	Estimated Total Value of the industry
1998	10,308	9			USD 1,185,000
2005	110,746	14	45%	USD 7,525,500	USD 21,012,000

² Appendix I lists species that are the most endangered among CITES-listed animals and plant, which are threatened with extinction and CITES prohibits international trade in specimens of these species except when the purpose of the import is not commercial, for instance for scientific research. In these exceptional cases, trade may take place provided it is authorized.

³ Appendix II lists species that are not necessarily now threatened with extinction but that may become so unless trade is closely controlled. International trade in specimens of Appendix-II species may be authorized by the granting of an export permit or re-export certificate.

⁴ Migratory species that have been categorized as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant proportion of their range are listed on Appendix I of the Convention. States strive towards strictly protecting these animals, conserving or restoring the habitats in which they live, mitigating obstacles to migration and controlling other factors that might endanger them

⁵ Migratory species that have an unfavourable conservation status or would benefit significantly from international co-operation organised by tailored agreements are listed in Appendix II to the Convention. For this reason, the Convention encourages the Range States to conclude global or regional Agreements for the conservation and management of individual species or, more often, of a group of species listed on Appendix II

THREATS

Whales and dolphins in the Pacific Islands region face various threats and there are important issues arising for their effective conservation and management.

Fishery Interactions: Depredation and incidental by-catch in long-line fisheries is categorized as a high threat for small and medium toothed whales, and may be a serious concern for small localized populations. Depredation is also recognized as a significant economic threat to long-line fishermen due to loss of catch or bait.

Directed take: Directed take is categorized as a high threat. Scientific whaling on minke, fin, and humpback whales is of specific concern, particularly the take of humpbacks that could directly impact on the recovery of the small vulnerable humpback populations in the waters of SPREP members. An additional issue is the recovery of other large whale species from previous unsustainable commercial harvest.

The drive hunt in the Solomon Islands is categorized as a high threat, as the three species taken may be highly localized and the impacts to these populations are unknown. Capture of animals for public display has also recently occurred and any resumption would be of concern.

Climate Change: Climate change is potentially a high threat to whales and dolphins and their habitats in the region through potential disruption of ocean circulation, changes in the amount and distribution of prey, changes in salinity, temperature and acidity and other parameters. Current climate change models include a wide range of potential scenarios.

Tourism/human interaction: Whales and dolphin watching is an important economic opportunity for many countries and territories in the Pacific Islands. If managed according to responsible wildlife viewing practices it should pose only a low threat to whale and dolphin populations. However, if not managed properly this form of tourism could pose a medium threat to the fitness of animals, and potentially a high threat for specific, localized populations that may be vulnerable to disturbance in certain areas such as resting bays. Recent studies show that in some circumstances whale and dolphin watching can cause impacts upon the individuals and populations being watched.

Habitat Degradation: Habitat degradation includes coastal development, sedimentation, aquaculture, nutrients, and other habitat impacts. Of most significance could be localized point source activities. This threat is categorized overall as medium.

Pollution: Plastics are categorized as a medium threat to whales and dolphins in the region. Species that prey on soft-bodied prey such as squid may be susceptible to plastic ingestion, and this has been shown in necropsy results of stranded animals. Toxic chemicals are considered a largely unknown but low threat, but may be of higher concern in specific areas due to impacts from mining operations, port and urban development and ship groundings.

Ship strikes, acoustics, disease: Ship strikes, acoustics, and disease are considered largely unknown but low threats to whales and dolphin in the region. Ship strikes may be a potential for concern in areas with fast vessels and high whale and dolphin concentrations.

THEMES AND OBJECTIVES

Theme	Objectives
1. NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and enhance national, regional and international coordination, collaboration and partnership for whale and dolphin conservation in the Pacific Islands region
2. THREAT REDUCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop, test and disseminate effective mitigation techniques that reduce depredation and incidental by-catch, and to document the impact of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing on whales and dolphins in the Pacific Islands Region • Limit direct take to sustain populations • Improve our understanding on impacts of climate change on whales and dolphins • Minimize impacts of pollution on whales and dolphins • Support the development of sustainable eco-tourism practices in the region • Ensure coastal developments take account of potential impacts on whale and dolphin populations • Improve information on ship strikes, acoustics, disease (Low but Unknown)
3. ECOSYSTEM/HABITAT PROTECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the designation and management of national whale/marine sanctuaries in the EEZs of SPREP members • Identify key critical habitat, hotspots, and migratory pathways that are candidates for improved conservation.
4. CAPACITY BUILDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in-country expertise, field capacity and regional cooperation
5. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop communication strategies, training programs and protocols for key issues within the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan • Increase awareness and understanding of whales and dolphins in the Pacific Islands Region • Promote awareness regarding the value of traditional knowledge and practices in the management of whales and dolphins

<p>6. CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To document the range of cultural practices, values and knowledge associated with whales and dolphins and encourage a more cohesive approach in policies and legislation • Preserve and protect the traditional knowledge and values associated with whales & dolphins • Ensure appropriate cultural knowledge, practices, and values inform and underpin management measures
<p>7. LEGISLATION AND POLICY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop country level legal, policy and institutional framework to support the effective implementation of the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan
<p>8. RESEARCH AND MONITORING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve information received on stranding events in the Pacific Islands Region • Identify key species and areas for baseline surveys • Identify significance of and priority for toxicological research
<p>9. WHALE AND DOLPHIN-BASED TOURISM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster sharing of lessons learnt and undertake regular assessment of the industry • Ensure the best practice management of the whale and dolphin watching industry in the Pacific Islands Region • Maximize educational and economic values of whale and dolphin watching

THEMES AND PRIORITY ACTIONS

THEME 1: NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION		
OBJECTIVE: <i>Promote and enhance national, regional and international coordination, collaboration and partnership for whale and dolphin conservation in the Pacific Islands region.</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
1.1 Promote understanding by facilitating effective information sharing mechanisms to assist in addressing cross-sectoral issues and migratory species conservation.	SPREP	High
1.2 Encourage and support PICTs to remove internal cross-sectoral barriers to effectively implement the WDAP at the local, island, government level.	Members	High
1.3 Facilitate PICTs involvement and participation in relevant international meetings and initiatives for whales and dolphins conservation.	SPREP/ Partners	High
1.4 Promote cooperation and highlight achievements and lessons learnt in whale and dolphin conservation at regional and international conferences and fora.	SPREP	High
1.5 Ensure whales and dolphins conservation needs are integrated into the development and implementation of the SPREP Environment Ministers Regional MPA framework.	SPREP	High
1.6 Develop linkages with relevant regional organizations and processes (such as RFMOs), eg. MoUs information exchange and cross-sectoral integration.	SPREP/ Members	Medium
1.7 Develop linkages with relevant private sector organizations to reduce threats to whales and dolphins such as by-catch, depredation and marine debris (such as fishing and tourism industries, NGOs).	Members/ SPREP/ Partners	High
1.8 Effect improved integration of whale and dolphin conservation into national, regional and international initiatives including: national - NBSAP, NSDS; regional - Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Policy, Action Strategy for Nature Conservation, CROP Marine Sector Working Group, RFMOs, NBSAP Working Group).	Members/ SPREP/ Partners	High
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Number of national, regional and international organizations, processes and frameworks incorporating PIR whale and dolphin conservation needs. ⊙ Number of national, regional and international partnerships created to support WDAP implementation. 		

THEME 2: THREAT REDUCTION		
OBJECTIVE (i): FISHERIES INTERACTION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To develop, test and disseminate effective mitigation techniques that reduce depredation and incidental by-catch;</i> • <i>To document the impact of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing on whales and dolphins in the Pacific Islands Region.</i> 		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
<u>Depredation/fishery interactions</u>		
2.1 Collaborate with RFMOs and share information on fisheries, marine mammals interactions and successful and unsuccessful tactics for mitigation.	Members, SPREP, RFMO, WCPFC, SPC, FFA, FAO, CBD, DWFNs, Partners	High

2.2	Encourage distant water fishing nations to support PIR in ensuring sustainable and responsible fishing practices and to maintain the health of the ocean and PIR economies.	Members, RFMO, WCPFC, SPC, FFA, FAO, DWFNs, SPREP, Partners	Medium
2.3	Foster industry/research institutions/governments partnerships to develop and test mitigation techniques to reduce by-catch and depredation.	Members, DWFNs, RFMOs	High
2.4	Examine information on IUU to better understand potential impacts on marine mammals including by-catch and depredation.	SPREP, SPC, FFA, FAO, Research Institutions, Partners	High
2.5	Collect and disseminate information on the scale of depredation and by-catch from fishing operations, to better assess level of priority and possible mitigation actions.	FFA, SPC, RFMO, SPREP, Members	High
Fishery Ecological Interactions (Low but regional concern on this issue is High).			
2.6	Support outreach and education programmes that provide understanding of the scientific principles of the low level of competition between whales/dolphins and fisheries in this region.	Partners	Low/High
Indicators:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Properly tested mitigation technique. ⊙ Acceptance and use of a successful technique by long-line fisheries in the region. ⊙ System of collecting data from fishing operations on by-catch and depredation developed and used. 			

OBJECTIVE (ii): <i>Limit direct take to sustain populations</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Direct take: Whaling		
2.7 Support non-lethal research on abundance, structure, trends, and assessments of impacts – particularly on humpback, minke and fin whales.	SPREP/Partners/ Members	High
Direct take: Drive hunts and live capture		
2.8 Support research on abundance, structure, distribution, trends, and assessments of harvest impacts on the whale and dolphin species targeted.	SPREP/Partners/ Members	High
2.9 Ensure the direct take of whales and dolphins does not affect viability of local populations.	Members	High
2.10 Ensure any live capture activities in the region comply with international regulations and agreements.	Members	High
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Non-lethal Research on abundance etc carried out concerning whale and dolphin species targeted in whaling, hunt and live capture. ⊙ Sustainable principles applied to any direct take and international regulations/agreements applied to capture activities. 		

OBJECTIVE (iii): <i>Improve our understanding of climate change impacts on whales and dolphins</i>		
Actions	Lead	Priority
2.11 Facilitate the collation and dissemination of current knowledge on the impacts of climate change on marine mammals and their habitats,	SPREP, scientific institutions, CBD Sec and UNFCCC Sec, partners	High
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Document/presentation on climate change impacts to whales and dolphins provided to SPREP members by 2009. 		

OBJECTIVE (iv): <i>Minimize impacts of pollution on whales and dolphins</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
Plastics and marine debris		
2.12 Encourage improved waste management at community and national levels to reduce plastics and other debris in the marine environment.	Members	Medium
2.13 Develop and promote the use guidelines for fishing operations related to discarding of waste.	SPREP/SPC Members/ partners	Medium High
2.14 Collect information on the potential impact of plastics and fishing gear on whales and dolphins, including from stranding networks.	Members	High
2.15 Where possible, request that necropsies include examination for plastic ingestion.		
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Better information on the impacts of plastics and other debris to whales and dolphins. ⊙ Guidelines developed for proper waste management at all levels including from fishing boats. 		

OBJECTIVE (v): <i>Identify and mitigate any significant impact from marine whale and dolphin based tourism</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
2.16 Identify potential for significant impact/localised effects from tourism activities on whales and dolphins.	Partners/ SPREP/ Members	Medium
2.17 Develop management and mitigation strategies to reduce identified impact.		
2.18 Assess any potential impacts of whale and dolphin watching activities on the animals e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spinner dolphin watching • Swim-with programs • Vessel interactions. 	Partners	High
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Significant adverse effect from whale and dolphin watching tourism identified and threat mitigated and lessons learnt promoted and widely shared in the region. ⊙ Studies on impacts of whale/dolphin watching completed in New Caledonia, Tonga. Studies undertaken in Guam, French Polynesia, Hawaii. 		

OBJECTIVE (vi): <i>Ensure coastal development takes account of impacts on whale and dolphin populations</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
2.19 Encourage consultation/consideration of impacts on whales and dolphins in national legislative and EIA processes.	Members	High
2.20 Identify particular localized areas and populations – and then develop appropriate monitoring and mitigation of any significant impacts.	Members/ Partners	Medium
2.21 Provide information on potential impacts of coastal development to whales and dolphins to decision makers and public.	Members	Medium
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Consideration of impacts on whales and dolphin incorporated in national legislation and other processes such as EIA and potential impact information made available. ⊙ Monitoring of identified localized populations initiated. 		

OBJECTIVE (vii): <i>Improve understanding of unknown but potential threats to whales and dolphins, including ship strikes, entanglement, acoustics, disease</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
2.22 Encourage anecdotal and opportunistic recording and documentation for ship strikes, entanglement and disease.	Members	Low but Unknown
2.23 Identify any significant source of acoustic noise pollution that could affect whales and dolphins in the region.	Members	Low
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ System in place and operational to collect anecdotal opportunistic data and to be able to respond if one of these becomes a significant threat at local, national or regional level. 		

THEME 3: ECOSYSTEM/HABITAT PROTECTION⁶		
Objectives:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Support the designation and management of national whale/marine sanctuaries in the EEZs of SPREP members</i> ▪ <i>Identify key critical habitat, hotspots, and migratory pathways that are candidates for improved conservation.</i> 		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
3.1 Support the declaration of EEZ wide whale sanctuaries by SPREP members and support these sanctuaries to develop and implement management plans and strategies.	SPREP/ Partners	High
3.2 Establish a working group on ecosystem/habitat protection that will identify critical habitats, hotspots and migratory pathways and environmental linkages (spatial and temporal).	SPREP/ Partners/ Members	Medium

⁶ There are two general terms often used in regard to whales and dolphins ecosystem protection, these are "sanctuaries" and "marine protected areas". Typically in the Pacific Islands Region, and for the use in this Plan, "sanctuaries" refer to EEZ-wide whale sanctuary declarations with a principle objective of prohibiting commercial whaling. The other management tool, here referred to as "marine protected areas", may be smaller in scale and often refer to specific critical habitats, hotspots, or pathways.

3.3	Evaluate and support marine protected areas and networks where they are a suitable method and benefit to the protection of whales and dolphins and their habitats in the identified areas.	SPREP/ Partners	High
3.4	Integrate, where relevant and appropriate, whale and dolphin conservation into the development of MPAs/MMAs and in the region.	Members	High
Indicators:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Additional SPREP Member designate national EEZ whale sanctuaries. ⊙ Management strategies/plans developed, finalized and implemented for existing sanctuaries. ⊙ Working group identifies potential areas for marine protected area designation and management. 			

THEME 4: CAPACITY BUILDING		
OBJECTIVE: <i>Increase in-country expertise and capacity</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
4.1 Identify training needs and support proposal writing to implement WDAP at the country and regional level, using existing processes such as NCSA.	Members/ SPREP	High
4.2 Develop training packages on common priorities (e.g. stranding, data recording, legislation, communication etc) based on regional priorities and convene workshops based on identified needs.	SPREP/ Partners	High
4.3 Support internship training on whales and dolphins in existing research centers.	Partners	High
4.4 Build in-country capacity to prepare relevant regulation, legislation and policy.	Members/ SPREP	High
4.5 Conduct local and/or regional training workshops on necropsy including collection and storage of tissues, skeletal remains and analysis.	SPREP/ Auckland Uni,	High
4.6 Conduct training and verification of whale and dolphin sightings and reporting, and develop database complementary to that under Marine Turtle Action Plan.	SPREP/ Partners	Medium
4.7 Conduct at least one specialist regional workshop in abundance estimation techniques (sighting surveys) followed by field training cruise.	SPREP/ CMS/ WDCS	High
4.8 Develop surveillance and enforcement capacity for implementation of national protection measures including whale and dolphin watching tourism operations.	Members	High
4.9 Conduct industry training and certification programs for whale/dolphin watching operators and guides, which should be required to attain a whale & dolphin watching permit/ license where applicable.	Partners	High
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Training needs identified and addressed. ⊙ Training packages prepared and made available. ⊙ Increased technical capacity to obtain information and assist in the conservation of whales and dolphins in the region. ⊙ Improved capacity to develop and implement policies and legislation. ⊙ Whale/dolphin operator training and certification programs are implemented in SPREP nations. 		

THEME 5: EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

OBJECTIVE (i): *Develop communication strategies, training programs and protocols for key issues within the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan*

Actions:	Lead	Priority
5.1 Identify key issues for each Member and support development of appropriate education strategies and programs (e.g. known threats, species ID and status).	Members/ Partners	High
5.2 Develop appropriate educational and awareness tools for different target audiences at a regional and national level including producing a template to facilitate production in local dialect.	SPREP/ Members/ Partners	High
5.3 Up-skilling of government agencies and community trainers to facilitate stewardship, and to develop and deliver outreach programs.	Members	Medium
Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Community and school education programs implemented. ⊙ Regionally relevant facts sheets to inform governments and industry on key issues are produced (e.g. fisheries interactions, cultural practices, regulations, biology & natural history). ⊙ Training programs carried out in-country for key government agencies and identified local community stewards. 		

OBJECTIVE (ii): *Increase awareness and understanding of whales and dolphins in the Pacific Islands Region*

Actions:	Lead	Priority
5.4 Utilize existing community networks and venues to deliver public presentations.	Members	High
5.5 Provide materials and information to community media (TV and radio stations) in-country to inform public.	Members/SPREP/ Partners	High
5.6 Disseminate educational materials targeted at recreational/ private boaters to ensure minimum impact.	Members/SPREP/ Partners	Medium
Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Presentations on whales & dolphins are carried out in schools, village halls, and during annual festivities. ⊙ Whales & dolphins are profiled through documentaries, interviews and regular spots in local media. ⊙ ID guides, fact sheets and guidelines brochures are distributed to boaters, marinas, yacht clubs, through government agencies and NGO's. 		

OBJECTIVE (iii): *Promote awareness regarding the value of traditional knowledge and practices in the management of whales and dolphins*

Actions:	Lead	Priority
5.7 Integrate traditional knowledge, stories and customs into education and awareness developed.	Members, SPREP	High
5.8 Encourage the use of informal/traditional methods of education within villages, e.g. utilizing elders as resource people.	Members, Partners, SPREP	Medium
Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Education programs implemented in schools, education centres and museums. ⊙ Informal/traditional methods of education are employed at community level. 		

THEME 6: CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUE		
OBJECTIVE (i): <i>To document the range of cultural practices, values and knowledge associated with whales and dolphins and encourage a more cohesive approach in policies and legislation.</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
6.1 Undertake a review of customary practice and knowledge related to the conservation and management of whales and dolphins.	SPREP/ Partners	High
6.2 Promote the adoption and integration of customary practices related to the conservation and management of whales and dolphins, where appropriate.	Members	High
6.3 Review and identify gaps and conflicts in relevant policies and legislation that supports/limits the protection and promotion of TRM, TK, IPR, ABS, and CMT.	Members	High
6.4 Encourage the need to address gaps and conflicts found in the review where required, in consultation with local communities and relevant stakeholders.	Members/ SPREP	High
6.5 Support and promote the introduction of appropriate formal protection of IPR, TK and ABS at a national, regional and international level.	Members/ SPREP	High
6.6 Support the documentation of traditional knowledge, practices, heritage and values, using existing networks.	Members/ SPREP	High
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ TK and other customary practices and values documented and incorporated where relevant. ⊙ Review on gaps carried out and report published and disseminated. ⊙ Artifacts and narratives (oral histories) documented and conserved in local museums. 		

OBJECTIVE (ii): <i>Preserve and protect the traditional knowledge and values associated with whales and dolphins</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
6.7 Identify and empower appropriate in country authorities to hold, maintain and promote traditional knowledge.	Members	High
6.8 Establish documentation protocols and agreed partnerships with cultural groups/chiefly bodies and individual knowledge holders regarding appropriate use and dissemination of information.	Members	High
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Each country has identified appropriate authority to house and promote cultural information. ⊙ On going promoting and support for TK, ABS in national, regional and international fora etc. 		

OBJECTIVE (iii): <i>Ensure appropriate cultural knowledge, practices, and values inform and underpin management measures.</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
6.9 Assess the sustainability of cultural practices involving whales and dolphins that may represent a threat to whales and dolphins (e.g. Fijian <i>tabua</i> , Solomon Islands dolphin drive).	Members/SPREP	High
6.10 Ensure biological survey designs respect and draw upon Traditional Knowledge.	Members	High
6.11 Ensure national and local policies and management respect and draw upon Traditional Knowledge.	Members	High
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Case studies supported on sustainability of cultural practices in country's interested supporting sustainability assessments. ⊙ Relevant whale and dolphin TK and cultural values are utilized and acknowledged in scientific survey design and execution and formulation of national management policies. 		

THEME 7: LEGISLATION AND POLICY		
OBJECTIVE: <i>Develop country-level legal, policy and an institutional framework to support the effective implementation of the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan.</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
7.1 Complete legislative and policy review and disseminate the final report. Review to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying legislative inconsistencies and gaps within PICTs; • Extending to cover US, UK, Pitcairn, France, Australia and NZ; • Assessment of country capacity to implement the WDAP, CMS Cetacean MoU, CITES and CBD where relevant; • Country capacity to implement CITES/CBD; • Habitat and species protection measures; • Sanctuary declaration; • Regulation of distant water and local fleets, including observer programme coverage to document commercial fishing impact on whales and dolphin. 	IFAW/SPREP	High
7.2 Further develop policies, regulations and legislation for the effective conservation management of whales and dolphins, including measures to mitigate threat and ensure habitat protection.	Members/SPREP/Partners	High
7.3 Identify and respond to country/territory legal and policy capacity needs.	Members/SPREP/Partners	Medium
7.4 Assess processes and outcomes used for NCSA and other related biodiversity mechanisms, to address legal and policy capacity needs for whale and dolphin conservation.	Members	Medium
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Regional legislative/management review completed and widely disseminated. ⊙ Harmonization of in-country/territory policy and legal instruments. ⊙ Capacity strengthened to draft, manage and enforce legislation and policy in-country/territory. ⊙ Number of NBSAPs or equivalent strategies integrating WDAP actions. 		

THEME 8: RESEARCH AND MONITORING

This Action Plan promotes only non-lethal techniques for research

OBJECTIVE (i): *Improve information received on stranding events in the Pacific Islands Region.*

Actions:	Lead	Priority
8.1 Develop a web-accessible regional stranding database, with verification process for species identification.	SPREP/ Te Papa/ Members	High
8.2 Collect community records and knowledge on whales and dolphins and incorporate into the regional stranding database.	Members	High
8.3 Produce a regional booklet/stranding manual with species identification, forms and instructions in English, Pidgin and French.	SPREP	High
8.4 Encourage an MoU between the University of Auckland and SPREP for processing and storage of tissue samples for genetic work.	SPREP/ CMS	High
8.5 Provide basic stranding kits (for genetic samples) to Members.	Auckland Uni/Donors	High
8.6 Assist in funding for experts to attend national workshops in regions.	SPREP	Medium
Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Stranding Database and network established and operational. ⊙ Stranding manual produced in three languages and distributed. ⊙ Tissue archive and protocols for deposition and access established. ⊙ Kits for genetic sampling distributed and used. ⊙ Improved information on strandings events in all PICTs. 		

OBJECTIVE (ii): *Identify key species and areas for baseline surveys*

Actions:	Lead	Priority
8.7 Establish web-accessible sighting database.	SPREP	Medium
8.8 Improve species inventories for all PICTs, prioritizing those recognised as data deficient.	Members/ Partners/ SPREP	High
8.9 Conduct dedicated surveys to estimate abundance and trends of whales and dolphins species.	SPWRC/ Partners/ Members	High
8.10 Provide adequate species identification and related information resources for all PICTs e.g. IFAW and SPC identification kit for observer programme.	SPREP/ SPC/ IFAW/ Partners	Medium
8.11 Increase use of platforms of opportunity (e.g. fisheries patrols and observers, aerial surveillance, naval and merchant shipping, other marine research programmes) for whale and dolphin sightings.	All	Medium
8.12 Increased use of remote sensing devices, especially acoustic.	SPWRC/ NOAA/Partne rs	Low

Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Online regional sighting database established and operational. ⊙ Species inventories for all data deficient SPREP members improved. ⊙ Species inventories for at least 3 SPREP members improved by addition of further species. ⊙ Cruises to estimate abundance of whales and dolphins species completed in at least 2 SPREP Members. ⊙ Species information and id kit assembled and distributed. ⊙ Incorporation of whale and dolphin expertise to conduct sightings and research activities in cruises dedicated to other purposes (e.g. Rapid Ecological Assessments). ⊙ Increased reporting level for whales and dolphins sighted from fisheries enforcement patrols, fisheries observers, ferries, other commercial vessels and aerial surveillance flights conducted to combat IUU fishing. ⊙ At least one remote sensing device deployed in the region for at least six months. 		
OBJECTIVE (iii): <i>Identify significance of and priorities for toxicological research</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
8.13 Investigate need and opportunities for toxicological research.	SPREP	Low
8.14 Identify suitable laboratories for toxicological analysis.	SPREP	Low
8.15 Identify funding sources.	SPREP/ Partners	Low
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Regional expertise in, and laboratories for toxicological analysis identified. ⊙ Areas in the region where toxicological analysis would be a high priority identified. 		

THEME 9: WHALE AND DOLPHIN-BASED TOURISM		
To ensure that the development of whale and dolphin based tourism is sustainable and conducted responsibly throughout the Pacific Islands Region		
OBJECTIVE (i): <i>Foster sharing of lessons learnt and undertake regular assessment of the industry</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
9.1 Develop a framework to maintain effort to document industry growth (building on SPTO/SPREP/IFAW/SPWRC work).	Partners/SPR EP	High
9.2 Promote understanding of the industry, the lessons learnt and their implications.	Partners/SPR EP	High/ Medium
9.3 Foster communication between key in-country stakeholders, in particular industry and government, to promote understanding and assist in the management of the industry.	Members	High/ Medium
9.4 Monitor, document and support PICTs where whale watching activities occur as models in addressing licensing, regulation and management issues, ensuring that industry development draws on lessons learned.	SPREP/ Partners	High
Indicators:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Reporting system developed to gather information on growth of the industry. ⊙ Regional whale watching report updated and disseminated to relevant management bodies, industry, media and community. ⊙ Industry, Government and key stakeholders (NGO's, researchers, community groups) meet in-country as required to discuss issues and actions. ⊙ Key resources and technical support (reports, examples, templates) is available from SPREP. 		

OBJECTIVE (ii): <i>Ensure the best practice management of whale and dolphin based tourism in the Pacific Islands Region</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
9.5 Develop region-wide whale and dolphin watching guidelines.	IFAW/ SPREP/Partners	High
9.6 Hold regional whale and dolphin watching workshop to promote best practice management and endorse regional guidelines.	Operation Cetaces/ IFAW/SPREP	High
9.7 Support collaborative and best practice management of whale and dolphin watching activities involving all stakeholders.	Members	High
9.8 Promote licensing/permitting of whale and dolphin watching tourism operations as a tool for management.	Members	High
Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Workshop held, well attended by SPREP members and industry. ⊙ Regional guidelines developed, accepted, published and utilized by SPREP members and industry. ⊙ Stakeholders are consulted in the development of management measures. ⊙ Licensing schemes are implemented in SPREP nations where whale and dolphin based watching tourism occurs. ⊙ Management agencies have on-water presence to monitor and enforce in-country licensing and permitting conditions. ⊙ Whale and dolphin tourism in the region operating according to responsible wildlife viewing practices 		

OBJECTIVE (iii): <i>Maximize educational and economic values of whale and dolphin based tourism watching</i>		
Actions:	Lead	Priority
9.9 Develop programs for whale and dolphin watching operators to collect useful data.	Members/ SPREP	High
9.10 Support countries to develop an education kit for on-board operations.	SPREP/ Partners	High
9.11 Promote socio-economic benefits of whale and dolphin watching to local communities.	Members	High/ Medium
9.12 Assist countries to explore the potential for whale and dolphin watching through feasibility studies.	Partners/ SPREP	High/ Medium
Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Data sheet developed and disseminated to operators and reported annually to SPWRC. ⊙ Educational Kits developed and disseminated to SPREP nations. ⊙ Community outreach program conducted in-country targeted at local media, villages, community groups. ⊙ Feasibility studies conducted in relevant SPREP nations. 		

Table 3.1: Check-list of Country/Territory-Specific Whale and Dolphin Species Records in the Pacific Islands Region (Miller, 2007).

Cetacean Species	American Samoa	Cook Islands	FSM	Fiji	French Polynesia	Guam	Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Nauru	New Caledonia	Niue	CNMI	Palau	PNG	Pitcairn Islands	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tokelau	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu	Wallis and Futuna
Minke whales*	1	2		1	U			2		1	1		U		U	U			1			
Sei whale		U				U				2				1								
"Bryde's-like" whales*		U	1	1	U	U		U	2	1		U	2	U		2	U					U
Blue whales*		2		U			U	2		1							2					
Fin whale				2	U			2														
Humpback whale	1	1	1	1	1	2		2		1	1	1		U	U	1	U		1		1	1
Common dolphins*		2		U				2		2		U					U					
Pygmy killer whale					1					1			U	U					1			
Short-finned pilot whale	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2		1	2	2	U	1	2	1	1		1			2
Risso's dolphin		U			1	2				1		1	U	1		2	1		1			
Fraser's dolphin		1	1	U	1		1		2				U	1		2	2					
Irrawaddy/snubfin dolphin														2		U						
Orca	2	1	U	U	1	U	2	2		1	1	U	2	2		1	1	U	1	2	2	2
Melon-headed whale		1	1		1	U	U	2	2	1		1	U	1		2	2		1			2
False killer whale	1	U		1	1		U			1	1	U	U	1		1	2		1			
Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin														2								
Pantropical spotted dolphin	2	1	U	1	1	U	2	2		1			U	1			1		1	U	1	1
Striped dolphin		U	1		U	U	U	2				U	2			2	2				U	
Spinner dolphin	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2		1	1	1	U	1		1	1		1	1	1	1
Rough-toothed dolphin	2			U	1		2	U		1		1	U	U		1	1					
Bottlenose dolphins*	2	U	2	2	1	U	1	2		1		U	U	1		1	1		1	2	2	2
Dwarf/pygmy sperm whale	U			U	1	2				1		2		1		1						
Sperm whale	1	1	2	1	1	U	1	U	2	1	2	2	U	1	U	1	1	1	1	2	1	U
Southern bottlenose whale							2															
Blainville's beaked whale		1		2	1	U	U	U		1				U			U					
Cuvier's beaked whale	2	1	U		1	U	U		U	1		2	U	1		1	U					

1=relatively recent field (or speciesmen record) confirmation of a given species within EEZ

2=potentially Class 1 record that is either dated, or may be marginally outside of a given EEZ

U=unconfirmed-record that either was not definitely identified, has not been confirmed by field observations, is from an unobserved stranding event, or is an anecdotal report that for various reasons may be difficult to corroborate

**SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME****Eighteenth SPREP Meeting***Apia, Samoa*11-14 September 2007

Agenda Item 8.1.2: Capacity Building through the Pacific Invasives Learning Network: Turning words into Action**Purpose of Paper**

1. To provide the Meeting with notable progress being made by the Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN) since its inception in 2005.

Background

2. The Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN) is an innovative new initiative in the Pacific region. The network was established in 2005 by SPREP, the Nature Conservancy, the Cooperative Island Initiative on Invasive Species, IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group, National Park of American Samoa, Conservation International, the Palau Office of Environmental Response and Coordination, University of the South Pacific, US Forest Service, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. A full time coordinator was appointed under SPREP auspices and the network formally launched in May 2006 by the Honorable Elias Camsek Chin, Vice President of the Republic of Palau, who gave the network its unofficial motto "Failure is not an option". PILN is a 2-year pilot which will finish in 2008. The PILN is based in SPREP.

What PILN is About

3. PILN is a network of multi-agency, multi-sector country teams who agree to share skills and expertise in the management of invasive species, one of the greatest threats to sustainable development and biodiversity in the region. Teams include members with a long-term commitment to conservation, strong cultural understanding and the potential to act as innovators to increase invasive species management and prevention in their nations. PILN is participant-driven, its activities and agenda are determined by the individual and shared needs of the participants. From the 6 initial founding teams, the network has now grown to include 13 teams: American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawaii, Kiribati, Kosrae State (FSM), Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Pohnpei, Samoa and Yap State (FSM).

4. An issue raised at the launch by participants was the need to turn words into action - to get out of the meeting room and get on with the job - recognizing that there is not enough implementation of action plans and that the various national strategic plans tend to lack a "road map" to guide under-resourced and over-tasked agencies towards achieving their goals. Specific needs identified included capacity building in technical and social marketing skills, production of simple and realistic action plans for priority species and opportunities to share practical skills. PILN was seen as offering a means of meeting these needs.

5. PILN is a very successful initiative which is highly replicable. It serves as a model for other groups working on invasive species and other sectors, namely invasive species workers in Meso-America, invasive species workers in the UK Overseas Territories and the SPREP waste management project.

6. Since the launch, the network has gained great traction. Technical and planning advances are shared among the teams, raising interest and generating ideas. Two examples illustrate how the network is functioning:

- Strategic action planning. The Pohnpei invasive species team drafted simple and realistic multi-agency action plans for their key priority species in November 2006. This activity is being used as a model by Kiribati, Kosrae, Marshall Islands, Pohnpei and Palau, who have produced their own priority multi-agency invasive species action plans, facilitated through the PILN partnership.
- Rodent eradication in a tropical environment. Invasive species workers from 6 PICTs learned how to plan and implement a rat eradication project by working together to do this on 6 atolls in FSM, in a PILN-partnered project. Subsequent expert exchanges between participants is allowing them to gain further practical experience and confidence in addressing this common issue of regional concern and share their skills with additional PICTs.

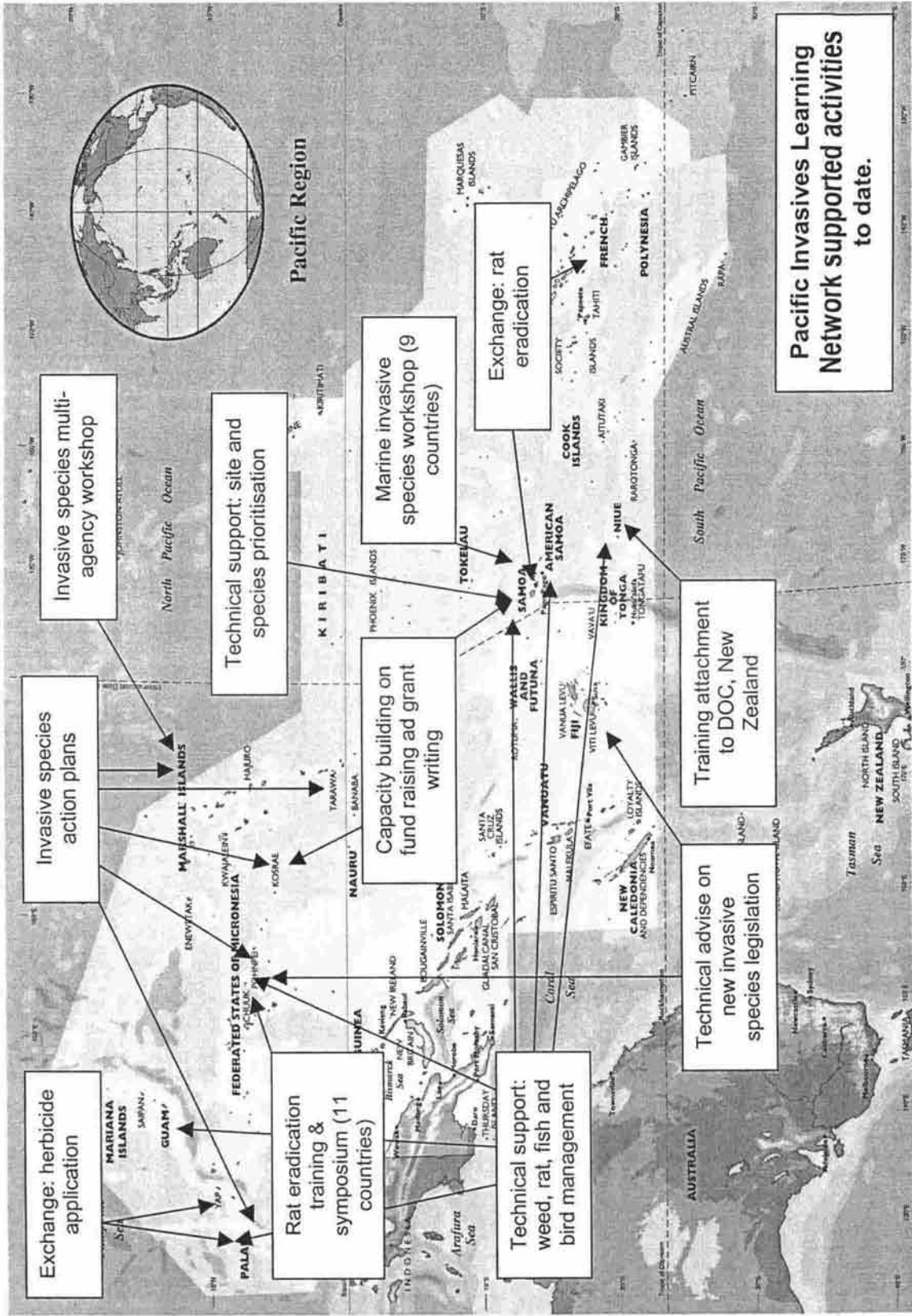
7. PILN supported activities are shown on the following map.

8. It is planned that towards the completion of the PILN Pilot Phase in May 2008, an independent evaluation would be conducted and its findings and recommendations would determine the future of the Network. SPREP Members would be informed in due course.

Recommendation

9. The Meeting is invited to:

- **consider** the work of PILN and **note** its progress towards the completion of its Pilot Phase.





SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Eighteenth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa
11-14 September 2007

Agenda Item 8.2.1 : Strengthening GEF Support Services Within the Region

Purpose of Paper

1. To update the Meeting on developments concerning the urgent need for and approaches by the Pacific SIDS (Small Island Developing States) to have increased access to funding available through the GEF 4th Replenishment period, 2006-2010 and the placement in SPREP of a GEF support post.

Background

2. A number of evaluation reports produced since 2004 found and highlighted that Pacific SIDS lagged well behind other SIDS (for example those of the Caribbean) in their efforts to access and apply GEF funding to national and regional programmes. A report in 2004 on the performance of the GEF in the Pacific sponsored by NZAID concluded that Pacific island countries (PICs) were experiencing this difficulty. The report recommended that the GEF strengthen its coordination and support presence in the region.

3. PICs then requested this strengthened GEF coordination at the 5th Pacific Environment Ministers' Meeting in 2004. The request was repeated at the 3rd Regional Workshop on the Overall Performance Study of the GEF (OPS-3) in March 2005. In May 2006, the Pacific Island Forum Ambassadors Working Group in New York also endorsed the concept of a GEF regional support position. At the SPREP Meeting in September last year, the members were emphatic in their advice to the SPREP Secretariat and the relevant donors to get together urgently and put in place as quickly as possible a position to help PICs access GEF resources.

4. The report of the "Joint Evaluation of the GEF Activity Cycle and Modalities" November 2006 by the GEF Evaluation Office and Implementing Agencies again highlighted the complexity of the GEF project preparation and activity cycle process, and that it was lengthy and costly. The need to streamline and simplify the cycle had also been highlighted by numerous other evaluations; by the GEF Overall Performance Studies, by the GEF Council, and by many of the GEF's partners and stakeholders. This was seen as one of the major obstacles to PICs in accessing GEF funding, and in part a reflection of their absorptive capacities.

Current Status

5. In August 2006 the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, the SPREP and the GEF Secretariat agreed that the position of GEF Support Adviser be created in the region to enhance national level engagement in GEF processes and access to GEF resources. Under this agreement, the position incumbent will be employed by the SPREP and based within the SPREP Headquarters in Apia. Australia and New Zealand agreed to provide funding support for the position. The new post was advertised soon after this agreement, with applications closing 15 December 2006. An appointment was made in March 2007.

6. The objective of the position is to improve PICs' access to funding from the GEF's 4th Replenishment. GEF provided approximately US\$86 million to 14 Pacific SIDS during the fifteen years to the end of the 3rd Replenishment in 2006. The total funding available from GEF-4 resources for Pacific SIDS is approximately US\$75 million, plus US\$24.5 million that will be disbursed during this period using GEF-3 resources, for a total currently available of approximately US\$100 million.

7. At the time of writing the GEF Secretariat was in the process of developing what it had called the Multi-Focal GEF Program For Pacific SIDS, later renamed the GEF Pacific Alliance for Sustainability, in association with GEF Implementing Agencies and SPREP. The World Bank has been nominated by the GEF Secretariat to be the Lead Agency for developing this regional programme. The GEF Secretariat had initially scheduled the consultative process with Pacific SIDS to develop the programme for submission to the November 2007 Council Meeting. This has now been postponed to the April 2008 Council Meeting.

8. The first engagement in the consultative process was a meeting between PIF Ambassadors in New York with the GEF Chief Executive Officer, and GEF officials, in Washington DC, on 18 April 2007. This was followed by the presentation of a general outline of the regional programmatic concept to Pacific Leaders who attended the 8th Pacific Island Conference of Leaders in Washington DC, 7-9 May 2007, by the GEF CEO.

9. The World Bank, as Lead Agency for developing the GEF Pacific Alliance for Sustainability programme, was tasked by the GEF Secretariat with drafting a "Concept Note" on the new regional programmatic approach, to be submitted to Implementing Agencies and SPREP for comment, and to the Pacific GEF Focal Points at the Manila Constituency Meeting 30-31 May 2007 for consideration. This 'Concept Note' formed the framework or roadmap that is guiding the programme's national and regional consultation events.

10. National and regional consultations, involving interactions between national and regional consultants guided by Terms of Reference developed by the World Bank, with national GEF Focal Points, and national and regional stakeholders, were undertaken from the second half of July through August 2007. These consultations were planned to culminate in a regional consultative workshop scheduled for 10 September, the day before the commencement of this SPREP Meeting.

11. The GEF Support Adviser has now prepared a Work Plan as required under the position Terms of Reference. At the time of writing the Work Plan was being circulated for consideration and approval by the SPREP Management and the position's Reference Group. The Reference Group comprises SPREP, the Chairperson of the PIF Working Group of Ambassadors in New York, the GEF Secretariat, AusAID and NZAID.

12. The Work Plan takes into account recent and unfolding developments outlined above, especially the anticipated outcomes and impacts of the GEF Pacific Alliance for Sustainability regional programme. The GEF Support Adviser has been closely associated with developments related to the regional programme, and continues to have constant contact with the GEF Secretariat and the World Bank in this exercise, as well as with other GEF Agencies, throughout this process.

13. Work emphasis during the remaining period of the GEF Support Adviser's three-year term will be in the areas of assisting island countries generate project ideas, and develop project concepts during the initial project processes with GEF Agencies, and help them through backstopping services related to GEF Secretariat and Council operations, processes, procedures and information sources.

Recommendation

14. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the progress made concerning strengthening GEF coordination within the region through the establishment of the new position of GEF Support Adviser in SPREP.

27 June 2007



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Eighteenth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa
11-14 September 2007

**Agenda Item 8.2.2: Regional Project for the Implementation
of the Montreal Protocol in the Pacific Region:
Actions needed to achieve compliance**

Purpose of Paper

1. To draw the attention of the Meeting to activities that need to be completed by Pacific island Parties to comply with the provisions of the Montreal Protocol and its amendments. In particular the need to put in place licensing systems for chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).
2. A Regional Strategy for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol in the Pacific Region has been implemented since 2002 with project funding from the Multilateral Fund Secretariat (MLFS) of the Montreal Protocol together with the Government of Australia. The initial aim of the Strategy was to phase out CFCs by 2005 in eight countries through the following activities:
 - Establishment of National Compliance Centres
 - National Training for refrigeration technicians
 - Development of regulations
 - Training of Customs Officers for border control on ODS
3. The Project is implemented by SPREP in cooperation with UNEP. The funding provided is partly disbursed to countries for in-country activities and partly to enable SPREP to provide regional/technical support and to facilitate training.
4. Three additional countries, Nauru, Niue and Cook Islands joined the Project in 2005. UNEP and the MLFS granted a time extension of one year to the project for activities in three additional countries during 2006.

5. At the 17th SPREP Meeting last year the Secretariat highlighted the remaining activities that needed to be completed under the Regional Strategy. Since then the Secretariat has gained an additional year of funding (through the MLFS and Government of Australia) to take the project through to conclusion in December 2007.

Current status of Project

6. The project document sets out key milestones to be achieved in participating countries and a summary of country progress towards these milestones is set out in the Table 1 below:

Countries	Establishment of Part time National Compliance Centre to implement NCAP	Approved National Legislation to control consumption ODS	Assisted with provision of training to refrigeration and air-conditioning technicians	*Assisted with provision of Customs Trainings and other enforcement officers
FSM	√		√	
Kiribati	√		√	
Palau	√	√	√	√
RMI	√	√	√	√
Solomon Islands	√		√	
Tonga	√		√	
Tuvalu	√		√	
Vanuatu	√		√	
Cook Islands	√			
Nauru	√			
Niue	√		√	

Table 1.0 – Summary of activities implemented denoted by ticks

* [NB Regulations need to be in place before Customs training is undertaken]

Column 2 in Table 1 above sets out progress on the key issue of putting in place the licensing system for CFCs. This is a requirement for countries under the Montreal Protocol and its amendments. Without a licensing system, countries that have ratified the relevant amendments will be identified as being in a state of non-compliance with the Protocol.

Comment on progress

7. As can be seen from Table 1, there remains much work to be completed for countries in the region to achieve full compliance. This situation is of increasing concern to the Montreal Protocol Secretariat, UNEP and SPREP, and causes difficulties for SPREP in bringing this project to a successful conclusion.

8. The issue of compliance with the Montreal Protocol is important to countries, not only because the situation is raised publicly at the annual Conference of Parties, but also for its wider implications with respect to demonstrating that countries in the region take their international obligations seriously. Countries in the Pacific rely on the system of multilateral environmental agreements to achieve benefits for the region (for example, through providing funding for biodiversity protection and action on climate change) and for themselves.

9. SPREP is continuing to work with countries to implement national licensing systems and there is an increasing need for urgency in getting licensing systems in place. Countries can assist this greatly by passing ODS regulations as soon as practicable and completing their reporting requirements under the Strategy and the Montreal Protocol.

Recommendation

10. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the limited progress with control and phase out of ozone depleting substances under the Regional Strategy, in particular, the need to put in place licensing systems for CFCs;
- **note** that SPREP will continue to provide technical support and advice to countries under the current Project until its conclusion at the end of 2007; and
- **urge** countries that have not yet done so to implement a licensing system for CFCs as soon as practicable and complete their reporting requirements under the Montreal Protocol



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Eighteenth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa
11-14 September 2007

Agenda Item 8.3: Consideration and Approval of the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2008 and Indicative Budgets for 2009 and 2010

Purpose of Paper

1. To seek the Meeting's consideration and approval of the Secretariat's proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2008 and to note the indicative budgets for 2009 and 2010.

Recommendation

2. The Meeting is invited to:
- **consider** and **approve** the proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2008 and to note the indicative budgets for 2009 and 2010.
-

22 June 2007



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Eighteenth SPREP Meeting*Apia, Samoa*11-14 September 2007

Agenda Item 9.1: Process for Recruitment of Director**Purpose of Paper**

1. To advise the SPREP Meeting of the relevant process in the agreed procedure for the recruitment of the post of Director and seek a decision on the composition of a Selection Advisory Committee and approval of a duty statement and post requirements for advertising the post.

Background

2. The recruitment of the post of Director of SPREP is governed by the agreed Rules of Procedure for Appointment of Director (Attachment 2). The process of recruitment revolves around a Selection Advisory Committee (SAC) and its chairperson who is the current chairperson of the SPREP Meeting (refer Rules 3 and 4 respectively).

3. The incumbent Director took office in January 2003 for an initial term of 3 years and was reappointed for a further 3 year term in January 2006. His current term and 6 years of service will expire in January 2009. A decision on who to succeed the incumbent should be made by the 2008 SPREP Meeting. This would mean that the recruitment process, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure should be initiated by the SAC and its chair well ahead of the 2008 Meeting. This would, in turn, mean that this SPREP (18th) Meeting should decide on the composition of a SAC and agree on a duty statement for the post as well as the position requirements to constitute the advertisement and guide the SAC in its assigned work towards making a recommendation to the 19th SPREP Meeting on a suitable appointment.

SAC Selection

4. Rule 3 provides for a SAC membership comprising of the current (SPREP Meeting) chairperson who shall also be SAC chair and at least two other members of the SPREP Meeting. This implies a minimum of 3 members but flexible on the upper limit. Cost (borne by the Secretariat) and pragmatism would dictate setting an upper limit. In the past the numbers have varied from 6 (1995/96 recruitment), 8 (2001/02 recruitment) and 10 (2005 recruitment) and based around a core membership provided by members with representation in Samoa (i.e. Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, Tokelau and USA) for cost effectiveness.

5. The Meeting could consider being guided by past practice in making its selection with consideration perhaps for one or two other members not resident in Apia to spread representation bearing in mind that Guam as Chair will also chair the SAC.

Duty Statement and Position Requirements

6. A draft list of duties/responsibilities and position requirements for the post of Director are attached as Attachment 1 for consideration and approval.

Recommendation

7. The Meeting is invited to:

- **decide** on the composition of the SAC; and
- **consider** and **approve** a duties/responsibilities list and position requirements for the recruitment of Director as contained in Attachment 1.

23 April 2007

Duties/Responsibilities of Director

1. Provision of exceptional leadership, strategic direction and overall vision;
2. Efficient and effective management and administration SPREP work programme, staff and assets;
3. Delivery of high quality advice and services to members and governing body;
4. Articulation and strong advocacy for environment concerns of the regions; and
5. Develop and maintain effective relationships through networking and interaction with other regional organisations, donors and stakeholders

Required Knowledge, Skills, Experience and Attributes

- High integrity with proven leadership qualities, managerial ability and experience at executive level in leading a multi-disciplinary, multicultural team. An academic qualification in an appropriate discipline is an advantage;
- Commitment to the social, economic and environmental aspirations of Pacific island peoples and ability to effectively communicate and liaise with members;
- Ability to advocate for and promote the environmental concerns, the protection and development of the environmental resources of the region and to cooperate effectively with other partner organisations and institutions; and
- Good health and ability to travel and consult widely in the region.
- Knowledge of both working languages would be an advantage



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Eighteenth SPREP Meeting*Apia, Samoa*11-14 September 2007

Agenda Item 9.2: Updated Staff Regulations**Purpose of Paper**

1. To inform and provide for noting by the SPREP Meeting a revised and updated Staff Regulations to reflect recent decisions by the SPREP Meeting on staff terms and conditions.

Comment

2. Last year the SPREP Meeting as did other CROP Governing bodies, made certain decisions on SPREP staff terms and conditions as a result of the triennial review of CROP terms and conditions and the views and recommendations of the CROP CEOs and SPREP Secretariat.

3. Consequently, the Secretariat has now revised the appropriate provisions of the Staff Regulations to reflect those decisions. Additionally, the Secretariat had also taken the opportunity to make minor editorial improvements, delete obsolete provisions and improve the clarity of few other provision. None involves a matter of substance.

4. The paper is to promote transparency and for the information of members.

5. For ease of examination we have tracked the changes with a short explanation under the **Comments** column.

Recommendation

6. The Meeting is invited to:

- > **note** the revised and updated SPREP Staff Regulations.
-

UPDATED STAFF REGULATIONS
2007 EDITION

PART I : SCOPE AND APPLICATION Regulation 1	Comments
(a) These Regulations set out the mutual obligations and rights of SPREP and its employees. They have been approved by the SPREP Meeting and are administered by the Director whose decision on the interpretation of the Regulations is final. Where the interpretation affects the Director, the decision will rest with the SPREP Meeting. They apply to all staff appointed to SPREP by the Director and where appropriate to the Director as well. They do not apply to temporary or short term staff, casual workers or consultants unless the contrary is specifically indicated, nor where other conditions have been agreed to in writing.	
(b) If any part of these Regulations becomes contrary to the laws of Samoa, or where they are silent, the laws of Samoa will apply.	
(c) These Regulations may be supplemented or amended by the SPREP Meeting without prejudice to the existing contracts of staff members.	
(d) The Director may supplement these Regulations with Staff Instructions not inconsistent with these Regulations or with any decisions made by the SPREP Meeting and further, may issue such Staff Instructions as may appear to be necessary to render these Regulations effective.	
PART II : DEFINITIONS Regulation 2	
<p>In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:</p> <p>"allowances" means remuneration other than salary but does not include money received to meet expenses incurred by an employee in the course of duty.</p> <p>"CROP" means the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific.</p> <p>"dependeant" means the financially dependent spouse or dependent child of an employee.</p>	<p><u>Editorial</u></p>

"dependent child" means an employee's unmarried, legally and financially dependent, natural or legally adopted child who is:

- (i) under the age of 16 years; or
- (ii) under the age of 19 years if undertaking full-time study at a secondary school; or
- (iii) under the age of 22 years if enrolled and undertaking full-time study at a university or other tertiary institution; or
- (iv) mentally or physically incapacitated.

"financially dependent" as used in the previous two definitions means spouse or child for whom the main and continuing financial support is provided by the staff members.

To clarify meaning of financial dependent from SPC definition which is also our understanding

"employee" is a general term which according to the context may mean support staff, professional staff, temporary staff or all three.

"establishment" means staff positions approved by the SPREP Meeting.

"expatriate" means a professional staff member, not a citizen or permanent resident of Samoa, who resides in Samoa only by virtue of employment with SPREP.

"greater Apia area" includes Letogo, Afiamalu, Ululoloa and Faleula.

"local" means a staff member who is not an expatriate.

"support staff" are staff engaged under a fixed term contract whose salary level fall within the Grades A to F3.

"professional staff" are staff engaged under a fixed term contract whose salary level falls within the Grades H to M.

"remuneration policy" means the basis for remuneration approved by the SPREP Meeting.

"salary" means the basic annual rate of pay for the job which is specified in SPREP's salary scale.

"SPREP" means the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

"SPREP Meeting" means the governing organ of SPREP established under Article 1 and described in Article 3 of the Agreement Establishing SPREP (1993).

"staff" or "staff member" means support staff and professional staff appointed to an established position.

<p align="center">PART III : DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS Status as International Civil Servants Regulation 3</p>	
<p>The Director and all members of the staff of SPREP are international civil servants. Their responsibilities are not national but exclusively international. By accepting appointment, they pledge themselves to discharge their functions and to regulate their conduct with the interests of SPREP only in view.</p>	
<p align="center">Responsibility of SPREP Regulation 4</p>	
<p>The Director is responsible for the proper functioning of SPREP. Staff members are subject to the authority of the Director and shall not seek or receive in the performance of their duties any instruction from any external authority.</p>	
<p align="center">Privileges and Immunities Regulation 5</p>	
<p>Under articles 6 and 7 of the Headquarters Agreement between Samoa and SPREP (1996): 1. The Director and Deputy Director shall have the like privileges and immunities as are accorded a diplomatic agent under the Act and in conformity with international law.</p>	
<p>2. The members of the family of the Director and Deputy Director forming part of their households shall have the like privileges and immunities as are accorded the members of the family of a diplomatic agent under the Act and in conformity with international law.</p>	
<p>3. Officers of SPREP other than the Director and Deputy Director shall have the like privileges and immunities as are accorded to members of the administrative and technical staff of a mission under the Act and in conformity with international law.</p>	
<p>4. Members of the family of an Officer of SPREP other than the Director or Deputy Director forming part of his/her household shall have the privileges and immunities as are accorded to members of the family of a member of the administrative and technical staff of a mission under the Act and in conformity with international law.</p>	
<p align="center">Disclosure of Information Regulation 6</p>	
<p>Staff shall exercise the utmost discretion in regard to all matters of official business. They shall not communicate to any person or the press any unpublished information known to them by reason of their official position, except in the course of their duties or by authorization of the director. All rights in, and title to, the results of any work performed by staff in the course of their duties shall be the property of SPREP.</p>	

Conduct Regulation 7	
Staff shall avoid any action, and in particular any kind of public pronouncement or activity, which may adversely reflect on their positions as international civil servants. They are not expected to give up their national sentiments or their political and religious convictions, but they shall at all times bear in mind the reserve and tact incumbent upon them by reason of their international status.	
Outside Activities Regulation 8	
No staff may accept, hold or engage in any office or occupation which, in the opinion of the Director, is incompatible with the proper discharge of their duties with SPREP.	
Candidacy for Public Office Regulation 9	
Any staff member who becomes a candidate for a public office of a political character shall resign from SPREP.	
Acceptance of Honours, Decorations, Favours, Gifts or Fees Regulation 10	
No staff shall accept in respect of their work for SPREP any honour or decoration from any government or organisation or, except with the approval of the Director, any favour, gift or fee from any government, organisation or person during the period of their appointment.	
PART IV : APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION Appointment of Director and Staff Regulation 11	
Director	
(a) The Director is appointed by the SPREP Meeting under such terms and conditions as it determines.	
Director - Exercise of Powers	
(b) When the position of Director is vacant, the Director's functions and powers shall be exercised according to the instructions of the Chairperson of the SPREP Meeting and in the absence of such instructions, by the Deputy Director.	
(c) When the Director is absent from Headquarters, the Deputy Director shall be designated to act as Director, in the event that both are absent, an officer of the Director's choice shall be designated Officer-in-Charge.	

<p>Staff</p> <p>(d) The power of appointment rests with the Director subject to the establishment and remuneration policy approved by the SPREP Meeting.</p> <p>(e) When appointing staff, the Director shall comply with the SPREP recruitment procedures and will ensure that these processes are transparent, equitable and based on merit.</p>	
<p>Appointment Policy Regulation 12</p>	
<p>(a) In selecting staff for appointment to SPREP, the dominant considerations shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the required qualifications and experience (ii) competence (iii) integrity <p>(b) Subject to Regulation 12(a) above, and the principle of open competition, the Director shall, in selecting professional staff, give due consideration to the nationals of SPREP island member states and to the desirability of obtaining equitable national representation.</p> <p>(c) When a support staff vacancy occurs the vacancy will be advertised in the Apia media. When a professional staff vacancy occurs the vacancy will be advertised regionally.</p> <p>(d) When two applicants for a support staff position are rated equally suitable, and one is a SPREP employee, preference shall be given to the existing staff member.</p> <p>(e) Men and women are equally eligible for all posts in SPREP.</p>	
<p>Appointment Procedure Regulation 13</p>	
<p>(a) No appointment is valid which is not the subject of a written offer of employment signed by the Director or an authorized representative, and a written acceptance signed by the appointee. Every offer of employment shall contain a statement of duties, all the terms and conditions of employment and a copy of the Staff Regulations.</p> <p>(b) An appointment is either temporary or on a fixed or short term contract. The length of appointment of a temporary or contract staff member is set by the Director according to the requirements of the work programme and available funding.</p>	

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| <p>(c) The term of appointment of a support staff member shall not exceed a maximum of three years. Such period may be extended for a term or terms of up to the same duration, subject to the work programme requirements and available funding and provided the employee's work performance has been satisfactory.</p> <p>(d) A temporary appointment may not exceed a period of six months. A temporary appointment is usually made to replace a support staff member who has resigned at short notice or is on leave.</p> <p>(e) A fixed term appointment for professional staff shall not exceed a maximum of three years. A short term appointment for professional staff is for any period less than three years and is subject to such terms and conditions as the Director determines, but within the salary scale applicable to SPREP. Subject to Regulation 13 (g) a short term appointment may be renewed for a further term or terms.</p> <p>(f) Subject to Regulation 13(g), a fixed term appointment of three years for professional staff is renewable, based on the needs of SPREP, and the merit and performance of the employee, for a further period not exceeding three years.</p> <p>(g) When an aggregate period of six years has been served by professional staff it shall be mandatory for that position to be re-advertised. The incumbent is eligible to apply and should the Director decide to reappoint the incumbent on merit he/she may do so provided a report is made to the next SPREP Meeting.</p> <p>(h) The length, terms and conditions of appointment may be varied by the mutual agreement in writing of the Director and employee subject to the establishment and remuneration policy set by the SPREP Meeting. Duties of staff may be revised at any time by the Director in accordance with changes in work priorities.</p> <p>(i) Appointment is provisional until confirmed. Appointment is subject to a satisfactory medical examination by a designated medical practitioner and a probationary period of six months' service which may be extended or reduced by the Director. At the end of the probationary period the Director shall in writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) confirm the appointment; or(ii) extend the probationary period; or(iii) terminate the appointment. | |
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<p>(j) The appointment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) an expatriate runs from the date of leaving home to take up appointment with SPREP; (ii) a local employee from the date of taking up duties with SPREP. <p>(k) Salary is earned for an expatriate staff from the date set in accordance with Regulation 13 (j)(i) and for a local employee from the date set in accordance with Regulation 13(j)(ii).</p>	
<p>Promotion Regulation 14</p>	
<p>(a) A support staff member is promoted when appointed to a position higher than his or her current position.</p> <p>(b) A promotion is a variation to the terms of an appointment and is subject to Regulation 13(h).</p>	<p><u>Recent and current best practice in recruitment and filling vacancies require all vacancies and regarded positions to be open to competition. Promotions in this sense have long been obsolete.</u></p>
<p>Termination Regulation 145</p>	
<p>Ways of Termination</p> <p>(a) An appointment is terminated -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) when being a fixed term appointment it reaches the end of its term; or (ii) by either the Director or the staff member giving the other, one month's notice in writing; or (iii) without notice by either the Director or the employee paying to the other one month's salary in lieu of notice; or (iv) as a disciplinary measure by dismissal with or without notice under Regulation 30(b). 	
<p>Seconded Staff</p> <p>(b) Before dismissing or giving notice to a staff member who is seconded from a member government, the Director shall inform the government in question.</p>	<p><u>This was commonly used in the nascent years of regional organizations when due to budget and staffing constraints, developed members used to second their staff on full pay and terms to serve in in-line posts in CROP organizations. This practice has not existed in SPREP in recent memory and is not encouraged either by its Executive or current recruitment practices.</u></p>

<p>Certificate of Service</p> <p>(eb) A staff member shall, on leaving the service of SPREP, be given a certificate relating to the nature of his or her duties, the length of service, the amount of emoluments, and other relevant information.</p>	
<p>Retention of Pay</p> <p>(dc) Upon leaving the service, any indebtedness of a staff member to SPREP shall be deducted from any money due to the staff member from SPREP.</p>	
<p><u>Redundancy</u> <u>Regulation 15</u></p>	
<p><u>Abolition of Position</u></p> <p>(a) <u>The Director may terminate the appointment of any staff member, prior to completion of his contract term of service, if, in his/her judgment, the interests of the service require the abolition of the post or a reduction of staff.</u></p> <p>(b) <u>Where the Director terminates the appointment of a staff member because of this Regulation he/she shall give at least one month's notice and pay an indemnity of salary and allowances to the staff member concerned according to this schedule:</u></p> <p><u>Up to six years' service: indemnity equal to three months' salary and approved financial allowances</u></p> <p><u>From six to twelve years' service: indemnity equal to four months' salary and approved financial allowances</u></p> <p><u>Over twelve years' service: indemnity equal to six months' salary and approved financial allowances</u></p> <p><u>Provided that, if the staff member concerned agrees, the Director may reduce the period of notice and increase the amount of indemnity accordingly by an equal period. Such indemnity payments will not be interpreted as salary in relation to other policies governing salary payments.</u></p>	<p><u>To comply with the 2006 Triennial review recommendation for those CROP agencies without redundancy policies to put one in place. This recommendation was supported by the CROP Heads and approved by the 17th SPREP Meeting.</u></p> <p><u>The provision is adapted from SPC provisions - being the CROP organization with staff provisions tested by experience and case histories over 60 years.</u></p>

**PART V : ENTITLEMENTS ON APPOINTMENT AND TERMINATION
Regulation 16**

Entitlements

- (a) SPREP shall meet the following appointment and termination expenses of professional staff recruited from outside the Greater Apia Area. The entitlements cover the transport and accommodation enroute for the staff member and accompanying dependents between home and Apia, and back, by the ~~shortest~~ most direct and/or most economical route or fare. -The Director has discretion, after taking family circumstances into account, to include dependents who arrive within six months of the start of appointment or leave within one month of termination.

Fares

- (i) Director: Business class
Other staff: Economy class

Removal Expenses

- (ii) The reasonable cost of packing, insuring, shipping and transporting furniture, household and personal effects as follows-
- (a) 6m³ in respect of the staff member
2m³ in respect of a dependent spouse
1m³ in respect of each dependent child
- (b) up to 20 kilos of excess baggage per ~~person~~ staff member for all professional staff recruited outside the Greater Apia area.

Establishment Grant

- (iii) To offset incidental expenses and compensate for the upheaval of removal, an establishment grant on appointment only at the rate prescribed in Schedule 1 to these Regulations.

Temporary Accommodation

- (iv) Accommodation at a suitable hotel or other fully furnished accommodation for up to six working days or such other period, up to a maximum of twelve working days, as the Director considers reasonable in the circumstances. Professional staff will not be paid housing assistance for the period when temporary accommodation costs are met.

Editorial and refinements for additional clarity.

To provide added clarity.

<p>SPREP Assistance</p> <p>(v) An appointee will be assisted to settle into Apia. This assistance could include help to find suitable rented accommodation and advice on suitable terms.</p> <p>Ineligibility</p> <p>(b) The entitlements prescribed in Regulation 16(a) do not apply and, at the Director's discretion, may be withheld in whole or in part if:</p> <p>(i) all or part of the expenses are met from some other source; or</p> <p>(ii) within 12 months of appointment the staff member resigns appointment under Regulation 15(a) (ii) or (iii) or is dismissed under Regulation 30(b) (iv) or (v).</p>	
<p>PART VI : HOURS OF WORK Normal Hours Regulation 17</p>	
<p>(a) The Director has the right to call upon the services of staff to the extent considered reasonable.</p> <p>(b) Normal office hours are 8 am to 12 noon and 1 pm to 4.35 pm Monday to Friday, making a total of 37 hours 55 minutes per week.</p> <p>(c) The driver/messenger, gardener, handyman and tea attendant/cleaner will be required to work hours as directed by the Director. They will have to work either 40 hours per week or 8 hours a day before overtime rates become applicable.</p> <p>(d) The watchman will be required to work from 6 pm to 6 am Monday to Friday as well as any additional hours required by the Director.</p>	<p><u>SPREP no longer hires a night watchman but contracts a security company.</u></p>
<p>Overtime Regulation 18</p>	
<p>Eligibility</p> <p>(a) Support and temporary staff at Grade F3 and below may claim overtime or time off in lieu of overtime for the hours they are required to work in excess of their normal working hours.</p>	

<p>Overtime Rates of Pay</p> <p>(b) The rates of pay for overtime are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) for days other than public holidays and Sundays, one and half times the normal hourly rate. (ii) for Sundays or public holidays, double the normal hourly rate. <p>Provided that the normal hourly rate upon which overtime is based shall be no higher than the maximum step of Grade F3 for support staff.</p>	
<p>Meal Allowance</p> <p>(c) Support staff required to work overtime for more than 6 hours on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday, or beyond 6.30 pm on a full working day, shall be paid lunch and dinner allowances as appropriate at rates approved by the Director.</p>	
<p>Transport Assistance</p> <p>(d) Support staff required to work more than one hour's overtime on a normal working day shall be taken home by SPREP transport, if it is available, and if not, by taxi at SPREP expense, or is entitled to an allowance under Regulation 29(e).</p> <p>(e) Support staff required to work overtime on weekends or public holidays shall be;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) taken to and from work by SPREP transport, if it is available, and if not, by taxi at SPREP expense: or (ii) entitled to claim an allowance under Regulation 29(e). 	
<p>PART VII : REMUNERATION Regulation 19</p>	
<p>Determination and Currency of Payment</p> <p>(a) The remuneration policy and conditions of service of SPREP employees are determined by the SPREP Meeting.</p> <p>(b) The remuneration of all SPREP staff shall be expressed and paid in Samoan Tala.</p>	

<p>Stabilisation, Adjustment and Review</p> <p>(c) As a stabilization mechanism, the remuneration of professional staff are denominated in International Monetary Fund Special Drawing Rights (SDRs). Monthly salary and allowances payments are based on the monthly average rate SDR/WST within a range of 5% above and below a reference rate set annually being the average conversion rate of the previous 12 months.</p> <p>(d) Professional staff salary scales are reviewed three yearly, in conjunction with other CROP agencies.</p> <p>(e) The salaries of support staff are to be reviewed three yearly, with salary scales to be adjusted to the 75-percentile range of comparable positions placed at the lower boundary of the Upper quartile plus 10% of in the Apia employment market, based on an Apia market survey. For the purpose of this provision, the Upper Quartile is the top 25% of the Apia employment market. 75-percentile range is the boundary between the top 25% of the market and the lower 75%.</p>	<p>To update to what had been adopted by CROP agencies and approved by the 17th SPREP Meeting.</p>
<p>Salaries Regulation 20</p>	
<p>General</p> <p>(a) Current salary scales approved by the SPREP Meeting are set out in Schedule 2(a) and (b) to these Regulations and shall be incorporated annually to SPREP's Work Programme and Budget.</p>	
<p>Salary on Appointment</p> <p>(b) Appointments of support all staff shall be to the bottom step of the grade for the position except that the Director shall have discretion, in particular cases, to appoint to a higher step if the circumstances justify it.</p> <p>(c) The Director shall have the flexibility to appoint professional staff to whatever salary step is considered appropriate by the Director within the designated salary grade; All staff appointments shall be subject to annual performance review by the Director.</p>	<p><u>To accurately reflect practice and provide added clarity.</u></p>
<p>Salary on Promotion</p> <p>(e) Appointment on promotion is at the minimum of the salary range for the higher position or, if the salaries for the two positions overlap, to the level of the higher salary range which affords an immediate salary increase equal to one incremental step.</p>	<p><u>Obsolete. Refer comment on deletion of regulation 14.</u></p>

<p>Performance Increments</p> <p>(fc) (i) The Director may authorize an increment to a staff member at the completion of each year's of service based on the staff member's annual performance assessment and where he/she has not reached the maximum of the salary grade for his/her position. Where the staff member's performance has not been considered highly satisfactory, the Director or his/her delegate will explain to the staff member why he/she will not receive an increment, or in the case of poor performance, why his/her salary will be reduced by an increment.</p> <p>(ii) For support staff, the Director may authorize an increment in recognition of permanent increases in formal skill levels of that staff, relevant to his/her duties in SPREP; or where the Director is satisfied that the staff has permanently increased his/her capacity to accept responsibility in his/her duties within SPREP.</p>	<p><u>To make clear increments are performance based and not automatic on service length.</u></p>
<p>Performance bonus</p> <p>(gd) Where a support staff has reached the maximum salary point in his/her approved salary scale and where that employee's work performance is assessed as having been highly satisfactory on completion of a particular year's service, the Director may grant a fixed sum performance bonus payment to that staff, provided that any such bonus:</p> <p>(i) is not made as a permanent increase in the salary of the staff;</p> <p>(ii) can be fully financed from available budgetary provision in that year; and</p> <p>(iii) shall not exceed 5% of the staff's current salary.</p>	
<p>PART VIII : ALLOWANCES AND RELATED BENEFITS Higher and Extra Duties Allowances Regulation 21</p>	
<p>(a) Any staff member may at any time be required by the Director to undertake the duties of a senior or other position whether or not the circumstances justify increased pay.</p> <p>(b) A staff member who is required by the Director to carry out and does carry out the full duties of a higher graded position for a continuous period of not less than ten working days will be paid a higher duties allowance amounting to the difference between his or her salary at the time and the actual salary of the incumbent of the higher graded position.</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">Representational Allowance Regulation 22</p>	
<p>The Director and Deputy Director shall receive a non-accountable representational allowance of 5% and 1% of basic salary respectively.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Professional Staff and Expatriate Allowances Regulation 23</p>	
<p>(1) Expatriate Professional Staff</p> <p>In addition to base salary, expatriate professional staff are entitled to receive the following allowances and benefits:</p> <p>(a) School holiday travel of one return economy class flight each year between place of education and Apia by:</p> <p>(i) each dependent child being educated outside Samoa; or</p> <p>(ii) the staff member or spouse to visit the child, providing the journey is not made within the final six months of the contract.</p> <p>For the purposes of this subsection the "place of education" is taken to be the recognized home.</p>	
<p>(b) Home leave travel - Expatriate staff are entitled to return economy—airfares between Apia and the recognized home <u>by the most direct and/or most economical route or fare</u> for the staff member and dependents after completing 18 months of service for three year contracts providing no travel is undertaken within the final twelve months of the contract. The recognized home of the staff member will be agreed between him/her and SPREP at the time of appointment.</p> <p>(c) A repatriation allowance equivalent to two week's salary, on completion of a contract providing the contract is not extended or renewed.</p>	<p><u>Class of travel for Director and staff already established under Regulation 16(a)(i) and Regulation 29(b).</u> <u>Other are refinements for added clarity as had been done to Regulation 16(a).</u></p>
<p>(2) All Professional Staff</p> <p>In addition to salary, all professional staff are entitled to receive the following allowances and benefits:</p> <p>(a) An education allowance in respect of each dependent child to the amounts set out in Schedule 1, to cover 75% of the actual cost of tuition and boarding fees only;</p> <p>(b) A cost-of-living differential allowance (COLDA) to reflect the comparative cost of living difference between Suva and Apia calculated, reviewed and provided periodically by Employment Conditions Abroad Ltd of Australia is payable to professional staff. The index that currently apply is shown in Schedule 1.</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">Director's Entitlements Regulation 24</p>	
<p>In addition to any other allowances provided for elsewhere in these Regulations the Director shall be entitled to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) rent-free accommodation up to a rental limit specified in Schedule 1; (b) utility charges for accommodation (e.g. electricity, water and gas); and (c) a domestic assistance allowance. The allowance is to be adjusted at the same time and in accordance with the same rate of adjustments made to pay in the Samoan Public Service and the rate for the time being is set out in Schedule 1. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">PART IX : LEAVE Annual Leave Regulation 25</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The annual leave entitlement is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional contract Staff days. : 25 working Support Staff days : 15 working (b) For each staff member the leave year runs from the date of appointment to its anniversary and thereafter from anniversary to anniversary. Leave accumulates with the passing of the leave year with the full entitlement, minus any leave taken, falling due on the anniversary of appointment. (c) If a Samoan public holiday is observed on a normal working day while a staff member is on annual leave or duty travel that day shall be added to his or her entitlement. (d) Applications for leave should where possible be received by the Director 30 days before the leave applied for begins. (e) Annual leave does not carry over from one leave year to the next without written approval from the Director. Subject to this provision, annual leave may be accrued up to 50 working days at each anniversary of appointment. In considering applications to carry over annual leave, the Director will have regard both to the requirements of SPREP and the situation of the staff member. (f) SPREP will only pay salary in lieu of unexpended leave at the end of a contract. Cases involving dismissal under Regulation 30(b) will not receive salary in lieu of unexpended leave. 	

Sick Leave Regulation 26	
<p>(a) Each staff member is entitled to 30 days' paid sick leave per year or 2.5 days per month after one year of service. Sick leave not taken accumulates up to a maximum of 90 days.</p> <p>(b) To qualify for sick leave a staff member is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to notify his/her immediate superior as early as practical on the first day of absence; and (ii) as soon as practicable, apply for sick leave in writing. <p>(c) All applications for sick leave shall be supported by a certificate from a qualified medical practitioner justifying the absence on medical grounds unless;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the application is for two days or less; and (ii) the applicant has not already taken six days of uncertified sick leave in the last 12 months. 	
<p>(d) The Director may at any time withdraw the dispensation from the requirement to furnish a medical certificate, or require a staff member to undergo a medical examination from a designated medical practitioner, when certified sick leave appears to be excessive.</p> <p>(e) If a staff member is taken sick or is injured while on annual leave and produces a medical certificate to that effect, the period of sickness shall be recorded as sick not annual leave.</p> <p>(f) Sick leave may not be used by a staff member to meet his or her extended family responsibilities, or for any reason other than personal sickness of the employee.</p> <p>(g) SPREP will not make any payment in lieu of unexpended sick leave at the completion of employment.</p>	
Other Leave Regulation 27	
<p>Maternity Leave</p> <p>(a) A staff member with at least one year's continuous service at the expected date of confinement is entitled to 60 working days' maternity leave on full pay. The period of leave begins on a date decided by the Director in consultation with the staff member but not more than 30 days before the expected confinement. The balance of the leave, but in any case not less than 30 working days, shall be taken immediately after confinement.</p>	

<p>Family (Compassionate and Paternity) Leave</p> <p>(b) Applications for family leave which includes paternity and compassionate leave will be considered by the Director on an individual basis, but will not exceed five days per situation or a maximum of six days in any year plus minimal travelling time for all staff members whether they have to travel outside or within Samoa. This leave will normally only apply to a bereavement in respect of immediate family members, such as spouse, children or parents or for the birth of a child of a male staff member. Compassionate leave may not be used by a staff member to meet his/her extended family responsibilities.</p>	
<p>Special Leave Without Pay</p> <p>(c) Requests for special leave without pay shall be submitted in advance and require approval in writing from the Director. Special leave may be granted for cases of extended illness or other exceptional or urgent reasons.</p> <p>(d) Special leave without pay shall be granted only after accrued annual leave has been expended. No leave accruals or other financial allowances of any kind shall be earned or granted during periods of special leave without pay.</p>	
<p>Examination Leave</p> <p>(e) Where a support staff sits for an examination for an approved course of studies, which is directly relevant to his/her duties in SPREP, and is successful in passing such examination, the Director may grant a leave credit for leave taken by the employee to enable them to <u>attend/prepare and sit</u> for that examination.</p>	<p><u>This requirement is out of place in this regulation dealing with leave to prepare and sit exams.</u></p>
<p>PART X : HOUSING Regulation 28</p>	
<p>Eligibility</p> <p>(a) All professional staff shall be eligible to receive housing assistance.</p> <p>Housing Assistance</p> <p>(b) Professional staff shall receive housing assistance of 75% of the typical rent payable in Samoa for expatriate executive furnished housing. The current rate is set out in Schedule 1 to these Regulations. This assistance shall be reviewed annually and adjusted on relative movement in the local rental market.</p>	

PART XI : EXPENSES Regulation 29	
<p>Duty Travel</p> <p>(a) SPREP meets the travelling expenses necessarily incurred by staff required to travel away from Apia on official business.</p> <p>(b) The Director is entitled to travel business class. All other staff will travel economy class except that the Director may authorize business or executive class travel if considered justified.</p>	
<p>Per Diem</p> <p>(c) Staff travelling on SPREP business and spending the night away from Apia will receive a per diem at current UNDP rates to cover the cost of accommodation, meals and incidentals. Transport (including taxis), telephone and other costs not covered by the per diem that are necessarily incurred for official business reasons, will be reimbursed on actual cost basis and production of receipts where possible.</p>	
<p>Actual and Reasonable Expense Reimbursement</p> <p>(d) If:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the period of absence does not include a night away from Apia; or (ii) the staff member is accommodated privately; or (iii) the staff member could not for good and practical reasons have kept within the per diem for the place in question; or (iv) the nature or venue of the staff member's business renders the standard per diem for that country inadequate; <p>the Director may authorize the reimbursement of actual and reasonable expenses incurred.</p>	
<p>Private Transport Expense Reimbursement</p> <p>(e) The Director or his/her delegate may approve reimbursement at prevailing public transport rates of claims by a staff member who uses his/her personal vehicle with the prior approval of the Director in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to travel on official business in and around Apia when SPREP transport is not available; or (ii) when working overtime as set out in Regulation 18(d) and (e). 	

<p>-Official Entertainment</p> <p>(f) The Director may be reimbursed the expenses of official entertainment extended on behalf of SPREP.</p> <p>(g) Providing the Director's approval in writing has been obtained prior to the offer of official entertainment. Senior Management may be reimbursed the expenses of entertainment extended on behalf of SPREP. The Director shall not authorize any reimbursement under this provision unless reasonable evidence of the official nature of the entertainment is provided and the claim is supported by receipts.</p>	
<p>PART XII : DISCIPLINE Regulation 30</p>	
<p>Offences</p> <p>(a) An employee commits an offence who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) wilfully disobeys a lawful order of the Director or of any other officer to whom the employee is formally responsible; (ii) wilfully disregards the Regulations; (iii) is negligent, inefficient or incompetent in the exercise of his or her duties; (iv) wilfully acts without regard to SPREP's interests; (v) behaves disgracefully or improperly either in an official capacity or otherwise; or (vi) steals or misappropriates the funds or property of SPREP. 	
<p>Penalties</p> <p>(b) The Director may discipline an employee found guilty of an offence by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) an official reprimand; (ii) a fine not exceeding 14 days' salary; (iii) demotion to a lower step in the grade of the offender's position; (iv) dismissal with notice under Regulation 15(a) (iv); or (v) if the offence is theft or misappropriation of SPREP's funds or property, by summary dismissal without notice. 	

<p>Procedures</p> <p>(c) No employee suspected of committing an offence shall be penalized under Regulation 30(b) unless guilt is confirmed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the employee's own admission; or (ii) the outcome of criminal proceedings; or (iii) the findings of an internal inquiry conducted as soon as practicable by the Director (or in his or her absence by the Deputy Director) and two other staff members, one of whom may be nominated by the suspected employee. 	
<p>Suspension</p> <p>(d) An employee may be suspended without pay if suspected of theft or misappropriation of SPREP's property and on pay in all other cases. If the suspicion cannot be sustained the employee will be fully reinstated with effect from the date of suspension.</p>	
<p>PART XIII : STAFF COMMITTEES Regulation 31</p>	
<p>Staff Committees, shall be elected annually by staff members to represent their views and shall be consulted by the Director on general and specific questions relating to staff issues and welfare.</p>	
<p>PART XIV : GENERAL Regulation 32</p>	
<p>Personal Accident Insurance</p> <p>(a) All staff are covered by SPREP's life and personal accident insurance schemes 24 hours a day.</p> <p>(b) A staff member may take out additional cover at his/her own cost.</p>	
<p>Medical Insurance</p> <p>(c) All staff and their dependants will have all reasonable medical, dental and optical expenses at the Director's discretion depending on available schemes and reasonable costs, met by the SPREP medical scheme or, where appropriate, direct by SPREP.</p> <p>(d) A staff member may take out additional cover at his/her own cost.</p>	<p><u>To reflect current situation.</u></p>

<p>Superannuationg</p> <p>(e) Local employees will contribute to the Samoa National Provident Fund (SNPF).</p> <p>(f) For all local employees, SPREP will make a contribution to the SNPF equivalent to seven percent of basic salary. Provided that if the minimum legal requirement for contributions payable by Samoan citizens and residents to the SNPF is increased to exceed seven percent of basic salary, SPREP will make a contribution to the SNPF equal to such minimum legal requirement for contributions.</p>	
<p>(g) An expatriate professional staff member will receive a payment of seven percent of basic salary, provided that if the minimum legal requirement for contributions payable by Samoan citizens and residents to the SNPF is increased to exceed seven percent of basic salary, the employee will be entitled to a payment equal to such minimum legal requirement for contributions to the SNPF.</p> <p>Protective Gear</p> <p>(h) On appointment, support staff regularly employed on labouring work shall be issued with necessary protective gear.</p> <p>(i) Protective gear issued to staff will be replaced on a fair wear and tear basis but not more than once a year.</p>	
<p>Training</p> <p>(j) The Director shall, where deemed necessary in the interests of SPREP, provide for the training of staff members in areas directly related to their duties and advancement. Priority shall be given to support staff.</p>	
<p>Documentation</p> <p>(k) The Director shall maintain up-to-date documents detailing the establishment, grading system, salary scales and conditions of service of SPREP as approved by the SPREP Meeting.</p>	



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Eighteenth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa
11-14 September 2007

Agenda Item 9.3: Independent Corporate Review of SPREP

Purpose of Paper

1. To propose to the Meeting the conduct of an independent corporate review of SPREP in 2008 and its terms of reference (TORs) for consideration and approval.

Background

2. SPREP, as with other CROP organisations, has a 3 year MoU with the Government of Australia in relation to funding support by that Government and SPREP Member to SPREP. The MoU's term will expire at the end of 2008 when it is expected that another MoU would be negotiated to replace it.
3. As a condition for continuing funding support, a term of the MoU requires SPREP to "undertake a major independent corporate review involving a team approach that includes Pacific, private sector and donor representatives".
4. The review was to occur this year but because of funding and other work commitments of the Secretariat this was not possible.

Comments

5. Although originally a requirement of the MoU with Ausaid, the Secretariat is convinced that such a review would benefit the Secretariat and organisation but Pacific island countries and territories through wide consultations with PICTs on the quality of the Secretariat's services and the relevance of its programmes and mandate to PICTs priorities and needs and how service could be improved.
6. Since the inception of operations in Samoa in 1992 and as a fully independent intergovernmental organisation in 1995, SPREP as a corporate entity had not been comprehensively reviewed, except for an Ausaid review in 2000 which because of a very crowded SPREP Meeting agenda did not receive focused attention.

7. Periodic corporate reviews are a normal and needed feature of reputable and responsive organisations and the Secretariat executive believes the initiative by Australia is appropriate at this life in the life of SPREP. SPC had undergone a similar review in 2005 and in the true spirit of the CROP mechanism SPREP has learned from and been informed by the SPC experience in formulating this proposed review.

Proposed Terms of Reference

8. The proposed TORs, suggested review team composition, methodology and estimated budget are attached for the Meeting's consideration and approval.

9. To arrive at a balanced budget, required by the Financial Regulations, the Secretariat had not included this in its proposed 2008 budget. The Secretariat however is committed to making some savings in the 2008 budget so it could make an appropriate contribution to the cost of the review which Australia and New Zealand had indicated would be prepared to contribute to.

Recommendation

10. The Meeting is invited to:

- **Consider, amend** as appropriate and **approve** the proposed terms of reference, team composition and budget of the review.

DRAFT

Terms Of Reference

Corporate Review of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

General

1. Summarise the current and the immediate past (5 years) mandate/focal areas and work programmes of the Secretariat and note any significant changes based on an analysis of relevant documents (eg. SPREP Action Plan, Strategic Programmes, Annual Budgets, Annual Reports).
2. Review and document the implementation status of the various recommendations of the previous corporate review (AusAID 2000).

Effectiveness of Services

3. Review the Secretariat's performance over the last five years against stated objectives. Specifically review a sample of SPREP's outputs (i.e. results that the Secretariat is largely responsible for) and of outcomes and impact of SPREP activities.
4. Solicit feedback from island members and key stakeholders of the quality of services provided in terms of timeliness, quality of technical content, appropriateness and with regard to the SPREP main functions of capacity building and augmentation and technical and policy advisory role.
5. Assess, to the extent possible, the realistic level of resources (financial and technical) that the Secretariat needs to service its members.
6. Consider the extent to which SPREP plans for and achieves sustainable environmental outcomes/development and integrates this into its work programme and contributes to national and regional development.

Direction

7. Assess Members' perceptions of changes, if any, in regional environmental priorities and their implications for the strategic directions and programming of SPREP. On the basis of this assessment review and comment on the continuing relevance of the priorities and programmes/activities the Secretariat is currently working on with Pacific islands members. Highlight any current gaps in the Secretariat's activities that could provide opportunities for new SPREP initiatives as well as those areas where the level of services could be reduced or strengthened taking into account available resources, changing needs of PICTs and the roles of other organizations working in the region.
8. Review and comment on the general relevance of SPREP's main functions (capacity building and augmentation and technical and policy advisory role) and any changes to the relative importance of its technical and policy roles.
9. Review related current regional initiatives and analyse likely implications for the role of SPREP in the Pacific islands region including its role as a member of the CROP mechanism.

Corporate Review Team

1. Team Leader
2. Melanesian representative
3. Micronesian representative
4. Polynesian representative
5. Ausaid/NZaid representative
6. Private Sector/Consultant

Methodology

Consult with all members particularly PICTs and key stakeholders. Visit and consult in person with as many as is practicable/feasible within financial limits, the rest perhaps by questionnaire or teleconference/telephone. If personal visits to all are not practicable then those visited form a representative sample of islands members – Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia, large/high island, small/atoll islands, states and territories, Anglophone/francophone.

Outputs

The Review Team report will be presented to the 18th SPREP Meeting in September and should cover its terms of reference. The Report should in addition to presenting its findings and recommendations should also provide an Executive Summary with its key recommendations.

To allow for circulation to SPREP Members in accordance with the Rules of Procedures, the final report should be received by the Secretariat by 22 June 2007.

Costs

duration – max. 8 weeks.

Travel	=	WST55,202 or USD21,070
> North route Apia – Guam (return)	WST10,188 x 2 =	20,376
> South route Apia – Moresby (return)	WST 7,892 x 2 =	15,784
> East route Apia – Pape’ete (return)	WST 9,521 x 2 =	<u>19,042</u>
	WST	<u>55,202</u>
 DSA	=	 USD15,300
> 2 ½ days @ Pohnpei, Majuro, Guam and Koror for 2	=	USD5,323
> 2 ½ days @ Suva, Vila, Honiara, Moresby and Noumea for 2	=	USD6,355
> 2 ½ days @ Tongatapu, Alofi, Rarotonga, Papeete for 2	=	USD3,622
 Fees	USD14,000 @ USD250/day x 3	= USD42,000
 Misc	=	 USD11,400
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