

Action Taken on Matters Arising 31st SPREP Meeting of Officials (5-7 September 2023)

Agenda Items	Meeting decisions / Member requests	Key actions taken
<p>Agenda Item 6.1: Audit Committee Report for 2022</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted and approved the report of the Audit Committee for the period August 2022 to July 2023; 2) Noted the improvement in performance and reserve position in the last 6 years, but that it is not sufficient for long term sustainability and growth; 3) Urged Members to actively engage in dialogue with the Secretariat in making payment arrangements for outstanding contributions; 4) Requested Members to fully implement the resolution of the 28SM (2017) regarding the 20% increase in membership contributions and to consider making extra voluntary contributions in support of the Secretariat. 5) Requested that Members provide full support and commitment in finalising their respective county and territory strategic partnership framework to allow more effective engagement, intervention, and support from the Secretariat in addressing their environmental challenges 6) Requested that the review process be prioritised by the Independent Corporate, Mid-Term, and Staff Remuneration Review Working Group as it has a broader effect on the Secretariat's governance and operations; and 7) Recorded its appreciation for the cooperation and support it has received from the Director General, Deputy Director General, Senior Leadership Team, and staff of SPREP over the past 12 months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat has initiated dialogues with members on payment arrangements for outstanding contributions. • Letters sent out in Q1 2024 to members indicate that a 20% increase is now effected. This follows on from previous notification letters sent last year in October to advise of the 31SM decision(s) on this. • Cook Islands, Kiribati, American Samoa, and Nauru requested the initiation of CTSPFs following the 31SM. The Palau CTSPF was completed and signed in 2023. • The Working Group recommendations from the MTR and ICR reviews were endorsed by the 31 SPREP meetings. • The staff remuneration review, including consultations, is expected to take place from June to August 2024. The Members Working Group is expected to provide a report with recommendations for consideration by the SPREP Executive Board in September 2024 or for out-of-session consideration by Members.

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<p>Agenda Item 6.2: Report on Members Contributions</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Considered the report and sought to address the issue of outstanding member contributions. 2) Noted that some Members' contributions remain outstanding totalling USD\$786,161 as at 31 August 2023; 3) Noted the decision in 2017 at 28SM that “recommended a 20% increase in contributions by Members, subject to confirmation by capitals, commencing in time for the SPREP 2018 financial year. This does not include United States and France, noting that France prefers an ‘up to 20%’ recommendation. Tonga will consider the matter after its general election.” And the same meeting “directed the Secretariat to continue to work with Member countries with outstanding contributions including development of payment plans” 4) Noted that to date the following members have increased their contributions above the 2004 level by 20% Australia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tuvalu. France and the United States of America, already among the main contributors to the SPREP budget and emphasising their particular national budget processes, have since committed and paid their contribution with an increase of 5% for France, 10% for French Polynesia and 7% for the USA; 5) Committed itself collectively and individually to paying current and outstanding Contributions in full in 2023 6) Directed the Secretariat to formally write to Members who have yet to implement the 28SM resolution reminding them of that decision and requesting that contributions are increased or reviewed by 20% in line with the 28SM Resolution effective from 2024 which can be reflected in revised invoices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters sent out in October to members notifying of the decision for membership contributions to increase.

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<p>Agenda Item 6.3: Sustainable financing: Report of the Independent review</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted the updated report on the Independent Review of the Core Funding Structure of SPREP and development of SPREP's Finance & Resource Sustainability Strategy; 2) Committed to engaging in the consultations to be undertaken by the Consultants with SPREP Members, Donor, and Partners during the SPREP Meeting including follow up consultations as part of this consultancy work; and 3) Endorsed the existing SPREP Member Working Group assessing the recommendations of the 3rd Independent Corporate Review and Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026 to be the mechanism for assessing and reviewing the consultant's report and draft Finance & Resource Sustainability Strategy for SPREP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with the Members WG completed in March. • Consultants' Review work completed on 30/4/24 with Final – SPREP Finance and Resource Sustainability Strategy including the Policy Review now with the Members WG to inform the next steps and their WG paper for the Executive Board meeting in September.
<p>Agenda Item 6.4: Report of the SPREP Working Group on the SPREP Independent Corporate Review, Mid-Term Review of the Strategic Plan 2017 – 2026, and the 2021 Staff Remuneration Review Report</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Endorsed the report of the Working Group and its prioritisation of recommendations from the MTR and ICR review; 2) Acknowledged the Secretariat's proactive approach to implementing the proposed priority recommendations put forward by the Working Group; and 3) Endorsed the Working Group to work closely with the Secretariat to facilitate engagement of an independent consultant, proficient in supporting the Remuneration review, and to develop a timeline for the completion of the Review for an out of session consideration by Members in the first quarter of 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular sent out on 25/10/23 to initiate WG discussions for the Sustainable Finance Review and the Remuneration Review • Members' Working Group has had several meetings since November 2023 to progress the SPREP Meeting decision on the Remuneration Review. Key deliverables include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Confirmed engagement and TOR of an independent consultant to carry out the Remuneration Review ○ Endorsed the TOR and Workplan for the Working Group in progressing the Remuneration Review ○ Assessment of tenders by the Tender Selection Panel is in progress with finalisation of tender offer and negotiations expected by early June 2024 • The review, including consultations, is expected to take place from June to August 2024. The Members Working Group is expected to provide a report with recommendations for consideration of the SPREP Executive Board in September 2024 or for an out of session consideration by Members.

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Agenda Item 6.5: Appointment of External Auditors	<p>The Meeting:</p> <p>1) Considered the paper and endorsed the appointment of KPMG (Fiji) to audit SPREP's financial accounts for the financial years ending 31 December 2023 and 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract signed (25/10/23) • Audit for 2023 done in Q1, 2024.
Agenda Item 6.6: Review of the 2012 Staff Regulations	<p>The Meeting:</p> <p>1) Noted the progress of the 2012 Staff Regulations Review; and</p> <p>2) Decided on a firm way forward for the 2021 Remuneration Review in the absence of any progress from the Members Working Group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update of the review of the Staff Regulations will be provided to the Executive Board in September 2024. • An update on the progress of the Remuneration Review by the Members Working Group is provided under Agenda Item 6.4 above. This will inform the update of the Staff Regulations.
Agenda Item 6.7: SPREP Director General's Performance Assessment (Closed Session)	<p>The Meeting:</p> <p>1) Noted and endorsed the review completed by the Troika of the DG's PDP for the period April 2022 - August 2023, acknowledging the many initiatives and positive outcomes, as well as areas requiring attention over the next year.</p> <p>2) Invited all Members through a circular to propose relevant and appropriate specific targets they wish to be included in the DG's next PDP, by the end of September 2023. The Troika will then discuss and finalise with the DG his PDP targets by the end of October 2023.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Troika has endorsed the DG's PDP targets for 2023/2024. • A report of the formal performance review of the DG's 2023/2024 PDP will be submitted by the Troika to the Executive Board in September 2024.

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<p>Agenda Item 7.2: Sustainability of the Pacific Climate Change Centre</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Endorsed the Sustainability Plan for Capacity Building and the Partnership Frameworks for Knowledge Brokerage, Science to Services and Research and Innovation; and 2) Encouraged Members and Partners to commit strengthening the services of the Pacific Climate Change Centre through investment in the PCCC Partnership Frameworks 	<p>Sustainability Plan for Capacity Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCCC continues to deliver capacity development and fellowship programmes in adaptation, mitigation, climate services and project development (Climate Finance, IPCC, Health etc) • New Capacity Building Project for Innovation officially started in March 2024 – 2027. • Support climate change and sports campaign targeting young people and other members of the community through a partnership with the Government of Solomon Island for Greening of the Pacific Games • Strengthen collaboration with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) to deliver targeted trainings for Parliamentarians in the Pacific. • Partnership with the Government of Samoa to deliver training on “Human Rights, Gender Equity and Social Inclusion in the face of Climate Change.” <p>Partnership Framework for KB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCCC continues to improve the flow of practical information between met services, climate practitioners, policy makers, researchers, scientists and those implementing policies, programmes and projects. • Terms of Reference developed for the Digitisation of SPREP’s Audio-Visual Resources, in partnership with the SPREP IKM Team. These resources will be available to the public on the PCCC e-learning platform for training and capacity building. • Pacific Climate Change Portal currently under revamped which will also assess and review the useability and effectiveness of the information on the PCCC for PICTs. The PCCC newly revamped site will be launched during the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable

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		<p>Science to Services and Research Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant agreement of Euro30,000 signed with UKMO to support the review of the Science to Services Research Framework. • Pacific Meteorological Council formally endorsed the PCCC to lead on strengthening Pacific engagement on the IPCC Assessment and Reporting Cycles and processes. <p>Partnership for Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Capacity Building Project for Innovation officially started in March 2024 – 2027. • PCCC continues to forge partnerships to find innovative solutions to the challenges that climate change presents through hosting of two yearly event for showcasing innovative solutions that are fit-for-purpose for our Pacific.
<p>Agenda Item 7.3: Mobilising Climate Finance amidst a changing landscape</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted the progress with bridging the gap between adaptation priorities and climate financing. 2) Noted new and emerging opportunities for climate financing. 3) Supported SPREP on the way forward, towards implementing identified actions to bridge the gap between financing priorities and available/emerging climate financing 	<p>The emerging opportunities arises from the transitions to programmatic approaches where SPREP now has a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPREP-GCF USD157m One Pacific Programme (OPP) at concept note resubmission stage. OPP is structured into two subregions, one national and regional models for implementation. • multi-donor SPREP programmatic approach on water security & hydrology as response to the Regional Programmatic Approach for Climate Action (RPACA) with a total USD52m in concept note submission stage to AF & GCF. • proposed locally led adaptation programme with the GCF Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) modality. This is at the idea stage and will be designed to advance the current SPREP-led national adaptation planning activities.

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<p>Agenda Item 8.1: UNFCCC COP27 outcomes and update on COP28 preparations</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted the outcomes of PSIDS engagement in COP27. 2) Noted the progress of preparations by SPREP and One CROP in the lead up to and at the UNFCCC COP28 	<p>Preparations for COP 29 have begun with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post COP 28 completed in March. • Virtual workshops for Bonn Inter-sessional Meeting completed in May • In depth analysis of 13 PSIDS priorities to commence in September Virtually • Pre-COP 29 confirmed in Nadi, Fiji September 30- October 4th. • Pacific Parties to UNFCCC Ministers meeting – October 2024 tentatively tagged to Pre-COP for officials.
<p>Agenda Item 8.2: CBD COP15 Roadmap for implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework through 2030</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted the updates and outcomes of the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15); 2) Encouraged Members to commit to the ongoing global processes associated with the Convention on Biological Diversity; 3) Directed the Secretariat to continue to collaborate with partners and seek additional resources to support the implementation of Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) decisions and outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support secured from the generous support of the NZ Government for SPREPs activities relating to engagement and participation of PICs in the CBD and biodiversity MEAs. • SPREP successfully submitted an EOI to for hosting Sub-regional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Centre to support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (TBC at CBD COP16). • SPREP also joined the NBSAP Accelerator Initiative and was awarded a 0.5 FTE NBSAP Facilitator position shared with Vanuatu. • Pacific NBSAP Dialogue and GBF Target 3 (Protected and conserved areas) Workshop held in March 2024 in partnership with SPREP, SCBD, UNEP, FAO. Co-hosted with Government of Fiji in Nadi.

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<p>Agenda Item 8.3: Report on outcomes of BRS COPS and preparations for Minamata COP</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted the outcomes of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, and Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention; 2) Encouraged Parties to undertake necessary national actions to implement the outcomes of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Convention; and 3) Noted preparations toward the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convened the Pacific sub-regional preparatory meeting for the Minamata Convention COP5 on 12 October 2023 in Palau. Parties discussed COP agenda and prepared 3 regional position papers on mercury in the environment, in cosmetics and lights. Provided technical advisory support to Parties at COP5 in Geneva. The prepared regional statements were delivered by Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
<p>Agenda Item 8.4: Update on the International legally Binding instrument on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction under the Law of the Sea</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted the updates on the Legally Binding Instrument on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) under the Law of the Sea. 2) Urged Members to consider ratification or accession of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty (BBNJ) at the earliest opportunity to allow for entry into force as soon as possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EMG programme is working with the IOE programme and Legal Unit in managing work on BBNJ. • The Office of the Pacific Ocean Commission (OPOC) conducted a regional needs assessment and engaged SPREP to provide our comments on the needs of, and areas of supports to PSIDS in the ratification, and domestication of the Treaty. SPREP has also been providing training on Environmental Impact Assessment under the treaty. • The Secretariat was invited as resource personnel during the recently concluded Fiji National BBNJ workshop. • SPREP provided a presentation on the EIA and ABMTs sections of the Treaty to the Fiji Government Officials and comparing them to current national policies and legislations. • OPOC in coordination with regional partners and organizations, and Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies are working on providing assistance to PSIDS capacity on ratification and implementation of the BBNJ Agreement through a workshop held from 3–11 July 2024 in Suva, Fiji.

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<p>Agenda Item 8.5: Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to negotiate an international legally binding instrument to address plastic pollution including from the marine environment</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted the outcomes of the First and Second Sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-1 and INC-2) as well as the preparatory meetings; 2) Acknowledged with appreciation the support for our Pacific Islands Members led by the Secretariat, with funding support from the Government of Australia and the United Nations as well as other Metropolitan Members and partners; 3) Requested the Secretariat to continue to lead coordination and support from all interested Pacific agencies including the CROP for effective, unified support to our Pacific Island Members negotiating in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee process 4) Encouraged financial support from other donor partners to assist with the negotiation process as is currently undertaken by the Government of Australia and the United Nations 5) Encouraged Member states to join the High Ambition Coalition of like-minded countries to end plastic pollution by 2040; and 6) Noted and supported the Cook Islands intention to elevate the profile of the Global Plastic Treaty as a Pacific Partnership for Prosperity at the upcoming Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting in November 2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat with funding support from Government of Australia DFAT, hosted by the New Zealand Government MFAT with support from office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC), Scientist Coalition, Environment Investigation Agency (EIA), University of Wollongong, the World Bank convened the PSIDS Preparatory meeting for INC-4 in Auckland New Zealand from the 12-15 February 2024. The meeting included a one-day negotiations training attended by all the 14 Pacific island countries and chaired by the Government of Vanuatu as the Pacific SIDS Chair.
<p>Agenda Item 9.1.1: Climate and Oceans (TK/PIGOOS/COSPPAC)</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted the progress on traditional knowledge by SPREP and partners; and 2) Endorsed and directed the Secretariat to establish a traditional knowledge working group under the auspices of the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PCCR opted out of working group arrangements at this time. Therefore, TK community of practice is currently being developed under the COSPPAC to contribute to the Regional Culture Strategy for which SPREP is the lead for TK. Internally this has been coordinated across programmes of SPREP.

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<p>Agenda Item 9.1.2: Pacific Meteorological Council & associated Meeting Outcomes including the Pacific Climate Weather Ready</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted the outcomes of the Joint Meeting between the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and the National Disaster Management Offices (NDMO); 2) Noted the establishment of the Pacific Partnership Coordination Mechanism and the Dashboard to assist the coordination of development partners on Early Warning Systems in the Pacific; 3) Noted the outcomes of the 6th Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council; 4) Noted the Progress made on the Weather Ready Pacific and acknowledge the financial contribution of the Government of Australia of AUD30 million and the support of the Government of New Zealand; 5) Noted the Weather Ready Pacific Governance Structure and finance facility recommended by the PMC; 6) Noted and supported the Namaka Ministerial Declaration for a Sustainable Weather, Climate, Ocean, and Water Services for a Resilient Blue Pacific; 7) Requested development partners to invest in the Weather Ready Pacific as the programme to coordinate the wider implementation of people-centred end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems for all Pacific island countries and territories and coordinate their efforts on end-to-end people-centered multi-hazard Early Warning Systems through the Pacific Partnership Coordination Mechanism and the Dashboard; and 8) Noted and supported the Cook Islands intention to elevate the profile of the Weather Ready Pacific as a Pacific Partnership for Prosperity at the upcoming Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting in November 2023. 	<p>PMC-6 Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPREP implemented recommendation on the WRP to finalise the Governance and Implementation Plan • PMC Expert Panels are meeting to discuss their workplan and action • RCC have designed logo and working to get their website developed <p>Outcomes of the NMHSs and the NDMO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPREP and SPC jointly presented the options for strengthened collaboration between NDMO and NMHSs at the Disaster Managers meeting in April 2024 • A MHEWS Task team will be established under the FRDP where NDMO and NMHSs will collaborate and coordinate <p>Weather Ready Pacific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise the WRP Governance and Implementation Plan • Recruitment of the PMU progressed. The Manager is now onboard • WRP was reflected as one of the priorities of the Pacific Partnership for Prosperity at the 52nd Leaders Forum • New Zealand has now committed NZD20 Million and supporting WRP to implement some of its activities. One of this activity is the installation of the Radar for Tonga • JICA has committed its support through bilateral with the Government of Fiji to build the regional Instrument Calibration Centre and the Regional Training Centre • UKMO provided GBP300K to support the implement • Organised a joint session between WRP and Early Warnings for All (EW4ALL) attended by NMHSs, NDMO, NGO's (Red Cross Societies) to better coordinate activities in the region.

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<p>Agenda Item 9.1.3: Reconvening the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <p>1) Endorsed the reconvening of the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable in 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PCCR was successfully reconvened in May 2024 with all SPREP members represented. Outcomes will be presented to the Executive Board 2024.
<p>Agenda Item 9.2: Regional Goal 2 Overview: Pacific people benefit from healthy and resilient island and ocean ecosystems</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <p>1) Noted the update on implementation on Regional Goal 2 activities for the biennial period 2024 to 2025.</p> <p>2) Encouraged the Secretariat to strengthen support to Members in developing regional and transboundary cooperation on ocean protection, including Marine Protected Areas and other conservation measures, and facilitate networking amongst Pacific Islands conservation and protected area managers, including through continued strengthening of the Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal (PIPAP).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the GIZ-SPREP 2-year blue carbon ecosystems project, MACBlue, is underway funded by the German International Climate Initiative project in Melanesian countries in partnership with SPC. • Under the Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas (PIRT) the Protected and Conserved Areas Network (PaCON) which is co-chaired by SPREP will support coordinated engagement by organisations and countries on priority issues. • The importance of regional and transboundary cooperation on ocean protection, including mention of BBNJ, was raised during the Pacific Dialogue – Target 3 component (Nadi in March 2024). However, further and more detailed discussions will be needed following this workshop. • Pacific BioScapes Programme – training on PIPAP and GIS has taken place and subscriptions to PIPAP have increased.

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<p>Agenda Item 9.2.1: Progressing SPREP Key Marine Activities to 2030</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorsed the Pacific Island Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026. 2. Committed to implementation of the PIRMSP 2022-2026 and the Coral Reef Action Plan 2021-2030. 3. Recognised and committed to supporting the UN Decade of Oceans actions on the science for threatened and migratory marine species and corals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PI Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Turtle monitoring manual completed, training to commence this year ○ Seabird monitoring manual completed, training commencing this year including through the first Oceania Seabird Symposium ○ Important Shark and Ray Areas for Oceania joint workshop with IUCN to identify globally important sites completed. ○ Regional Marine Tourism Guideline and codes of conduct developed to support sustainable tourism with migratory marine species. • Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan, 2021 – 2030 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ReefCloud project piloted in Samoa completed with a series of final workshops convened in February 2024 to present the outcomes, lessons learnt and next steps for the ReefCloud project. ○ To support the implementation of the Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan which also contributes towards the UN Decade of Ocean actions for corals, the next phase in the design and implementation of the ReefCloud project (2024 – 2026) will commence in May 2024 to evaluate and refine the project objectives and activities to ensure alignment with the Pacific coral reef monitoring needs. ○ Project proposals and concepts are being developed to secure funding to support the implementation of the Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan.

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<p>Agenda Item 9.2.2: Restoring island resilience – scaling up invasive species management</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Endorsed the Guiding Framework for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific (2nd Edition). 2) Committed to utilising the PRISMSS to assist with invasive species management in-country and ensure national priorities are registered within PRISMSS Business System. 3) Recognised invasive species management as an essential component needed for restoring island resilience and climate change adaptation. 4) Directed and supported the Secretariat to continue to develop invasive species focused regional climate change adaptation and resilience initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guiding Framework for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific (2nd Edition) available online https://brb.sprep.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/ISM%20Guidelines%20Digital.pdf • Seventeen Members have active PRISMSS activities in country. Members have been assisted to prioritise species and sites for management in FSM, Palau, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu since the 31st SPREP Meeting. Some Members have priorities registered in the PRISMSS Navigator. National Invasive Species Coordinators trained at the 5th Pacific Invasive Learning Network Meeting in November 2023. • Twelve Members have invasive species resilience and climate change adaptation activities being implemented in country. • GEF 8 regional PIF being developed with 5 Members. Anticipating the development of a Regional Adaptation Fund programme and further projects as determined by Members. Funds secured to support these initiatives from New Zealand Government.
<p>Agenda Item 9.2.3: Host country for 11th Pacific Islands Conference for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in 2025</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted convening of the 11th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, including the 3rd Pacific Islands Environment Leadership Awards in 2025. 2) Encouraged Members to submit interest in hosting the 11th Conference and work with the Secretariat in planning for the event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government of New Caledonia agreed to host the 11th Conference. • SPREP and PIRT Secretariat, as the co-hosts alongside the government of New Caledonia met in Noumea in February 2024 for initial discussions. • The current proposed date for the Conference is May 2026.

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<p>Agenda Item 9.3.1: Aspirations towards a Cleaner Pacific 2035: New Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2026 – 2035 (Cleaner Pacific 2035), New Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme 2026 – 2035 (PACPOL 2035) and Review of the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan 2018 - 2025</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Endorsed the development of a new Cleaner Pacific 2026-2035. 2) Endorsed the development of a new PACPOL 2026-2035 as it presents a significant opportunity for Pacific Island countries to continue to take major step forward to protect our ocean from marine pollution. 3) Encouraged Members to participate and contribute to the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter 2018-2025 mid-term review and provide their objectives and expectations of relevant targets whilst keeping a watching brief on the INC plastic pollution process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking support from potential donors and projects to develop a new Cleaner Pacific 2026-2035. The new Cleaner Pacific 2035 will be discussed during the Cleaner Pacific Roundtable (CPRT) in August 2024 as well as at the donor roundtable meeting during the CPRT. • Drafting of ToR in progress and seeking funding support from potential donors to review PACPOL 2015-2020 and the development of new PACPOL 2026-2035 addressing the Regional Oil Spill Response Mechanism. • Pacific Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (PRMLAP) 2018-2025 mid-term review will be completed and discussed at the CPRT in August 2024. The zero draft of the PRMLAP with an updated framework that is inclusive of the INC plastic pollution process has been developed and will be discussed at the CPRT.
<p>Agenda Item 9.3.2: Circular Economy: Unlocking the potential of waste as a resource</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Endorsed the development of a Regional Circular Economy Policy Framework and Regional Circular Economy Network. 2) Encouraged members to support the Secretariat to seek funds to implement circular economy project opportunities as provided by the various donor initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commenced the development of a draft Regional Circular Economy Policy Framework based on other frameworks used in other Regions/Countries. The draft framework and the setup of the Regional Circular Economy Network will be discussed during the CPRT in August.

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<p>Agenda Item 9.3.3: Capacity development in the waste and pollution sector: regional programmes for behavioural change and community of practice</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Endorsed the approach of developing and implementing Community Based Social Marketing campaigns. 2) Encouraged the active engagement of relevant Ministries within Member countries in the implementation of pilot activities to build capacity for implementing similar campaigns across the region 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Conducting behaviour change pilot projects in Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea to empower communities with innovative yet simple solutions for sustainable waste management to be completed in 2024. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Solomon Islands: Improve the Management of Organics/Recyclables in the Tuvaruhu Community, Honiara – A community located upstream on the Mataniko river identified by MECDEM. Workplan approved and commencement activities undertaken March 2024. b. Vanuatu: Choosing Reusable over Disposable - A community initiative to change behaviour to adopt reusable diapers instead of disposable diapers – Project commencement will occur in April 2024. Actions were delayed whilst Vanuatu government determined focal ministry. c. Papua New Guinea: Enabling the Safe Disposal of E-waste in the Ensisi Valley Community–project commenced in March 2024 with community elders of Ensisi valley (Port Moresby). Predesigned interventions were tested in the community to identify a suitable intervention approach to progress pilot project. The interventions are now being packaged for implementation over the coming months in coordination with NCDC/CEPA and local partners.

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<p>Agenda Item 9.3.4: Environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Endorsed the development of the: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Pacific Regional Outlook on Hazardous Waste and Chemicals and guidance to assist Members with management of new waste streams; ii. Regional Action Plan on Mercury; and iii. Regional Codes of Practice on Hazardous Wastes. 2) Endorsed the adoption of technical guidelines developed by the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention (BRS) on ESM of hazardous waste. 3) Encouraged project focal points to actively engage in project activities, and utilise the resources developed to improve hazardous waste management nationally. 4) Directed the Secretariat to conduct an assessment of capacity to coordinate the monitoring of the Pacific marine environment for radioactive contamination in collaboration with expert groups including CROP agencies, and research institutions and report back to Members at the Executive Board in 2024. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Update: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Pacific Regional Outlook on Hazardous Waste and Chemicals is funded by the ACP MEA3 Project that is currently undergoing an extension, so this activity has been deferred to Q3 2024. ii. Regional Action Plan on Mercury will commence in Q3 2024 under the ISLANDS Pacific project. A draft has been prepared in anticipation of a start in Q3 in line with the project's approved 2024 budget. iii. The Regional Codes of Practice on Hazardous Wastes is an activity earmarked for delivery in 2025 under the ISLANDS Pacific Project. 2) The adoption of technical guidelines developed by BRS will be an agenda at the Tenth STAC meeting of the Waigani Convention that is scheduled for October 2024. 3) Coordinating with the CROP Nuclear Waste Taskforce through PIFS for collaboration and resources to fund the assessment. A draft ToR for a consultancy to undertake the assessment has been prepared.
<p>Agenda Item 9.4.1: Harnessing the use of environmental planning and monitoring tools to support environmental governance</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted the efforts by the Secretariat in promoting and strengthening the use of environmental planning and monitoring tools to support environmental governance in the Pacific. 2) Endorsed the Secretariat's proposed work streams in leveraging support of Members, donors, and partners to secure resources to strengthen environmental governance through the use of environmental planning and monitoring tools 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Secretariat has made good progress on promoting and strengthening the use of environmental planning and monitoring tools to support environmental governance in the Pacific: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat is working with the World Bank to scale up the outcomes of the Pacific Learning Partnership for Environmental and Social sustainability (PLP-ESS) through a dedicated regional project on environmental and social risk management (ESRM). Discussions have been positive and ongoing with the World Bank and members on this initiative.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat is developing an environmental auditing guideline for tourism accommodations in the Pacific to guide operators and regulators in auditing tourist facilities to improve environmental sustainability. A draft of the document was presented at the Pacific Tourism organisation (SPTO) Board of Directors Workshop and is now being finalized. • Work is also ongoing to review and update SPREP's regional environmental indicators to better align them with the new Global Biodiversity Framework and other international multilateral processes. The consultancy to review the regional environmental indicators is currently underway. • Preparations are underway to develop the next regional State of Environment and Conservation (SOEC) report to update the previous report published in 2020. A Terms of Reference for a consultancy to undertake this work have been finalised. The development of the next SOEC is dependent on the review of regional indicators (above) and will commence following the completion of that work. • The Secretariat has secured funding from New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) to develop indicators for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). An initial design document has been developed in collaboration with MFAT outlining the scope, approach, budget and timeline for this work. The project has commenced implementation.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat has initiated a new training modality to provide comprehensive capacity building on environmental management • The Secretariat has initiated a new training modality to provide comprehensive capacity building on environmental management tools, including Environmental impact Assessment (EIA), Geographic information Systems (GIS), and environmental data management. A successful 5-day workshop was recently conducted in the Solomon Islands and similar for Vanuatu, with plans to replicate this training model Kiribati and Nauru. • The Secretariat continues to use and promote the Pacific Environment Portal (PEP) and network of national environment data portal and related tools to collate and catalogue environmental datasets currently deployed to update national, regional, and global multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and related priorities.
<p>Agenda Item 9.4.2: Strengthening ocean governance</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted the work by the Secretariat on Ocean Governance for Members and the region. 2) Requested the Secretariat to develop a regional strategic framework for strengthening its capacity on Ocean Governance in consultation with Members, and partners including CROP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ocean Governance Framework is currently in its second draft being developed internally by the SPREP Strategic Planning Advisor Dr. Melanie Bradley through the guidance of the Blue Team of SPREP.
<p>Agenda Item 9.4.3: Scaling up the outcomes and results of the ACPMEA 3 Programme</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted the outcomes and results of the ACP MEA Phase 3 project implementation to date. 2) Endorsed the Secretariat to develop an ACP MEA Phase 4 project proposal in partnership with member countries and donor partners to be presented in the Executive Board meeting in 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project proposal for Phase 4 of the ACP MEA Project is currently in development for presentation to the 32nd SPREP Meeting in 2025. The current third Phase is extended to December 2025.

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<p>Agenda Item 10.1: Draft Performance Implementation Plan (PIP) 2024-2025 and Country Territory Strategic Partnership Framework (CTSPF)</p>	<p>The Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Endorsed the Fourth Performance Implementation Plan (PIP4) (2024-2025). 2) Noted the Country Territory Strategic Partnership Framework 2022-2023 update and invited Pacific island members to confirm their interest to start the Country Territory Strategic Partnership Framework process in their respective countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cook Islands, Kiribati, and Nauru requested initiation of CTSPFs following the 31SM. Missions have been undertaken to the Cook Islands and Nauru to initiate and consult on their CTSPFs, and drafts are being finalised. Correspondence has been sent to Kiribati to request initiation of the CTSPF process.