

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Ocean Governance Framework 2024–2026

Prepared by the SPREP Ocean Coordination Group
(Blue Team)

June 2024

Contents

1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Objectives.....	3
3.0 Our ocean context.....	3
3.1 Regional setting	3
3.2 Resilience and environmental issues.....	3
3.3 Governance.....	4
4.0 Core themes and areas of ocean governance work	6
5.0 Collaborative implementation	11
6.0 Reporting on ocean governance work.....	11
7.0 Annex: Parties to ocean-related global and regional MEAs.....	14

1.0 Introduction

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is the Pacific's regional intergovernmental environment organisation. It is charged with promoting cooperation and assisting Members to protect and improve the environment and ensure sustainable development for present and future generations in accordance with Pacific island cultures, as per the 1993 Agreement establishing SPREP as an independent organisation.

For more than three decades SPREP has led or supported ocean governance work in the Pacific. Sustainable ocean management is prioritised by SPREP Members in the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026, which emphasises protection of the ocean and the services it provides for Pacific peoples, as a cross-cutting theme for the Strategic Plan's four regional goals: (1) climate change resilience, (2) ecosystem and biodiversity protection, (3) waste management and pollution control, and (4) environmental governance.

SPREP addresses ocean governance across all four of its technical Programmes¹ and as the Secretariat for the Noumea and Waigani Conventions.² The Noumea Convention is the Pacific node of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme, which aims to address the accelerating degradation of the world's oceans and coastal areas through the sustainable management and use of marine and coastal environments.³ The Waigani Convention complements the Basel Convention, with an objective to reduce and eliminate transboundary movements of hazardous and radioactive waste and to ensure that disposal of wastes in the Convention area is completed in an environmentally sound manner.

SPREP has supported Pacific island countries as they work towards their SDG 14 (Life Below Water) ocean commitments of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, and as they commit to conservation action and minimising activities that degrade, pollute, overexploit, or undermine the ocean and natural environment under the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 Strategy).

Members endorsed the development of this Ocean Governance Framework at the 31st Meeting of SPREP Officials in September 2023, to define and strengthen the ocean component of SPREP's Strategic Plan implementation. The Framework will promote a systematic, effective and coordinated approach to SPREP's ocean governance work; strengthen alignment of SPREP's ocean governance work with the work of our Members, CROP agencies and external partners; and define how SPREP addresses ocean governance under the Ocean and Environment theme of the 2050 Strategy.

'Ocean governance' in the context of SPREP refers to Pacific coordination for global negotiations and Conferences of the Parties; the national and regional implementation of ocean-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)⁴ and regional strategies and frameworks; and supporting national

¹ SPREP's four Programmes are (1) Climate Change Resilience, (2) Environmental Monitoring and Governance, (3) Island and Ocean Ecosystems, (4) Waste Management and Pollution Control.

² The Noumea and Waigani Conventions are detailed in section 3.3.2, below.

³ The UNEP Regional Seas Programme was launched in 1974, two years after the UN General Assembly established the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to monitor progress of the Stockholm Declaration. The Regional Seas Programme brings together multiple stakeholders including governments, scientific communities, civil society organisations, local communities, and Indigenous peoples, to address marine pollution and degradation of oceans and coastal areas through a regional approach to environmental action. The Noumea Convention is a component of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, however it is not a UN-administered Convention.

⁴ Refers to specific parts of ocean-related MEAs that are relevant to SPREP's technical Programmes such as migratory species, coastal and marine ecosystems, marine pollution, transboundary movement of wastes, etc. Also includes MEA daughter agreements such as the Pacific Cetacean, Dugong and Shark MOUs.

initiatives. This Framework outlines SPREP’s provision of regional leadership and coordination, technical and policy guidance, capacity-building and advocacy, for effective ocean governance.

2.0 Objectives

The SPREP Ocean Governance Framework is an internal document that has been developed to:

1. Clearly define the Secretariat’s role and areas of ocean work related to SPREP’s mandate, the Noumea and Waigani Conventions, SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026, 2050 Strategy, ocean-related global MEAs and associated MOUs, and regional strategies and frameworks;
2. Strengthen internal coordination and collaboration on ocean work, through the Secretariat’s Ocean Coordination Group (Blue Team);
3. Strengthen our Secretariat work for the Noumea and Waigani Conventions and support countries with implementation of their obligations under the Conventions; and
4. Strengthen SPREP’s collaboration and engagement with Members, CROP agencies and other regional partners working on ocean governance issues.

The timeframe for the SPREP Ocean Governance Framework is aligned with the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026. The Framework and its objectives will be reviewed and revised as part of the formulation of the next Strategic Plan.

3.0 Our ocean context

3.1 Regional setting

SPREP serves twenty-one Pacific island countries and territories located within the largest continuous marine habitat on the planet, the Pacific Ocean. Most Pacific island countries and territories have small populations, economies and administrations but are large ocean states collectively managing more than 10% of the planet’s oceans. Approximately 98% of this area, totalling over 30 million square kilometres, is within the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of SPREP Members.

The Pacific Ocean defines and connects Pacific island countries and territories geographically, ecologically, and culturally. It underpins Pacific livelihoods and the Pacific way of life, providing a source of food and transport and a foundation for traditional practices and economic opportunities. Over many generations, Pacific peoples have developed a rich heritage of natural capital stewardship, and of traditional management practices and knowledge, which inform effective ocean governance today.

The Pacific region is home to more than 75% of all known coral species, approximately 25% of the world’s coral reefs, 3000 fish species, and extensive areas of mangrove forests and seagrass beds on which biodiversity depends. It supports a diverse range of large migratory marine species including over half of the world’s known cetaceans; 189 species of sharks and rays, with around half listed as threatened; significant populations of marine turtles and dugong; and more than 40 species of seabirds.

3.2 Resilience and environmental issues

Pacific Ocean ecosystems are under increasing pressure from global, regional and local threats. These include climate change and impacts from extreme weather events, ocean warming and ocean acidification; overfishing, over-harvesting and by-catch of marine species; marine and land-based pollution (e.g. from plastics and other ocean debris, chemicals, oil spills, ship-sourced pollution,

sewage and trade waste, sedimentation, light and noise pollution); marine invasive species; and inadequate planning, assessment and management of coastal and marine developments. SPREP provides technical guidance and capacity-building to assist Members in addressing these threats, seeking to conserve and promote healthy ocean ecosystems as a strong foundation for sustainable development, human wellbeing, and climate change adaptation and resilience.

3.3 Governance

The Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC) is mandated by Pacific Leaders to coordinate regional ocean issues, with other regional organisations having mandates for different elements of regional ocean governance. SPREP works across ocean governance at global, regional and national levels and has a lead or partnership role in supporting its Members with the thematic areas of (1) climate change resilience, (2) ecosystem and biodiversity protection, (3) waste management and pollution control, and (4) environmental governance.

3.3.1 Global multilateral environmental agreements

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) are legally binding treaties that play a crucial role in addressing global environmental challenges by fostering cooperation among nations. MEAs provide a framework for countries to set common goals, share information and coordinate actions to protect the environment, while at the same time, balancing development needs.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982 is considered the “constitution of the oceans” and represents thirty years of concerted global efforts at codification and progressive development of international law (UNCLOS I, II, III). Adopted in 1982, UNCLOS III entered into force in 1994. UNCLOS aims to establish a legal order for the seas and oceans, promote the peaceful use of marine resources, and protect the marine environment. Key aspects of UNCLOS that are relevant to the mandate of SPREP and that align to the Noumea Convention as a Regional Seas Convention are:

- Part V: Exclusive Economic Zone – highly migratory species, conservation of living resources;
- Section 2: conservation and management of the living resources of the high seas;
- Part XII: protection and preservation of the marine environment specifically article 194 on measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment;
- Section 4: monitoring and environmental assessment; and
- Section 5: international rules and national legislation to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment.

Other ocean-related global MEAs addressing biodiversity, waste and pollution, and climate change are listed in Annex 1. They include the Agreement under UNCLOS on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement);⁵ Convention on Biological Diversity; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS); Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; Minamata Convention on Mercury; London Convention on Dumping; MARPOL Convention; and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

⁵ SPREP is supporting Members in the ratification and implementation of the BBNJ Agreement through coordination with the lead agency, the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner.

3.3.2 Regional multilateral environmental agreements

SPREP is the Secretariat for two regional MEAs, the Convention for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (1986) known as the SPREP Convention or Noumea Convention, and the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (the Waigani Convention).

The Noumea Convention along with its two additional Protocols,⁶ entered into force in 1990. The Convention is a comprehensive umbrella agreement for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment of the South Pacific Region. This Convention is the major multilateral agreement in the Pacific Region for the protection of natural resources and the environment. It is also a Regional Seas Convention under the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.

The Waigani Convention entered into force in 2001. The Waigani Convention is modelled on the Basel Convention and constitutes the regional implementation of the international hazardous waste control regime (Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions). There are, however, some differences between the conventions: the Waigani Convention also covers radioactive wastes, and its territorial coverage includes each Party's Exclusive Economic Zone (200 nautical miles), rather than extending only to the outer boundary of each Party's territorial sea (12 nautical miles) as under the Basel Convention. The Waigani Convention is also strongly related to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matters, 1972 (London Convention) and the Noumea Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the South Pacific Region by Dumping.

3.3.3 Regional frameworks and strategies

Our Members have prioritised sustainable management of the ocean environment through the holistic approach of the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape, and the development of regional partnerships to support national commitments to a sustainable Pacific Ocean. The Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape sets up the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC) and the Pacific Ocean Alliance as the secretariat.

At the 51st Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, the Leaders endorsed the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent that sets out a long-term approach to working together as a region. This Strategy frames regional cooperation and broader actions around seven key thematic areas, including the Ocean and Environment thematic area, which recognises our dependence on ocean and island resources and the importance of maintaining the integrity of our natural environment.

SPREP-led regional frameworks and strategies that guide ocean management, conservation and resilience include the Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021–2025; Cleaner Pacific 2025: Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy; Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL) 2015–2020; Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022–2026; and Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan 2021–2030.

3.3.4 National environmental legislation and national ocean policies

National environmental legislation and policies are largely driven by obligations imposed on countries by MEAs. Countries still formulate policies and laws which are totally domestic in origin and scope, but as with MEAs, there is a tendency towards harmonisation amongst countries because of benchmarking

⁶ Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the South Pacific Region by Dumping, and the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution Emergencies in the South Pacific Region.

against international standards and in adopting best practices and sharing lessons learned. SPREP supports Pacific island countries with the formulation and review of laws and policies that support strong ocean governance.

4.0 Core themes and areas of ocean governance work

SPREP's ocean governance work sits under four core themes: (1) climate change resilience, (2) ecosystem and biodiversity protection, (3) waste management and pollution control, and (4) environmental governance. These themes reflect SPREP's regional mandate, the regional goals in SPREP's Strategic Plan 2017–2026, and encompass various areas of technical work as summarised in Table 1. Many of SPREP's areas of technical work are relevant to more than one theme, but they are categorised under single themes for ease of reference.

To provide further context for SPREP's core themes and areas of technical work, Table 1 indicates linkages with regional goals and objectives in the Strategic Plan 2017–2026,⁷ the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan,⁸ regional thematic strategies and frameworks, and multilateral environmental agreements.

SPREP delivers work across the four core themes by:

- Promoting integrated island and ocean management that facilitates biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of multiple marine resources, and social-ecological resilience, using tools such as marine spatial planning;
- Supporting Members with global MEA negotiations and implementation of MEA obligations through provision of capacity-building and technical advice, including attending the MEAs' Conference of the Parties as an intergovernmental organisation observer;
- Supporting Members at global and regional ocean events, such as the UN Ocean Conference;
- Providing technical guidance on the collection, management, interpretation, evaluation and reporting of technical data and information;
- Partnering and networking with relevant scientific and technical institutions under the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, especially through the endorsed actions 'Pacific Coral Reef Action Science' and 'Threatened and Migratory Marine Species';
- Serving as a conduit for Members to access external and independent technical advice on environmental impact assessments for coastal and marine developments (e.g. ports, tourism infrastructure, coastal protection infrastructure, deep sea mining);
- Integrating traditional knowledge with technical knowledge, recognising the central role of traditional, Indigenous, and local knowledge in sound ocean management decision-making and conservation;
- Capacity-building at national and regional levels to strengthen technical capabilities and institutional arrangements for ocean governance;
- Raising awareness of critical coastal and ocean issues through targeted communications and advocacy;
- Gender equity, inclusion and mainstreaming, for example, promoting gender inclusivity in ocean leadership, resource management, conservation and science;

⁷ Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme Strategic Plan 2017–2026, https://www.sprep.org/attachments/Publications/Corporate_Documents/strategic-plan-2017-2026.pdf.

⁸ 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan 2023–2030, https://forumsec.org/sites/default/files/2024-03/2050-Strategy-Implementation-Plan_2023-2030.pdf.

- Participating in the annual Global Regional Seas Meeting to report on progress and actions under the Noumea Convention Action Plan; and
- Participating as an intergovernmental organisation observer in the deliberations of the International Seabed Authority Assembly, if invited by the President on questions within the scope of SPREP's competence.

Table 1: Core themes and areas of technical work to support effective ocean governance.

Core themes	Areas of technical work	Linkages			
		SPREP Strategic Plan	2050 Strategy IP ^a SPREP is the CROP lead or co-lead ^b SPREP is a contributor	Regional thematic strategies / frameworks	MEAs
Climate change resilience	Ecosystem-based adaptation (nature-based solutions) to climate change impacts e.g. sea level rise, changing weather patterns Ocean acidification Meteorological and hydrological services Oceans discussions under the UNFCCC Traditional knowledge	Regional Goal 1: objectives 1.1, 1.2, 1.3	Climate Change and Disasters: Goal 1 (system outcome 1.2 ^a), Goal 2 (system outcome 2.1 ^a) People Centred Development: Goal 4 (system outcome 4.3 ^b)	Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021–2025 Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management 2017–2030 Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy 2017–2026	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
Ecosystem and biodiversity protection	Threatened and migratory species (dugong, marine turtles, whales and dolphins, sharks and rays, seabirds, crocodiles) Ecosystems and habitats (coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds) Invasive organisms Fisheries by-catch Blue carbon (including wetlands, mangroves, seagrasses) Marine protected areas and Locally Managed Marine Areas, including resource owner involvement to support the application of traditional knowledge and traditional management practices	Regional Goal 2: objectives 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4	Ocean and Environment: Goal 1 (system outcomes 1.1 ^b and 1.5 ^a)	Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021/2025 Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022–2026 Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan 2021–2030 Regional Marine Species Guidelines for Tourism (in development)	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Noumea Convention Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement

Core themes	Areas of technical work	Linkages			
		SPREP Strategic Plan	2050 Strategy IP ^a SPREP is the CROP lead or co-lead ^b SPREP is a contributor	Regional thematic strategies / frameworks	MEAs
	Marine spatial planning Sustainable marine-based tourism				
Waste management and pollution control	Hazardous and radioactive wastes Polluted wastewaters Industrial, agricultural and residential waste Garbage from ships (including abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear) Plastics and microplastics (marine litter)	Regional Goal 3: objectives 3.1, 3.2, 3.4	Ocean and Environment: Goal 1 (system outcome 1.6 ^a)	Cleaner Pacific 2025: Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016–2025 Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN) Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL) Pacific Regional Action Plan: Marine Litter 2018–2025	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Waigani Convention Noumea Convention Protocol to the Noumea Convention for the Prevention of Dumping Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment
Environmental monitoring and governance	Multilateral environmental agreements (including specific focus on coordinating the Secretariat of the Noumea Convention) National environmental strategies, policies and legislation, including national ocean policies Environmental impact assessment and management	Regional Goal 4: objectives 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5	Resource and Economic Development: Goal 1 (system outcome 1.5 ^b)	Developing negotiation toolkit (SPREP Mana Kit) Strengthening environmental impact assessment: guidelines for Pacific island countries and territories Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): guidelines for Pacific island countries and territories	CITES (through the ACPMEAs 3 project) CBD (through the ACPMEAs 3 project and core work under IOE) Noumea Convention

Core themes	Areas of technical work	Linkages			
		SPREP Strategic Plan	2050 Strategy IP ^a SPREP is the CROP lead or co-lead ^b SPREP is a contributor	Regional thematic strategies / frameworks	MEAs
	<p>Strategic environmental assessment Environmental and social safeguards</p> <p>State of environment reporting</p> <p>Environmental data collection, monitoring, sharing, analysis and reporting on results</p>			<p>Environmental impact assessment guidelines for coastal tourism development in Pacific island countries and territories</p> <p>Good practice guide for environmental auditing of tourism accommodation in the Pacific islands</p> <p>Good practice guidelines in EIA for coastal engineering in the Pacific</p> <p>Regional State of Environment and Conservation (SOEC) report</p> <p>Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021–2025</p>	<p>UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)</p> <p>Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement</p>

5.0 Collaborative implementation

The ocean, as a cross cutting theme in the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026, must be addressed through collaborative, cross-sectoral approaches. Collaborative implementation is also important to effectively address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and given the limited financial, human, and technical resources of SPREP's Members.

The Secretariat's Ocean Coordination Group (Blue Team) is the internal coordination mechanism for SPREP's ocean governance work. The Blue Team will collaboratively implement this Framework by:

- Identifying and coordinating SPREP representation, collating technical input from SPREP Programmes, and providing capacity-building services to support Members' participation in ocean-related fora (e.g. climate change, biodiversity, pollution and waste MEAs, and the UN Ocean Conference);
- Contributing to the development of cross-cutting strategies and solutions to address matters raised by Members in ocean-related fora;
- Collectively providing technical advice and technical inputs to support Members in addressing key environmental issues;
- Coordinating technical input and leading or supporting ocean-related implementation of the 2050 Strategy;
- Strengthening the Secretariat's role and services for the Noumea and Waigani Conventions and supporting their implementation;
- Convening discussion fora for reviewing ocean issues and events, and sharing lessons learned for the benefit of all SPREP Programmes, ultimately leading to better representation of Members' interests on ocean matters; and
- Identifying gaps in work areas to allow for targeted, coordinated project development that addresses ocean governance priorities identified by Members.

The Ocean Coordination Group (Blue Team), as SPREP's focal point for collaborative ocean work across the Pacific region, is committed to effective partnerships with CROP agencies, non-government organisations, external partners and private sector agencies working on ocean governance issues.

6.0 Reporting on ocean governance work

SPREP reports on its ocean governance work through various fora and mechanisms, including MEAs, as summarised in Table 2. Additionally, regular reports are prepared for donors and funding agencies for ocean-related projects implemented by SPREP. Reporting at different levels and at regular frequencies promotes transparency and accountability.

Table 2: Major forums and mechanisms for reporting on ocean governance work.

Forum / mechanism	Overview	Reporting frequency
Global		
Convention on Biological Diversity	Sustainable Ocean Initiative, reports provided for programme of work on Islands and programme of work on Marine and Coastal.	Periodic meetings
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	Pacific Cetacean MOU, SPREP reports on activities. Annual report provided to the Standing Committee via Oceania representative, on SPREP's support to Members over the previous year.	Periodic meeting of signatories Annually
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	Annual report provided to the Standing Committee via Oceania representative, on SPREP's support to Members over the previous year.	Annually
Regional seas reporting	SPREP provides an update to the annual global meeting of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.	Annually
Contributions to the UN Secretary General's report on ocean and law of the sea	Through the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, SPREP is requested to contribute to the UN Secretary General's report on ocean and law of the sea.	Annually
Regional		
SPREP Meeting	The Blue Team and Programme staff prepare reports on cross-cutting and specific ocean issues, with reference to the SPREP Strategic Plan and Performance Implementation Plan.	Biennially
SPREP Executive Board Meeting	The Blue Team and Programme staff prepare reports on cross-cutting and specific ocean issues, with reference to the SPREP Strategic Plan and Performance Implementation Plan.	Biennially
Noumea Convention	Secretariat reports on the activities it has undertaken in the biennial period.	Biennially
Waigani Convention	Secretariat reports on the activities it has undertaken in the biennial period.	Biennially
CROP Marine Sector Working Group	The Blue Team Secretariat prepares reports on SPREP's ocean work relevant to the implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.	As needed
Ocean and Environment Advisory Group	The Blue Team Secretariat prepares reports on SPREP's ocean work relevant to the implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.	As needed
Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation	The Blue Team Secretariat prepares reports on SPREP's ocean work relevant to the Action Track of the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.	As needed
Pacific Climate Change Roundtable	Oceans was endorsed as a cross-cutting issue at the 2024 reconvening of the PCCR. Key climate change-related oceans priorities identified by SPREP Members will be highlighted through the PCCR and reported at subsequent SPREP Meetings.	Biennially
Clean Pacific Roundtable	The Clean Pacific Roundtable provides a vehicle to report on outcomes, promote regional collaboration and resource complementarity, and expand networking opportunities to assist Pacific island countries and territories in the delivery of safe and sustainable waste management practices and to prevent pollution-related issues that impact the health of the ocean and communities within the region.	Every 2–3 years
Regional state of environment and conservation reports	The health and resilience of our ocean ecosystems is monitored and reported on through regional State of Environment and Conservation reports coordinated jointly by SPREP's Environmental Monitoring and Governance, and Island and Ocean Ecosystem Programmes,	Every 5 years

Forum / mechanism	Overview	Reporting frequency
	and prepared in partnership with Members and the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT).	
National		
National State of Environment reports	The health and resilience of ocean ecosystems is monitored and reported on through national State of Environment reports, that are coordinated by SPREP's Environmental Monitoring and Governance Programme and prepared in partnership with Members.	Every 5 years ⁹

⁹ Ideally national SOE reports should be reviewed and updated every five years; however, this depends on national government plans and priorities, on the availability of funding and data, and legislated reporting requirements, which differ across Members.

7.0 Annex: Parties to ocean-related global and regional MEAs

	Cook Islands	FSM	Fiji	Kiribati	RMI	Nauru	Niue	Palau	PNG	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu
BIODIVERSITY														
Convention on Biological Diversity	R	R	R	A	R	R	A	A	R	R	R	A	R	R
Nagoya Protocol	R	R	A		A			R		A	A	A	A	R
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)			A					A	A	A	A	A		A
Convention on Migratory Species	A		A					A		A				
WASTE AND POLLUTION														
Basel Convention	A	A		A	A	A		A	A	A		A		
Rotterdam Convention	A				A					A			A	
Stockholm Convention	A	R	R	R	A	R	R	R	R	R	A	R	A	R
Minamata Convention				A	A			R		R		A	A	A
UNCLOS (Part XII: Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment)	R	A	R	A	A	R	R	A	R	R	R	A	R	R
London Convention (Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter)				R		R			R		R	R		R
CLIMATE CHANGE														
UNFCCC	R	R	R	R	R	R	A	A	R	R	R	A	R	R
Kyoto Protocol	R	R	R	A	R	A	R	A	R	R	R	A	R	A
Paris Agreement	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
REGIONAL														
Waigani Convention	R	R	R	R		S	R	S	R	R	R	R	A	R
Noumea Convention	R	R	R		R	R		S	R	R	R		S	
Dumping Protocol	R	R	R		R	R		S	R	R	A		S	
Emergencies Protocol	R	R	A		R	R		S	R	R	A		S	
Ratification = R, Accession = A, Signatory = S														