

Agreed Outcomes of the Meeting of the Twenty-ninth SPREP Meeting of Officials:

3 – 5 September 2019
Apia Samoa

Agenda Item 1: Prayer

The Meeting opened with a prayer from the representative from American Samoa.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

The Meeting:

1. **Confirmed** the Representative of **Samoa** as **Chair**; and
2. **Confirmed** the Representative of **French Polynesia** as **Vice-Chair**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Adoption of Agenda and Working Procedures

The Meeting:

1. **Considered** and **adopted** the Provisional Agenda;
2. **Agreed** on hours of work; and
3. **Appointed** an open-ended Report Drafting Committee comprising Australia, Cook Islands, France, Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, and Wallis and Futuna to be chaired by French Polynesia as Vice Chair of the 29SM.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Action Taken on Matters Arising from SPREP's first Executive Board Meeting

The Meeting:

1. **Noted actions taken** against the decisions and directives of the First Executive Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5.1: Presentation of Annual Report for 2018 and Director General's Overview of Progress since the First SPREP Executive Board Meeting

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the report.

AGENDA ITEM 5.2: SPREP 25th Anniversary

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the Celebration of the 25 Years of SPREP.

AGENDA ITEM 5.3: Progress towards achieving the 2018-2019 PIP Outcomes

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the progress made towards achievement of the 2018-2019 programme of work and budget, and 2018-2019 PIP strategic Outcomes.
2. **Considered** the lessons learned in the first year of operation of the PIP planning and reporting mechanism; and
3. **Noted** that the PIP strategic planning mechanism will be evaluated after completion of the second (2020-2021) PIP.

AGENDA ITEM 5.4: Audited Annual Accounts for 2018

The Meeting:

1. **Reviewed** and **adopted** the audited Financial Statements and Auditors' Report for 2018.

AGENDA ITEM 6.1: Framework for Pacific Regionalism

The meeting:

1. **Noted** the update on SPREP engagement for implementation of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR)
2. **Noted** the recommendations of the Interim Review of the FPR and directed the Secretariat to engage in the 2050 Blue Pacific visioning process.
3. **Recommended** the review of the FPR to ensure regional priorities support the priorities Pacific island countries and territories

AGENDA ITEM 6.2: Implementation of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders and SIS Leaders decisions

The Meeting:

1. **Noted the actions of the Secretariat to implement the relevant** decisions of the Pacific Islands Forum and Small Island States Leaders decisions of the 49th Pacific Islands Forum in 2018; and
2. **Noted the verbal update of the Director General on** the 50th Pacific Islands Forum in 2019.

AGENDA ITEM 6.3: Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific and the Pacific Resilience Partnership

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the Outcome of the Inaugural Pacific Resilience Meeting 2019;
2. **Requested** the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) Taskforce to provide an annual update to the SPREP Meeting on the progress of the partnership;
3. **Noted** the report of the PRP Taskforce and **welcomed** the work that is progressing on implementing the PRP governance arrangements; and
4. **Noted** the progress made by the Secretariat in recruiting the Framework of Resilient Development in the Pacific/PRP Coordinator.

AGENDA ITEM 6.4: Northern Sub-regional SPREP Office Establishment

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** that the SPREP Northern Office will commence operations in 2019 as budgeted;
2. **Also noted** that the transitional Office Manager will engage with the North Office Working group to:
 - a) develop a work plan
 - b) further refine the Operating Model
 - c) prepare a 2020 budget
 - d) secure further sources of funding
3. **Requested** that a review of progress be provided by 2021 to the 30th SPREP Meeting

AGENDA ITEM 7.1: Update on Upcoming Ocean-related Events

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the upcoming events which will be key for Member engagement in the coming years and **approved** SPREP engagement in these negotiations.

AGENDA ITEM 7.2: 10th Pacific Islands Nature Conservation and Protected Areas Conference

The Meeting:

1. **Endorsed** the conference as an important process for providing regional input into the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; and
2. **Encouraged** Members to consider supporting the conference through sponsoring participation of key national stakeholders to attend, or other financial contributions needed for conference implementation

AGENDA ITEM 7.3: Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework

The Meeting:

1. **Endorsed** the regional approach SPREP proposes for providing input into the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework prior to the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference Of the Parties in October 2020; and
2. **Encouraged** countries to submit their own input to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework

AGENDA ITEM 7.4: UN Environment and SPREP Partnership

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the progress and planned activities for the implementation of the strategic priorities for the UN Environment Pacific Office and the Partnership between UN Environment and SPREP; and
2. **Urged** member countries to continue to actively engage with United Nations Environment Assembly and its preparatory processes.

AGENDA ITEM 8.1: Pacific Climate Change Centre

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the progress of the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC);
2. **Endorsed** the PCCC Advisory Board terms of reference;
3. **Commended the Government of Samoa** for its commitment to combat climate change and the prioritisation of its grant aid priorities to the PCCC as the host country of SPREP;
4. **Commended the Government of Japan** for the construction completion of the PCCC and ongoing commitment to capacity building to address climate change in the Pacific;
5. **Commended the Government of New Zealand** for the generous assistance extended to SPREP to operationalise the PCCC with personnel, and in conjunction with the Government of Japan, for support to the capacity building programmes of the PCCC; and
6. **Welcomed additional support** from members and partners for the 100 percent renewable energy target capacity of the PCCC.

AGENDA ITEM 8.2: Update on EU EDF-11 Programme Engagement

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the commencement of implementation of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF11) African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) programmes.

AGENDA ITEM 8.3: Update on Ocean-related Strategic Engagements

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the increasing level of donor and partner support for SPREP ocean-related projects and programmes that will deliver 2017-2026 Strategic Plan outcomes for Members.

AGENDA ITEM 8.4: Accessing Climate Financing

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the report from SPREP on climate financing and progress against the pipeline;
2. **Noted** and **endorsed** SPREP's collaboration with the Pacific Community (SPC) to most effectively access climate finance for Members' climate action priorities;
3. **Noted** the SPREP accreditation upgrade and the need for proportional resourcing of SPREP to continue to support Members in this role; and
4. **Noted** the lack of response from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Secretariat to the Pacific GCF Office request.

AGENDA ITEM 8.5: Pacific Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Initiative

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** progress in developing the Pacific Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Initiative.

AGENDA ITEM 9.1: Report on Executive Board 1st Meeting

The Meeting:

1. **Endorsed** the Report on the First SPREP Executive Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9.2 : Audit Committee Report

The Meeting:

1. **Congratulated** the Secretariat for the positive results in 2018;
2. **Encouraged** management to maintain the positive reserves account in the long term;
3. **Commended** the efforts of the Director General and all staff in the early and satisfactory completion of the financial accounts and audit;
4. **Welcomed** the improved process used by the Secretariat to provide the draft financial statements to the Audit Committee (AC) for review prior to the issuing of the final audit opinion, and the consultation between the AC and the External Auditor;
5. **Acknowledged** the improvement in internal controls including completion of the Fraud Prevention and Whistleblower Protection Policy and Risk Register, as well as the extensive work conducted, and on-going on the Financial and Project Information and Systems;
6. **Noted** that late receipt of member's voluntary contributions remains an issue, causing financial constraints on the Secretariat's annual budget, and **requested** Members to provide their voluntary contributions to the Secretariat in a timely manner;
7. **Requested** the Secretariat address the human resource issue within the Internal Audit Unit as resources permit;
8. **Noted** and **approved** the report of the Audit Committee for the period July 2018-July 2019.

AGENDA ITEM 9.3: CROP Harmonisation on Remuneration

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** that there has been no progress at all for the work of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) Harmonisation on Remuneration;
2. **Noted** that in the absence of a clear position from the participating CROP agencies and the CROP Chief Executive Officers, the Secretariat will continue to employ the CROP remunerations systems and methodology until such time that it is clear that harmonisation of remuneration is no longer possible to pursue and maintain;
3. **Approved** the engagement by the Secretariat of an independent qualified consultant to review its remuneration system to ensure it remains competitive in the local and international employment markets;
4. **Endorsed** the establishment of a Friends of the Chair to meet intersessionally to consider the proposal from the Secretariat on the adoption of a salary movement of up to USD 300,000 in total for all staff, subject to clear identification of specific funding available. The Friends of the Chair will provide a report to the 2020 Executive Board for a decision. The Executive Board can make a decision on this matter.

AGENDA ITEM 9.4: Staff Regulations Amendments

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the amendments made to the Staff Regulations.

AGENDA ITEM 9.5: Appointment of External Auditors

The Meeting:

1. **Considered** the paper and **endorsed** the appointment of KPMG, Fiji as the External Auditor to audit SPREP's accounts for the financial years 2019 and 2020.

AGENDA ITEM 9.6: EU Request for greater engagement in SPREP Biennial Meetings

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** that the existing SPREP Rules of Meeting Procedure are sufficient to meet the European Union's (EU) request;
2. **Endorsed** the proposed mechanism as an appropriate response to the request of the EU;
3. **Agreed** that the proposed mechanism should serve as a model for subsequent observer interest in a similar level of engagement in SPREP biennial Meetings; and
4. **Noted** the EU letter of 25th July informing the Director General of SPREP that the EU would like to withdraw its request for greater engagement in SPREP biennial meetings pending a positive resolution regarding the permanent observer status of the European Union to SPC.

CLOSED SESSION DECISIONS:

AGENDA ITEM 9.7: SPREP Director General's Performance Assessment and Contract Renewal

The Meeting:

1. **Noted and endorsed** the review completed by the Troika of the Director General's Performance Development Plan (PDP) for the period Sept 2018 - Sept 2019, acknowledging the many achievements and positive outcomes as well as areas requiring attention over the next year;
2. **Approved** renewal of Mr Kosi Latu's contract as Director General for a term of two years only in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for the Appointment of the Director General; and
3. **Noted and endorsed** the process for the Director General's next PDP (Sept 2019 – Sept 2020) where the Troika will work with the DG over the next month to finalise the next PDP targets by the end of October 2019. Members are invited to send to the Secretariat by the end of September 2019 any specific targets they wish to be included in the DG's next PDP.

AGENDA ITEM 9.8: Process for the Recruitment of the SPREP Director General for 2021

The Meeting:

1. **Reaffirmed** that the SPREP Meeting would oversee the process for the recruitment of the next SPREP Director General scheduled for 2021. The Secretariat would kickstart the process in the last half of 2020 through direct communication with all members regarding the process and requirements in line with the Rules of Procedure for the Appointment of the Director General, so that a report with a recommendation is ready to be considered by the SPREP Meeting in 2021.
2. **Approved** changing the Director General's Term of Appointment from the current period of three years in the first instance to four years initially with a possible renewal for another two years subject to performance and needs of the Secretariat.

AGENDA ITEM 10.1: Report on Members' Contributions

The Meeting:

1. **Considered** the report and **addressed** the problem of outstanding member contributions; and
2. **Committed** itself collectively and individually to paying current and outstanding contributions in full in 2019.

AGENDA ITEM 10.2: Sustainable Financing

The Meeting:

1. **Considered** and **noted** the above report on Sustainable Financing measures by the Secretariat.

AGENDA ITEM 11.1 : SPREP Performance Implementation Plan and Results Framework 2020/21

The Meeting:

1. **Endorsed** the 2020 – 2021 Performance Implementation Plan;
2. **Endorsed** the 2017 – 2026 Results Framework; and
3. **Considered and advised** on the process proposed by the Secretariat for the development and implementation of Country and Territory Action Plans.
4. **Endorsed** the additional outcome under Organisational Goal 2.1 that Gender and disability inclusion is mainstreamed throughout SPREP Programmes.

AGENDA ITEM 12.1.1: Climate Change Resilience Programme Highlights 2020/2021 Work Programme

The Meeting:

1. **Endorsed** key areas of work and focus of the Climate Change Resilience Work Programme for 2020/2021.

AGENDA ITEM 12.1.2: Report on UNFCCC COP24 and preparations for COP25

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the outcomes of the Twenty-fourth Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
2. **Noted** that further work will be needed to operationalise the Katowice Climate Package;
3. **Welcomed** the support being provided by the One CROP Plus team led by SPREP;
4. **Supported** the leadership of SPREP in developing and operationalising the Twenty-fifth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 25) Pacific Voyage - One CROP Plus Plan for COP25 to the UNFCCC; and
5. **Advocated** for support to be provided to ensure adequate representation of Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS) in COP25 noting the standing invitation to the UNFCCC Parties to make contributions to the Trust Fund for Participation in the UNFCCC Process, which supports Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Participation at COP25 and other UNFCCC Meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 12.1.3: 1.5° Degrees Report

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the key findings and implications of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C for the region;
2. further **encouraged** the use of this evidence in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiation process, including at COP25;
3. **Noted** and continue to **support** activities which strengthen the participation of Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS) in IPCC and UNFCCC processes; and
4. **Noted** the support of SPREP and the IMPACT project to facilitate country engagement with this report at Government Review stage and at the IPCC Plenary.

AGENDA ITEM 12.1.4: Climate Change and Oceans

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** recent developments in the field of climate change and oceans;
2. **Noted** the oceans related projects with relevance to climate change;
3. **Endorsed** SPREP's engagement in oceans and climate change initiatives.

AGENDA ITEM 12.1.5: Update from the Fifth Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-5)

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the outcomes of the Fifth Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-5);
2. **Noted** the new Pacific Climate Change Science and Services Research Roadmap
3. **Acknowledged** with thanks the support provided by: the Government of Samoa for hosting the meeting; World Meteorological Organisation (WMO); Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Secretariat; Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC); Impact Project (Climate Analytics); Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT through CSIRO); University of Hawai'i; and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) through the Climate Ocean Support Programme for the Pacific (COSPPac) project; and
4. **Requested** the Pacific Met Desk Partnership to continue work with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and partners to achieve the action items from PMC-5.

AGENDA ITEM 12.2.1: Islands and Ocean Ecosystems Programme 2020-21 Overview

The Meeting:

1. **Endorsed** the 2020-2021 Island and Ocean Ecosystems biennial work programme.

AGENDA ITEM 12.2.2: Beyond the Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol: Proposed Phase 2 for Pacific ABS Project

The Meeting:

1. **Approved** the development of a second phase of the current Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded SPREP executed Regional Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS) Project; and
2. **Agreed** in line with the Decision NP-3/8 of the Nagoya Conference of the Parties (COP) Meeting of the Parties (MOP) for those Pacific Island Countries that have yet to complete their System of Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) proposals for the GEF 7th replenishment consider contribution from within their national allocations of at least US\$300,000 for a second phase of the regional ABS Project.

AGENDA ITEM 12.2.3: Pacific Year of the Coral Reef 2018-2019: Update and Outcomes Finalised

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the update and outcomes of the Pacific Year of Coral Reef 2018/2019; and
2. **Noted** the progress in developing the Regional Coral Reef Action Plan.

AGENDA ITEM 12.3.1: WMPC Highlights of the 2020-2021 Work Programme

The Meeting:

1. **Endorsed** the 2020-21 work programme for the SPREP Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme; and
2. **Committed** to provide in-kind support and commitment at the National level, where feasible, to work with SPREP and partners to deliver on the programme of work for waste management and pollution control, with an emphasis on preventing marine pollution.

AGENDA ITEM 12.3.2: Review of PACPLAN

The Meeting:

1. **Endorsed** Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN 2019) as the framework agreement for addressing regional oil and hazardous and noxious substances spill response; and
2. **Noted** that SPREP, SPREP country and metropolitan Members will have to implement their respective roles and responsibilities, as outlined in the revised PACPLAN, to ensure effective responses to marine spill incidents.

AGENDA ITEM 12.3.3: Maritime Pollution Emerging Issues

The Meeting:

1. **Sought** Member commitment to have their relevant departments work with SPREP and partners to ratifying and or meeting the requirements of these conventions, noting their importance in protecting the marine environment and humans from ship sourced pollution.

AGENDA ITEM 12.3.4: Implementation of the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the progress in developing and implementing the Pacific Regional Marine Action Litter Action Plan (PMLAP) by Pacific island Members and **acknowledged** the financial support provided by Australia to implement the Pacific Ocean Litter Project;
2. **Reaffirmed commitment** to eliminate marine litter and recognise the urgency of implementing the marine litter action plan including the fast tracking of:
 - a. policies and actions to reduce plastic pollution that embrace whole of life cycle approaches to products, alternatives and consumption patterns;
 - b. enforcement and compliance of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) provisions on vessels particularly fishing vessels and cruise ships; and
 - c. sustainability plans and actions for major events, including sporting events such as the Pacific Games, regional meetings such as the Forum Leaders Meeting and conferences such as the Our Oceans Conference.

3. **Reaffirmed** the lead role of SPREP in implementation of the PMLAP in close collaboration with relevant regional agencies and partners in supporting Members to fast-track relevant policies and actions to implement the PMLAP.

AGENDA ITEM 12.3.5: Pacific Environment Forum outcomes

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the outcome report from the 2019 Pacific Environment Forum (PEF)

AGENDA ITEM 12.4.1: Environmental Monitoring and Governance Programme Overview 2020 - 2021

The Meeting:

1. **Endorsed** the proposed work programme priorities for Environmental Monitoring and Governance for the biennial period 2020 to 2021.

AGENDA ITEM 12.4.2: Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Guidelines

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** efforts by the Secretariat to progress the development of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) guidelines for Pacific islands Countries and territories;
2. **Endorsed** the proposed process for finalising the SEA Guidelines that integrates key awareness raising and capacity building activities for Members; and
3. **Endorsed** the proposed timeline for completing the SEA Guidelines for the Executive Board's consideration at its meeting in 2020.

AGENDA ITEM 12.4.3: Implementation of the Inform Project: strengthening data management to support planning and decision making

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** progress achieved under the Inform Project; and
2. **Endorsed** the proposed three-pronged approach to sustain the outcomes of the Inform Project beyond the life of the current project.

AGENDA ITEM 12.5: Consideration and Approval of Proposed Work Programme and Biennial Budget for 2020-2021

The Meeting:

1. **Considered and approved** the proposed Biennial Work Programme and Budget for 2020 for **USD 36,864,133** for 2021 for **USD 30,453,596**

AGENDA ITEM 13.1: Report on the Fifteenth ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the convention for the protection of the natural resources and environment of the South Pacific Region and related protocols (Noumea Convention)

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the Report of the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Noumea Convention

AGENDA ITEM 13.2: Report of the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and the Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (the Waigani Convention)

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the Report of the tenth Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention.

AGENDA ITEM 14.1: Items Proposed by Members: Biodiversity in Oceania IPBES workshop outcomes and recommendations

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the relevance of a future Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) regional chapter for the Oceania Region;
2. **Endorsed** the recommendations proposed by experts at the 'Biodiversity in Oceania' meeting in Nouméa in June, 2019 included in the summary book;
3. **Endorsed** submission of these specific ocean recommendations to international fora, and especially:
 - Papeete April, 2020, One Planet Summit
 - Noumea April 2020, 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas,
 - Marseilles, June, 2020 World Conservation Congress
 - Kunming, October, 2020, Fifteenth Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties

AGENDA ITEM 14.2: Items Proposed by Members: Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the invitation from Australia for Members to consider nominating ministers or their representatives to the GEO Ministerial Summit in Canberra, Australia (7-8 November 2019), to ensure Pacific earth observing needs are heard and national opportunities can be developed.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Dates of the Second Executive Board Meeting

The Meeting:

1. **Agreed** to convene the second Executive Board (EB) Meeting in the first week of September in 2020
2. **Noted** the composition of the EB for 2020.