

Twenty Third SPREP Meeting of Officials

4-6 September 2012
Noumea
New Caledonia

Agenda Item 9.1.1: 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, November 2013

Purpose

1. To seek endorsement of the Secretariat's proposed plans for the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas (The Conference) to be convened in November 2013.

Background

2. SPREP is the lead regional organization responsible for coordinating the Conference. The last Conference was held in Alotau, Papua New Guinea in October 2007. The next Conference is planned for November 2013 in Fiji.
3. A concept paper to guide preparations for the Conference has been developed by the Secretariat with input from members of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (Attachment 1). The Secretariat is in the process of developing funding proposals to raise US\$500,000 to support the Conference, in close cooperation with SPREP Member countries and Roundtable Members. Neil Walkinshaw, a volunteer with New Zealand Volunteer Services Abroad, started at SPREP in June 2012 on an 18 month position to support implementation of the Conference.
4. The Conference aims at setting new conservation and protected area targets and actions in the Pacific region. These will form the basis for developing the new Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific. The Secretariat is working closely with the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation to plan and implement activities for the Conference, with the support from the host country Fiji.

Recommendations

5. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **Endorse** the Concept Paper for the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas; and
 - Give full **support** to the Secretariat to enable it to successfully deliver and achieve the expected outcomes for the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas; and
 - **Encourage** partners and donors to provide financial support to ensure the effective planning and implementation of the Conference.