

Eleventh Meeting of The Noumea Convention

Eleventh 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)

Noumea, New Caledonia
30 August 2012

Agenda Item 8.3: PACPLAN Review

Purpose

1. To advise on developments for the review of the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN).

Background

2. The 2000 SPREP Meeting in Guam approved the *Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN)* that provides the framework for cooperative responses to major marine spills in the Pacific islands region, including broad aims and objectives, underlying spill response philosophies and priorities, roles and responsibilities of relevant organizations, regional and international linkages and mechanisms for accessing regional and international assistance.
3. The PACPLAN defines SPREP Member countries into two categories – Primary Responders (Australia, France, NZ and USA) and Response Receivers (PICTS). The PACPLAN also divides PICTS into 4 groups with each group overseen by one of the primary responders.

The table below outlines the groups:

Primary Responder	Response Receivers
Australia	Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Kiribati
France	French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Wallis & Futuna
New Zealand	Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Tokelau, Tonga
United States	American Samoa, FSM, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Samoa

PACPLAN Review Process

4. The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has provided funding for the review of PACPLAN in 2012. The review process will be carried out in a 2 phased approach:

- Phase 1 – This will involve a review process between the primary responder and the respective island member countries in a 3 day workshop. One of the key issues to be discussed would be the trigger mechanisms for assistance by the primary responders and the expectations and requirements necessary in island countries for the delivery of the response.
- Phase 2 – this will involve a finalization workshop at SPREP HQ in Apia Samoa.

Review Timing

5. The review process will involve 4 workshops hosted by the primary responders Australia, France, NZ and USA followed by a final workshop in Samoa to finalise the PACLAN document. The review is schedule to be carried out in the 4th quarter (October and November) 2012.

6. The following review workshops have been scheduled:

- Auckland: 9th – 11th October
- Sydney: 30th October – 1st November
- Honolulu: ??
- New Caledonia: ??
- Apia: ??

Recommendations

7. The Meeting is invited to:

- **Comment** and **Endorse** the PACPLAN review process; and
- **Call** on members to provide assistance where possible.

Attachment 1: Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan
