



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 8.5: Future Activities & discussion on operational budget

Purpose

1. To provide the opportunity for Parties to discuss the direction of desirable activities under the Convention in the future, where funding becomes available.

Background

1. There are two sources of funds available which can be used for operational activities.
2. Paragraph 45 of the Joint Eight Conferences of the Parties to the Apia and Noumea Conventions 2006, stipulated that the existing funds of the Apia Convention Account be directed to the Noumea Convention programme of work and budget. For ease of accounting the funds have remained in the Apia Convention account, 2501. The funds currently total \$20,531.85.
3. The United States made a voluntary contribution to the Noumea account at the end of 2010 & 2011. This contribution in March 2012 enabled a workshop in collaboration with PIF Secretariat to develop regional frameworks for reporting and streamlining of report and initial development of a regional framework for reporting on ecosystem condition. Using this framework, the secretariat in March 2012 assisted Samoa in its State of the Environment Reporting (reported in WP.4.1).
4. The use of either or both funds is open to the Meeting to discuss and decide upon.

Future Activities

2. The Pacific Oceanscape Framework documents a regional vision, repeatedly endorsed by Pacific Island leaders, which has some similarities in scope and focus to some areas of the Convention. Emphasizing common goals and seeking mechanism to link the Convention to activities under the Pacific Oceanscape has the potential to add greater strength to both mechanisms, potentially creating opportunities to fund a greater number of activities under the Convention.
3. Deep Sea Mineral mining is an emerging issue of particular relevance to the convention, the Secretariat engaged in this issue during 2011 and 2012, by commenting on the Regulatory Framework and the production of a SPREP paper on the precautionary principle in relation to Deep Sea Mineral mining in the Pacific. In Addition, representatives of the Secretariat attended key workshops related to DSM mining in the Pacific region.

Recommendation

4. The Parties are invited to:

- **Agree** to the Secretariat and parties looking for opportunities to link activities of the Convention with the Pacific Oceanscape initiative;
 - **Support** the Secretariat in further engagement, funds permitting, with the issue of DSM mining; and
 - **Suggest** additional direction for the convention on this emerging issue.
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