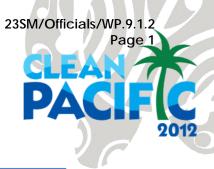


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The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Twenty Third SPREP Meeting of Officials

4-6 September 2012 Noumea New Caledonia

Agenda Item 9.1.2: Regional Marine Species Action Plans 2013-2017

Purpose of paper

1. To seek endorsement of the revised regional Marine Species Action Plans for the next five year period, 2013-2017 (Attachment 1).

Background

2. Since 2003, SPREP has been facilitating implementation of 5-year regional marine species action plans that focus on three groups of marine species of conservation concern: dugongs, marine turtles and cetaceans (whales and dolphins).

3. The current Marine Species Action Plans (2008-2012) conclude at the end of 2012.

4. SPREP's work on marine species has been linked with and supported by species related Conventions, in particular, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)which is supporting an officer at SPREP (Penina Solomona), and the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

5. The attached Plan has been developed following extensive consultation with SPREP Members and partners in the region, including a major review meeting in Nadi, Fiji in March 2012.

Recommendation

- 6. The Meeting is invited to:
 - > Endorse the revised Marine Species Action Plans for 2013-2017;
 - Urge Members to strengthen their commitment and effort for species conservation work in general and marine species in particular; and
 - Call on partners and donors to increase their support of efforts to conserve and manage marine species in the Pacific region.