

Twenty-Fourth SPREP Meeting

17-19 September 2013
Apia, Samoa

AGENDA ITEM 9.1.4: Utilizing the Pacific Oceanscape Framework to effectively focus regional and national marine and terrestrial management efforts

Purpose

1. This paper outlines progress with the Pacific Oceanscape Framework and updates Members on SPREP activities in support of the Oceanscape Framework.

Background

2. The Pacific Oceanscape was conceived by H.E. Anote Tong, President of Kiribati, in early 2009 and the concept was endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum leaders at their 40th Meeting in August 2009, and has been repeatedly endorsed by Leaders at subsequent leaders meetings.

3. Pacific country commitments to the Pacific Oceanscape have been significant, including the Phoenix Islands Protected Area, the Tokelau EEZ management initiative, the New Caledonia Coral Sea MPA and the commitment by the Cook Islands to establish the Cook Islands Marine Park.

4. In 2010 the Pacific Environment Ministers' Communique "Welcomed the decision of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in Port Vila in August 2010 to endorse the Framework for the Pacific Oceanscape, noting with appreciation the role of SPREP in its development, and welcomed their request to CROP agencies to implement the Framework in partnership with other relevant organisations."

5. The CROP Marine Sector Working Group continues to act as the support and implementation mechanism for the Oceanscape Framework and the office of the Ocean Commissioner. However, the functions of the office and implementation of activities have been limited by the lack of funding for dedicated staff and implementation of key actions.

6. However, approaches to funding bodies, including the GEF Secretariat, have been limited by a lack of clear indication from within line agencies of Member countries that there is support for the Oceanscape Framework.

7. SPREP in collaboration with SPC (through the Marine Sector Working Group) recently commissioned a report on the implementation status of the Pacific Oceanscape Framework which identified some priority areas to progress implementation of the framework. The priority areas include: (a) the formalization of maritime boundaries (Action 1a,b); (b) the strengthening of the regional institutional framework and leadership for ocean governance (Action 2a); (c) exploring cost-effectiveness of management approaches, sustainable financing mechanisms and donor harmonization (Actions 5a,c,d); (d) incorporation of sustainable use and development of coastal and ocean resources into development policy and planning (Action 2c); (e) integrated management of coastal resources; (f) spatial planning of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and exploring management of the high seas (Actions 3a,b,c); (g) development of a centralized mechanism to assess emerging issues, manage risks and explore opportunities (Action 6a) and to incorporate environmental and climate change adaptation and mitigation into sustainable development, conservation and governance actions (Action 6b).

8. Concept notes to seek funding to address key gaps and needs were developed and five most relevant to SPREP members are annexed covering the areas of:

- a. Strengthen leadership and alliances for Pacific Ocean Governance through Ocean Commission
- b. Coordination of national engagement, needs assessment and support on ocean related policy
- c. Implementing Integrated Coastal Management / Ecosystem-based Management
- d. National systems and services for building community resilience
- e. Marine Spatial Planning at multiple scales

Recommendation

9. The Meeting is invited to:

- **re-affirm** the Pacific Oceanscape Framework as the over-riding regional vision and framework guiding sustainable use and conservation of the Pacific Ocean;
- **endorse** the concept notes annexed as the direction for SPREP to seek funding for increased implementation of the Pacific Oceanscape Framework.
- **direct** the Secretariat to work with Members and partners to seek funds under the Oceanscape Framework to support marine and terrestrial management actions in PICTs, including the establishment of protected areas, integrated management and marine spatial planning; and
- **support** efforts which coordinate and align regional mechanisms and investment strategies to the Pacific Oceanscape Framework.

