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

Twelfth meeting of the Noumea Convention

Twelfth 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)

Majuro, Marshall Islands
 26 September 2014

Agenda Item 4.1: Report of the secretariat on work performed during the period July 2012 to July 2014 (Noumea Convention and Protocols)

1. Report on work performed in relation to the Noumea Convention

Background:

The Noumea Convention has two sources of funding, contributions from Parties, which support the biennial Conference of the Parties, and an operating budget, which largely consists of an annual contribution to the Convention through contributions to the Secretariat from the United States of America. This Report details expenditure from the Noumea Convention operating account during 2013.

Summary:

At the 11th Noumea Convention COP, held in Noumea in 2012 (full report of the COP attached as Annex 1), the Parties directed the Secretariat to develop a list of outputs for prioritization by Parties, to be carried out using the operating funds of the Convention. A list of activities was developed by the Secretariat, circulated for comment and, using a consensus approach, a final list of activities to be funded during the 2013-2014 Convention term was established (Annex 2). Prioritized activities are summarized, with funds expended during 2013 and current status of outputs, in Table 1.

Table 1: Operating activities funded under Noumea Convention, with funds from United States of America

	Funded	Activity	Status of output	2013 Expenditure	Articles
1	US\$40,000 (CMA)	Regional Workshop on Environmental perspectives on DSM activities	Workshop Completed, outputs delivered.	\$37,819	Art. 13 Art. 18
2	US\$20,000 (CMA)	Seed funding to initiate a Pacific wide Marine Protected Area 'network of networks' (Oceanscape)	Contractor engaged, needs assessment underway, web site to be developed by June 2014.	\$6,078	Art. 14
3	US\$20,000 (ROO)	Update 1993 wetland inventories for up to 11 Pacific Island Countries (Ramsar convention)	Contractor engaged, country visits initiated, reports to be completed by May 2014	\$20,000	Art. 14
4	US\$30,000	Carry out a Risk assessment for Marine	Actions planned for 2014	\$0	Art. 6

	Funded	Activity	Status of output	2013 Expenditure	Articles
	(MPO)	Pollution by reviewing the Shipping patterns in the region (MV and FFV)– this will provide operational funds for an AMSA secondment.			
5	US\$50,000 (PA)	Marine plastic litter, status and recommendations for Pacific based research and action	Contractor engaged and actions initiated, completed by December 2014	\$50,000	Art. 6 Art. 10
6	US\$20,000 (DEMG)	Draft regional environmental guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development	Actions planned for 2014, will be completed by December 2014	\$0	Art. 13 Art. 7 Art. 16 Art. 14

Activity 1: Regional workshop in environmental perspectives of Deep Sea Mineral activities

- **Project Cost:** \$80,000
- **Funding Source:** Noumea Convention Operating Funds; EDF 10 SOPAC Deep Sea Mineral project
- **Implementing Process:** SPREP will facilitate this workshop with SPC-SOPAC
- **Cost to Noumea Convention operating account:** US\$40,000

Objectives:

1. To raise awareness and provide a forum for discussion amongst environment professionals of the emerging Deep Sea Mineral industry, potential issues from an environment sector perspective.
2. To assess site and national perspectives, particularly related to national responsibilities within the EIA process, such as evaluating the EIA, establishing the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), monitoring and enforcement of the EMP.
3. To assess regional issues, particularly any policy needs.
4. To assist countries to identify capacity gaps for implementing all steps of the EIA process at national and regional scales and proposing measures to fill these gaps.

Relevant articles of the Noumea Convention:

- **Article 13:** Mining and Coastal Erosion
- **Article 8:** Pollution from Seabed activities

Background:

Rising global demand for metals and developments in technology have recently renewed industry interest in exploring, and exploiting, deposits of deep sea minerals ('DSM'). The 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea gives coastal states exclusive sovereign rights over the DSM contained within national marine boundaries. For many Pacific islands, this means that over 99% of their national jurisdiction is ocean. Surveys indicating abundant and promising mineral deposits in the Pacific Island region therefore suggest a potential economic opportunity for Pacific islands. However, this must be balanced with other resource uses. As well as bestowing legal rights over DSM, international law also imposes duties. States must: protect the marine environment; prevent, reduce and control pollution; and preserve rare or fragile ecosystems and ocean habitats. Since there is still much to learn about the vast ocean environments and how they may be affected by DSM exploration and exploitation activities, the 'precautionary approach' must be applied as States consider whether or not to pursue DSM activities.

An environmental management approach: prior environmental impact assessment (EIA) is a requirement of international law for any project likely to have significant impact on the marine environment. It is through the EIA (and ongoing environmental monitoring) that 'unknowns' for a particular project are reduced. Applying EIA requirements stringently for DSM: erring on the side of caution with regards which activities trigger an EIA, taking independent expert advice in the review of EIAs, and – if the EIA leads to an informed decision that mining can proceed - establishing a robust Environmental Management Plan ('EMP') on the basis of the EIA (with ongoing data collection and monitoring requirements), will be a key component to applying the precautionary approach in the DSM context. The EMP should impose clear requirements on DSM operators for comprehensive baseline research and regular data collection, to enable effective observation and analysis of the impacts of DSM activity on the marine environment, ecosystems and users.

Other relevant environmental management measures include: establishing marine protected areas, implementing marine spatial planning, the use around mining sites of un-mined buffer zones and control zones for environmental monitoring and repopulation, mitigation strategies (such as limiting the number and size of DSM projects at any one time, and placing a requirement on all DSM operators to use the best available technology and best environmental practices). Strategic environmental assessment by Governments for their entire marine areas – and a paradigm shift from a single sector approach to an 'ecosystem approach' of integrated marine planning across all sectors is also recommended.

Report on actions during 2013:

- Expenditure during 2013: \$40,000
- Implementation status: completed

The workshop delivered key technical information on the deep sea environment, options and possibilities for both exploration and mining, as well as presentations from both government officials involved in the development of policies and plans at a national level, international and local civil society representatives and regional organisations (Annex 3). The workshop allowed for specific input to developing a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment process for the three deposit types of Deep Sea Minerals, as well as discussion of potential engagement with an integrated management process at multiple scales through the use of Marine Spatial Planning, a consensus output document was developed from the meeting participants (Annex 4). This joint workshop included participation by government participants from environment and development sectors of Pacific island countries and territories, representatives of the mining industry, regional organisations and national and international non-governmental organisations. A total of 90 participants attended the workshop

Activity 2: Initiation of a Pacific wide Marine Protected Area 'Network of Networks'

- **Total Project Cost:** US\$20,000
- **Cost to Noumea Convention operating account:** US\$20,000
- **Expected Project duration:** work to be carried out by June 2014

Objectives:

1. To implement the Oceanscape Framework through the initial development of a Pacific wide Marine Protected Area 'network of networks'.
2. Identify key marine protected area networks at regional, national and sub-national scales, as well as key management resources and tools available online through these networks.
3. Develop a web page on the SPREP web site linking these networks and acting as an effective portal and resource for marine managers in the Pacific Region.

Relevant articles of the Noumea Convention:

- **Article 14:** Protection of flora and fauna

Background:

The Pacific islands and ocean region is a global resource for which the peoples of the Pacific islands are stewards. Regionally, the Pacific and its resources present significant management challenges due to the immense size of the marine ecosystem and the numerous nations and thousands of islands that it contains. These challenges are specifically recognized in the Pacific Plan and further detailed in the Pacific Oceanscape Framework, endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders.

SPREP recognizes the importance of the goals of sustainable development in the region (as detailed in the Pacific Plan and the SPREP Strategic Plan 2011-2015) as well as the need for a regional approach to management of marine resources (as detailed in the Pacific Oceanscape Framework), if this is to be effectively achieved. Within the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Division, the Coastal and Marine Programme is dedicated to achieving the SPREP strategic goal of facilitating implementation of the Pacific Oceanscape Framework including support in the development of marine protected areas, the synthesis of data to support regional processes for assessment of ecosystem condition and the development of regional approaches and capacity building for upcoming issues of relevance to the region.

One of the key strategic priorities of the Oceanscape Framework is Liaising, Listening and Learning – including the linking and cross learning of efforts between countries throughout the Pacific. In particular recognition of the Ocean Arc concept, that the marine resources of many Pacific islands are connected, with the Pacific Ocean representing a series of island archipelagos. Our management efforts need to reflect this ecological connectivity, and allow cross learning from marine management efforts, as well as sharing of resources, in the establishment and effective management of marine and coastal areas. Establishment of an MPA ‘network of networks’ will initially deliver a social network, and network of common resources to assist marine managers throughout the Pacific island countries and territories.

Report on actions during 2013

- Expenditure during 2013: \$4,785 (consultancy – first payment)
 \$1,293 (Protected Area Practitioner cocktail)
- Implementation status: ongoing, to be complete by July 2014

This project was initiated during 2013, with a contractor engaged to develop this output and expenditure is predominantly the primary payment to the contractor, as well as funding towards an engagement event with Protected Area partners. Synthesis information has been developed (annex 5) as well as a draft web portal and web and hard copy needs assessment, which has been distributed to national level managers and national protected area practitioners (the primary audience).

Activity 3: Update 1993 wetland inventories for three Pacific Island Countries (Ramsar Convention)

- **Total Project Cost:** US\$60,000
- **Cost to Noumea Convention operating account:** US\$20,000. Additional complementary funding of AUD\$40,000 was received from the Australian Government for this activity.
- **Expected Project duration:** November 2013 – May 2014

Objectives:

1. To update the wetland inventories for Palau, Kiribati and Vanuatu, conforming to guidance outlined in the Ramsar Convention's handbook 15 on 'Wetland Inventory'.
2. To provide theoretical and practical in-country training for national counterparts on how to conduct a national wetland inventory.
3. To provide the updated inventories with maps and other images in a dynamic Microsoft Access database format that will be housed at SPREP

Relevant articles of the Noumea Convention:

- **Article 14:** Protection of flora and fauna

Background:

Wetlands are among the world's most productive (and threatened) ecosystems and the services that they provide to humanity are significant. In order to effectively conserve and manage wetlands, a first step is to document and understand their distribution and status through conducting detailed baseline wetland inventories. Across the Pacific region, The *Directory of Wetlands in Oceania 1993* documented available information on the distribution, status and values of wetlands in Pacific Island Countries and Territories, however, much of this existing information needs updating.

A number of Pacific Island Countries are contracting parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and as such are obligated to formulate and implement national planning to promote the conservation of their Ramsar sites and other wetlands within their jurisdiction. Such planning relies very much on the availability of comprehensive data on wetlands.

This project aims to update wetland inventories for Kiribati, Palau and Vanuatu as a means of strengthening the baseline state of knowledge of wetlands in these countries. Such baseline information would be valuable for informing conservation decisions, raising awareness of the importance of wetlands, influencing public perception of wetlands, creating ongoing monitoring, revealing trends over time, identifying priority sites for conservation management (eg- for designating Ramsar Sites or other types of Protected Areas) and as a tool for planning and implementing effective conservation interventions for wetlands, especially in light of the impacts of climate change.

This project will specifically work to build national capacity to conduct future wetland inventory updates, as well as to be able to use information collated in the inventory process in national decision making. To facilitate this, collated data will be centralized and delivered to SPREP, which will act as the central depository and dissemination point.

Updating wetland inventories is a priority under the *SPREP Regional Wetlands Action Plan 2011-2013*.

Report on actions during 2013

- Expenditure during 2013: \$28,514.50 (consultancy)
- Implementation status: ongoing, to be complete by December 2014

This project commenced from late 2013, with a consultancy engaged to implement project activities. Expenditure above is the primary starter payment to the consultancy. Draft reports on each country are currently being reviewed, and a final project report with recommendations for expansion of this wetlands work is forthcoming. Expected completion of deliverables/outputs is October /November 2014.

Current Status (July 2014)

- A project extension up to the end of July was requested by the consultants to complete and submit all project deliverables. The extension was requested due to the unforeseen ill health of one of the consultants working on the Kiribati component of the project. The extension was granted.
- The draft national wetland inventory reports for Vanuatu, Kiribati and Palau are currently being finalized with input from key partners.
- A Microsoft Access database containing the three country wetland inventories has been completed.
- Theoretical and field-based training on how to conduct a national wetland inventory successfully completed for Environment staff and other key government ministry staff of the three countries. The list of participants who underwent the training from all three countries can be found below (Annex 6).

Activity 4: Seed funding for Regional Port Waste Reception Facilities Audit's

- **Total Project Cost:** US\$30,000
- **Cost to Noumea Convention operating account:** US\$30,000
- **Expected Project duration:**

To allow SPREP sufficient time to complete the Regional Port Waste Facilities Plan and submit for review and comment by IMO, the following draft schedule would be expected;

- MARPOL audits finalized - May 2014
- Draft Regional Reception Facilities Plan completed - June 2014
- Comments on the draft Plan submitted to SPREP - July 2014
- Final Draft distributed and paper submitted for Noumea COP 12 - **08 August 2014**
- Regional Reception Facilities Plan submitted for MEPC 67 - **29 Aug 2014**

Objectives

The objectives for the audit are to:

- conduct a MARPOL audit of the selected locations for Regional Reception Facilities;
- report on the findings of the Regional Reception Facilities audit;
- develop a Regional Port Waste Facilities Plan for the SPREP region based on the IMO Guidelines; and
- increase capacity of Government officials on the implications of ratifying, implementing and enforcing the MARPOL Convention.

Background

Regional Port Waste Reception Facilities Audit's need to be conducted prior to May 2014, to be held at the following locations;

- Fiji;
- Guam;
- New Caledonia;
- Papua New Guinea; and
- Tahiti.

At the eleventh Meeting of the Noumea Convention (Annex 7 - Agenda Item 8.2), the Secretariat provided an overview of efforts to develop a Regional Port Waste Facilities Plan. SPREP explained that the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee 49th session (MEPC 49), agreed that regional arrangements are an acceptable way to satisfy MARPOL obligations relating to adequate waste reception facilities for ships. This approach could have the potential to resolve obstacles for many countries to become party to MARPOL.

SPREP proposes to conduct a thorough assessment of the waste reception facilities at the above ports and terminals with the assistance of Governments and Metropolitan Members, as part of this

process. The completed audits will help identify port infrastructure limitations that may need to be addressed, rectified or identified in the Regional Port Reception Facilities Plan.

Report on actions during 2013

- Expenditure during 2013: no funds expended
- Implementation status: ongoing, to be complete by December 2014

SPREP will conduct the Regional Reception Facilities audits on two phases. The first phase would cover Guam and Papua New Guinea, with the second phase covering Fiji, New Caledonia and Tahiti.

Relevant articles of the Noumea Convention:

- **Article 6:** Pollution from vessels

Activity 5: Marine Plastic Litter, status and recommendations for Pacific based research and action

- **Total Project Cost:** US\$50,000
- **Cost to Noumea Convention operating account:** US\$45,000
- **Expected Project duration:** work to be carried out by August 2016

Objectives:

1. To identify marine litter sources in the PICTs;
2. To reduce marine litter sources in the PICTs;

Relevant articles of the Noumea Convention:

- **Article 6:** Pollution from Vessels
- **Article 10:** Disposal of wastes

Background

Discarded plastic waste is considered one of the priority marine pollution issues facing the Pacific region. This view was reinforced by the 23rd SPREP Meeting in Noumea, New Caledonia, which called on SPREP to increase its management efforts in the area of marine plastic and litter. Plastic materials are particularly harmful to the marine environment due to their exceptional durability and consequent accumulation, their ability to absorb toxic chemicals from the surrounding water and to subsequently leach toxic additives into the environment.

Funding availability

The 11th COP of the Noumea Convention (2012) directed SPREP to solicit recommendation on priority activities for use of available operational funds under the Convention (\$US175,000) - (*Annex 1 – Noumea Convention COP11 Report*). Marine litter pollution was prioritised by Members for intervention; and \$UD45,000 allocated from the Noumea Convention Operating Fund for this purpose (*Annex 2 – Prioritised activities for operational budget of the Noumea Convention*).

Course of action

- Action I: Development of a background position paper on marine plastic litter, status and recommendations for the Pacific region. This has a high priority for SPREP Members and needs be completed prior to the next Noumea Convention COP in mid 2014.
- Action II: Further refinement of selected priority actions and implementation of at least two priority strategies that will result in improvements in information about, and management of marine litter in the Pacific region between 2014 and 2016.

Current Status

SPREP has entered into a contract with the University of Auckland to develop a regional research programme and management outline (\$US10,000). Based on outcomes of this programme, two sequential grants of \$US20K (total \$US40K) are proposed to support two (or more) areas of work that have management benefits for the Pacific (*Annex 8 – Marine Plastic Litter Project Contract*).

Work timetable

Date	Critical Action	Responsible
January 2014	Pacific litter action strategy development	SPREP/Auckland University
June 2014	Regional research programme and management outline completed	Auckland University
July 2014	Regional research project outlines completed	Auckland University
September 2014	Noumea COP	SPREP
July 2016	Research project 1 completed	Auckland University
July 2016	Research Project 2 completed	Auckland University

Report on actions during 2013

- Expenditure during 2013: US \$5,000.00
- Implementation status: ongoing, to be completed by December 2014

The Consultancy Contract was signed in November 2013. An initial sum of US \$5,000.00 was paid out upon execution of the contract. It is estimated that US \$15,000.00 will be expended in 2014.

Activity 6: Draft regional environmental guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development

- **Total Project Cost:** US\$20,000
- **Cost to Noumea Convention operating account:** US\$20,000
- **Expected Project duration:** work to be carried out by August 2014

Objectives:

1. To build on the revised regional EIA guidelines currently being drafted
2. To provide guidance to pacific island environmental managers for the environmental impact assessment of tourism sector coastal development

Relevant articles of the Noumea Convention:

- **Article 13:** Mining and Coastal Erosion
- **Article 7:** Pollution from land based sources
- **Article 16** – Environmental Impact Assessments
- **Article 14:** Protection of flora and fauna

Background:

SPREP is currently revising its regional EIA guidelines. These guidelines are designed to assist Pacific Island Countries and territories with the regulation and management of their EIA processes. The guidelines will focus on the process itself, the key steps and principles that maintain the integrity of the process and draw from lessons learnt from the past years of practice in the region. It also introduces wider environment assessment tools such as the strategic environment assessments and integrated environment assessments.

A second stage of this effort is to provide sector specific EIA guidelines. This has started with a parallel initiative to draft regional EIA guidelines for deep sea mining. This has been done at the regional level because it is a new development activity where none of the countries have any specific provisions and the environmental considerations are the same throughout the region. Alternatively SPREP has also taken the approach of developing sector specific EIA guidelines as country specific guidelines that serve as a pilot and potential template for regional replication.

Tourism is a key sector in the Pacific with many countries promoting tourism development. Many of these developments are on the coast and close to areas of biodiversity and ecological significance. Samoa and Cook Islands are two countries requesting the development of these guidelines. This project will draft guidelines for tourism development EIAs in at least one of these two pilot countries and funds permitting replicate in the second country.

Climate change is a major concern for Pacific island countries and already impacts existing tourism infrastructure. These guidelines will facilitate the use of the EIA as a tool to promote climate change resilience measures and climate proofing of infrastructure.

Report on actions during 2013

- Expenditure during 2013: no funds expended
- Implementation status: ongoing, to be completed by December 2014

In 2013 SPREP concentrated on the revision of the regional EIA guidelines and the drafting of deep sea mining EIA guidelines. In 2014 the Secretariat will carry out the drafting of EIA guidelines for the tourism development. The guidelines will be developed with the national EIA administrators of Samoa and Cook Islands.

2. Activities completed under Article 6: Pollution from Vessels and Protocols

Activity 1: Sub-regional workshop Compensation and Liability (CLC), Fund and Bunkers Convention.

- **Implementation Status:** Completed, 23-25 January 2012.
- **Project Cost:** US\$40,000
- **Funding Source:** International Maritime Organisation (IMO)
- **Implementing Process:** IMO, IOPC, ITOPE, P&I, AMSA and SPREP
- **Cost to Noumea Convention operating account:** Nil
- **Number of Participants:** 22
- **Recipient countries:** 6 countries – Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu.

Objectives:

1. To train participants in Compensation & Liability (C&L) convention processes and application of the various instruments to Small Island Development States (SIDS), and the Melanesian Sub-region with emphasis on the Bunkers Convention;
2. To assist countries ratification of C&L Conventions;
3. To share experiences, case-studies and best practices of C&L process;
4. To outline the ratification Cost Benefit Analysis of C&L Instruments; and
5. To outline the funding mechanisms available from the C&L Instruments and other avenues.

Summary of Outputs:

1. Training of participants on C&L instruments and processes;
2. Participants having increased knowledge of C&L best practices and instruments particularly on CLC and Bunkers Convention which are most relevant to SIDS, and the Melanesian Sub-region;
3. Encouraged countries to ratify C&L conventions – Solomon Islands;
4. Disseminated examples of domestic (PNG) and regional (Model Legislation) C&L legal instruments;
5. Established networks of professional regional experts on C&L instruments;
6. Provision of advice on C&L instruments - Ratification Cost Benefit Analysis and funding mechanisms available to SIDS;

Summary:

The workshop was carried out by International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC Fund) Ms. Chiara DellaMea and International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF) Mr. Alex Hunt. They were assisted with presentations from Dr. Steve Raaymakers, AMSA Mr. Paul Nelson, SPREP Mr. Anthony Talouli, P&I International Mr. Brian White and Mr. Daniel Twikler. The workshop was held over three days with the objective to increase capacity of participants of compensation and liability instruments. The workshop was held from Monday 23rd to Wednesday 25th January 2012. The nominated participants were from 5 Countries (Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu) with representatives from AMSA Australia. The participants comprised of representatives from the country maritime administrations, PNG port authority, PNG Finance department, PNG Foreign Affairs, PNG Department of Justice, and Oil Companies in PNG InterOil and Mobil.

Activity 2: Workshop on Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas and Other IMO Tools for Area Specific Management

- **Implementation Status:** Completed, 21-23 August 2012
- **Project Cost:** US\$70,000
- **Funding Source:** International Maritime Organisation (IMO)
- **Implementing Process:** IMO, AMSA and SPREP facilitators.
- **Cost to Noumea Convention operating account:** Nil
- **Number of Participants:** 23
- **Recipient countries:** 16 countries – Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna.

Objectives:

1. Increase capacity of participants on IMO instruments that protect sensitive sea areas from international shipping particularly the Guidelines for identification and designation of PSSAs; and
2. Identify ecological or biological significant areas in the Pacific that are under threat from international shipping and could be considered for designation as PSSAs.

Summary of Outputs:

1. Training of 23 participants on IMO Instruments and processes for protection of sensitive sea areas;
2. Participants having increased knowledge of the IMO Instruments and processes especially MARPOL and its context regarding PSSA and Special Areas;
3. Identified 6 potential ecological or biological significant areas for PSSA through group activities; and
4. Established networks of professional regional resources in the region.

Summary:

The main objective of the workshop was to provide a deep understanding of IMO tools for area specific management of shipping to protect the marine environment of the Pacific region, with a particular emphasis on Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs). During the workshop, it became evident that there was a need to raise awareness of the key requirements of a PSSA proposal – inter alia the need to demonstrate the vulnerability to damage from international shipping, the difference between PSSAs and Special Areas, and the type of Associated Protective Measures that can be considered.

In this context, it was clear that the waters of the Pacific region contain examples satisfying the ecological criteria set forth in the PSSA Guidelines. It was clear that more work was needed to be done to identify environmental sensitivities and where the vulnerabilities to international shipping were including what suitable IMO measures were available to reduce or eliminate these threats.

The Workshop was deemed to be a success by all the participants with particular positive feedback received from participants.

In this regard, it is strongly recommended that the IMO continue to support the Secretariat and its members in any follow-up request regarding PSSA proposals, pending availability of funds. The Pacific region does not have any designated PSSAs or Special Areas under MARPOL, yet it possesses some of the most significant ecological resources there are, which are under pressure from many sources, including international shipping. Making shipping safe in the region through appropriate Associated Protective Measures (APMs) in a PSSA would provide for a long term benefit to the marine environment.

Activity 3: Workshop on Oil Spill Level 3 and Coastal Environmental Site Sensitivity

- **Implementation Status:** Completed, 1-5 October 2012
- **Project Cost:** US\$110,000
- **Funding Source:** International Maritime Organisation (IMO)
- **Implementing Process:** IMO, AMSA, Maritime New Zealand and SPREP facilitators.
- **Cost to Noumea Convention operating account:** Nil
- **Number of Participants:** 31
- **Recipient countries:** 12 countries – Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

Objectives:

1. Increase capacity of senior officials on the responsibility of the members of an oil spill response team organization and how to effectively respond to an Oil Spill;
2. Enhance knowledge of the International Oil Spill Preparedness Response and Cooperation (OPRC) Convention, and Regional Noumea Convention Emergency Protocol; and
3. Demonstrate the process of coastal site sensitivity mapping.

Summary of Outputs:

1. Training of 31 participants on IMO and SPREP region Instruments and processes for Oil spill prevention, preparedness, response and cooperation and coastal site sensitivity mapping;
2. Participants having increased knowledge of the IMO and SPREP region Instruments and processes especially OPRC Convention and Noumea Convention Emergency Protocol and its context regarding the PACPLAN review process; and
3. Established networks of professional regional resources in the region.

Summary:

The main objective of the workshop was to deliver the OPRC Level 3 model course and a site sensitivity mapping workshop. Many PICs have yet to make use of the tools available for marine spill contingency planning as set forth in the: OPRC Convention; IPIECA/IMO the guidance on the designation of environmental sensitivity grading as provided in the IPIECA/IMO 2011 publication on Sensitivity Mapping for Oil Spill Response; and PACPOL model legislations and model NATPLAN templates.

The workshop recommended that IMO continue to support the Secretariat and its members in any follow-up request regarding OPRC and site sensitivity mapping, pending availability of funds.

Activity 4: Review of the Pacific Islands Marine Contingency Plan (PACPLAN)

- **Implementation Status:** Completed, October to December 2012
- **Project Cost:** US\$54,000
- **Funding Source:** International Maritime Organisation (IMO)
- **Implementing Process:** The workshops and meetings were jointly organised AMSA, Maritime New Zealand, United States Coast Guard, United States Department of State, New Caledonia and SPREP.
- **Cost to Noumea Convention operating account:** Nil
- **Number of Participants:** 41 (for 4 different workshops and meetings)
- **Recipient countries:** 22 countries – American Samoa, Australia, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Vanuatu, United States of America and Wallis and Futuna.

Objectives:

1. To review and provide an opportunity for members to be familiarised with the PACPLAN;
2. To outline clearly the 'trigger' mechanisms for requesting external assistance under the PACPLAN;
3. To outline the expectations and requirements of participants in the PACPLAN;
4. To strengthen and build the relationship amongst the participants in the PACPLAN; and
5. To provide the opportunity to showcase the oil equipment stockpiles in the host countries (Australia, New Zealand and United States).

Summary of Outputs:

1. Draft PACPLAN document completed for wider circulation. The draft PACPLAN incorporates input from the consultation meetings and workshops, input from IMO MED and industry providers such as AMOSC and OSRL;
2. PACPLAN participants familiarised with the trigger mechanisms for requesting external assistance; and
3. Networks strengthened and established between PACPLAN participants.

Summary:

The main objective of the consultation workshops was to provide guidance and assist the SPREP in reviewing the PACPLAN. The three workshops that were funded by IMO TCP were held in Auckland, Sydney and Honolulu between the primary responders (Australia, NZ and the United States) and their PACPLAN island participants. The AMOSC was represented by Mr. Nick Quinn at the Sydney workshop. In addition to these three workshops a fourth consultation meeting, not covered by IMO funds, was held on the margins of the 23rd SPREP Meeting in September 2012, between France and its Pacific island territories.

The consultations were deemed to be a success by all participants. It allowed the participants the opportunity to gain a clear understanding of the PACPLAN process particular when requesting external assistance from primary responders which in the first instance with the locally based embassy.

There were several issues mentioned that were common across all the workshops. The need for island countries to have pre-established foundational management activities such as legislation, risk assessments, NATPLANS, ESI, MoUs and the ratification of IMO conventions for the successful PACPLAN implementation; the issue of capacity for compliance, enforcement and monitoring; and the lack of oil spill equipment. Many of the island countries have yet to ratify the relevant IMO conventions especially those that deal with compensation and liability such as the CLC, Fund and Bunkers.

As a result of these consultations a draft PACPLAN document was circulated widely for final comments in January 2013. The comments received were consolidated and incorporated into a final draft prior to its submission for endorsement at the 24th SPREP Meeting in September 2013 that was held in Apia, Samoa. The document was also made available on the SPREP web site. The draft PACPLAN:

- Provides for alignment with recent developments in international and regional conventions such as the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation 1990 (OPRC 90), the OPRC HNS Protocol, and the Noumea Convention 1986 and its associated Protocols;
- Provides for current economic and political circumstances (for example the enduring relationships between Samoa and New Zealand);
- Provides for restructuring and inclusion of a new section on Public Information;
- Provides for inclusion of new attachments (for example the Claims Guide and an Equipment Stockpile Listing);
- Provides an updated regional oil spill risk assessment;
- Provides a clear guide for the PACPLAN activation processes; and
- Supports the development of fundamental management activities in Pacific island countries and territories in order for the successful implementation of the PACPLAN.

It is strongly recommended that the IMO continue to support the SPREP and its members in any follow-up request regarding the PACPLAN implementation, pending funding availability. There are a lot of challenges that countries face and they would benefit from having sustained long term proactive management for marine spills through the implementation of the PACPLAN.

Activity 5: Fiji National ICS and Oil Spill Workshop

- **Implementation Status:** Completed, 21-29 October 2012
- **Project Cost:** US\$10,000
- **Funding Source:** SPREP
- **Implementing Process:** The workshops was organised jointly by the Fiji Government, Maritime New Zealand, and SPREP.
- **Cost to Noumea Convention operating account:** Nil
- **Number of Participants:** 49

Objectives:

1. One day ICS Training and 1day draft NATPLAN review:
 - a. To provide the participants with overview of Incident Command System.
 - b. To develop an ICS structure for a most probable disaster.
2. IMO Level II Oil Spill Training:
 - a. Tools to evaluate risks, plan, prepare and respond to marine spills
 - b. Forum for discussion

Summary of Outputs:

1. Training of participants on ICS and developing an ICS structure that is used in the NATPLAN;
2. Developed a draft NATPLAN that's in line with the proposed Maritime Transport Decree; and
3. Training of participants in how to plan, prepare and respond to marine spills.

Summary:

The ICS training and the NATPLAN review, was carried out by Mr. Rob Service from Maritime New Zealand assisted by Mr. Anthony Talouli from SPREP. The ICS training and NATPLAN review were held over 2days 21st – 22nd June 2012. The objective was to provide an overview of ICS, develop an ICS structure to be included into the draft NATPLAN. The participants were from Fiji Navy, Police, Port authority, MSAF, Ministry of Transport, NFA, TOTAL (Fiji) Ltd, Pacific Energy and Port of Denarau.

The Level II Oil Spill training was held over 5days from Monday 25th to Friday 29th June 2012. Rob and Anthony were joined by Mr. Scott Read (MNZ) in delivering the course. The nominated participants were from Fiji Navy, Police, Port authority, MSAF, NFA, TOTAL (Fiji) Ltd, Pacific Energy, Mobil Oil, Port of Denarau, and Vuda Marina.

Activity 6: IMO/AMSA/SPREP Workshop on MARPOL Annexes V and VI

- **Implementation Status:** Completed, 6-8 August 2013
- **Project Cost:** US\$50,000
- **Funding Source:** International Maritime Organisation (IMO)
- **Implementing Process:** The workshops and meetings were jointly organised AMSA, and SPREP.
- **Cost to Noumea Convention operating account:** Nil
- **Number of Participants:** 15

- **Recipient countries:** 11 countries – Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu

Objectives:

1. To increase capacity of participants to implement MARPOL Annexes V and VI; and
2. To increase knowledge of the ratification and enforcement processes.

Summary of Outputs:

1. Trained country participants in MARPOL Annexes V and VI.

Summary:

The main objective of the Workshop was to increase the capacity of the participants to implement Annexes V and VI of the MARPOL Convention. These Annexes protect the marine environment from pollution generated by international shipping, particularly in relation to the disposal of garbage and the prevention of air pollution. During the Workshop, it became evident that while all countries were keen to understand and implement MARPOL, resource constraints often made this difficult.

The Workshop was deemed to be a success by all the participants and positive feedback was received. Participants remarked their understanding of MARPOL knowledge and application had greatly increased as a result of the workshop.

Activity 7: Regional Workshop on the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001 (AFS Convention)

- **Implementation Status:** Completed, 20-22 November 2013
- **Project Cost:** US\$80,000
- **Funding Source:** International Maritime Organisation (IMO)
- **Implementing Process:** The workshops and meetings were jointly organised IMO, and SPREP
- **Cost to Noumea Convention operating account:** Nil
- **Number of Participants:** 17
- **Recipient countries:** 13 countries – Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu

Objectives:

1. Familiarize participants with the AFS Convention and related legislation;
2. Familiarize participants with the problems caused by biofouling and the possible alternative types of hull coating that may be used to control hull fouling;
3. Provide the necessary knowledge and information to encourage countries to ratify, implement and enforce the AFS Convention; and
4. Present and discuss the procedures and guidelines for inspecting, surveying and certifying vessels, and securing the safe removal and final disposal of anti-fouling wastes in the framework of the AFS Convention.

Summary of Outputs:

1. Trained country participants in AFS Convention.
2. Development of road map for the ratification and effective implementation of the AFS Convention in the Pacific islands region:
 - a. To report to their governments with firm recommendations to initiate steps to accede to and/or implement the AFS Convention as soon as practicable;
 - b. To organize broad sensitization of all national stakeholders to build consensus for the effective implementation of the AFS Convention;
 - c. While pursuing the process of Parliamentary approval to ratify the Convention, to take measures, including the issuing of administrative directives or ministerial decrees, that would have the force of law in order to enforce the provisions of the convention;
 - d. When and where necessary, to seek technical assistance between member States, Regional Maritime Organization's and from SPREP and the IMO to organize detailed national stakeholders sensitization training as well as to review /draft relevant legislation to incorporate the AFS Convention into national laws of the respective countries; and
 - e. By the end of June 2014, each country represented will submit a report of efforts made and any results achieved regarding the implementation of this road map to SPREP for forwarding to IMO.

Summary:

The Workshop achieved its objectives of familiarizing the participants with the key aspects of the AFS Convention, in particular, on national responsibilities and steps towards ratification and implementation through presentations on the legal, technical and administrative provisions and steps necessary for ratification/accession.

Mr. David Tongue and Mr Pawel Banas, as consultants to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) gave the lectures at this Workshop as indicated in the final programme. Mr Anthony Talouli, Pollution Adviser, and Mr Scott Willson, Marine Pollution Officer, both of SPREP provided invaluable support and assistance in delivering the programme.

A general introduction to the work of IMO and an overview of the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) was also provided to participants. The Workshop also devoted time to review circular AFS.3/Circ.3 on the best management practices for removal of anti-fouling coatings from ships, including paints containing TBT.

The Workshop was deemed a great success by all with favourable feedback received from the participants.

Activity 8: Nauru Enforcement Training – Investigating Illegal Discharge from Vessels

- **Implementation Status:** Completed, 18-20 March 2013
- **Project Cost:** US\$7,000
- **Funding Source:** SPREP
- **Implementing Process:** The training were jointly organised AMSA, Government of Nauru and SPREP
- **Cost to Noumea Convention operating account:** Nil
- **Number of Participants:** 14

Objectives:

1. Trained specialist on Marine Pollution from ship issues in Nauru.
2. Updated Nauru National Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NATPLAN).

Summary of Outputs:

1. Completed In-country training for Nauru participants on marine pollution investigation and enforcement training.
2. The number of trained specialists in Nauru on investigation of illegal oil discharge from ships.

Summary:

The purpose of this project is to develop and strengthen the capacity of Nauru to develop independent and relevant marine environmental incident reports and to continuously improve communication and networking among trained incident investigators in the Pacific region; and to assist Nauru ratify and meet obligations under the International and Regional instruments to combat and respond to marine spills.

Activity 9: Solomon Islands Enforcement Training – Investigating Illegal Discharge from Vessels

- **Implementation Status:** Completed, 2-4 October 2013
- **Project Cost:** US\$7,000
- **Funding Source:** SPREP
- **Implementing Process:** The training were jointly organised AMSA, Solomon Islands Government and SPREP
- **Cost to Noumea Convention operating account:** Nil
- **Number of Participants:** 24

Objectives:

1. Trained specialist on Marine Pollution from ship issues in Solomon Islands.
2. Review Shipping (Marine Pollution) Regulations 2011.

Summary of Outputs:

1. Completed In-country training for Solomon Islands participants on marine pollution investigation and enforcement training.
2. The number of trained specialists in Solomon Islands on investigation of illegal oil discharge from ships.

Summary:

The purpose of training is to develop and strengthen the capacity of boarding agencies to Solomon Islands to investigate shipping related pollution violations in accordance with the Solomon Islands Shipping (Marine Pollution) Regulations 2011, and develop independent and relevant marine environmental incident reports for prosecution. Through this training it is hoped that Solomon Islands will improve communication and networking among trained incident investigators in the Pacific region; and assist the Solomon Islands ratify and meet obligations under International and Regional instruments such as the MARPOL and Ballast Water Management Convention.

Activity 10: Solomon Islands – Ballast Water Management Convention Workshop on Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement

- **Implementation Status:** Completed, 9-10 October 2013
- **Project Cost:** US\$7,500
- **Funding Source:** International Maritime Organisation
- **Implementing Process:** The training were jointly organised by IMO, AMSA, Solomon Islands Government and SPREP
- **Cost to Noumea Convention operating account:** Nil
- **Number of Participants:** 31

Objectives:

1. To provide participants with skills and knowledge necessary to prepare Flag and Port State Control Officers to do their work efficiently and effectively under the BWM Convention, in accordance with the provisions of the convention.

Summary of Outputs:

1. Provided updated information on the BWM Convention and its implementation; and
2. Provided the necessary skills for the legal implementation of the convention.

Summary:

A two-day national training workshop on Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement (CME) of the Ballast Water Management Convention was held in Honiara, Solomon Islands from 9-10 October 2013. The regional activity was funded by the IMO Technical Cooperation Programme (and GloBallast Partnership Programme) and was organised by SPREP in cooperation with the IMO, GloBallast, the Environment and Conservation Division of the Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). This is the first time that training on the Ballast Water Management Convention has been provided in the Solomon Islands covering compliance, monitoring and enforcement elements for the implementation of the Convention. The training was delivered by two officers from SPREP, Mr Anthony Talouli and Dr Posa Skelton and an officer from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), Ms Annalisse Sly. The training covered a number of topics including an introduction to ballast water management and harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens; the International Convention for the Control and Management of ships Ballast Water and Sediments 2004 (BWM Convention) and supporting guidelines; other international instruments, principles and strategies related to the BWM Convention; Flag, Port and Coastal State aspects of ballast water management and implementation of the Convention; and compliance, monitoring and enforcement elements of the BWM Convention.

Activity 11: Vanuatu – Ballast Water Management Convention Workshop on Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement

- **Implementation Status:** Completed, 14-15 October 2013
- **Project Cost:** US\$7,500
- **Funding Source:** International Maritime Organisation
- **Implementing Process:** The training were jointly organised by IMO, AMSA, Vanuatu Government and SPREP
- **Cost to Noumea Convention operating account:** Nil
- **Number of Participants:** 22

Objectives:

1. To provide participants with skills and knowledge necessary to prepare Flag and Port State Control Officers to do their work efficiently and effectively under the BWM Convention, in accordance with the provisions of the convention.

Summary of Outputs:

1. Provided updated information on the BWM Convention and its implementation; and
2. Provided the necessary skills for the legal implementation of the convention.

Summary:

A two-day Regional training workshop on Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement (CME) of the Ballast Water Management Convention was held in Port Vila, Vanuatu from 14-15 October 2013. The regional activity was funded by the IMO Technical Cooperation Programme and was organised by SPREP in cooperation with the IMO, GloBallast, the Maritime Affairs section of the Vanuatu Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities (MIPU) and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). The training was delivered by two officers from SPREP, Mr Anthony Talouli and Dr Posa Skelton and an officer from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), Ms Annalisse Sly. The training covered a number of topics including an introduction to ballast water management and harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens; the International Convention for the Control and Management of ships Ballast Water and Sediments 2004 (BWM Convention) and supporting guidelines; other international instruments, principles and strategies related to the BWM Convention; Flag, Port and Coastal State aspects of ballast water management and implementation of the Convention; and compliance, monitoring and enforcement elements of the BWM Convention.

Activity 12: Solomon Islands – Ballast Water Management Convention Workshop on Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement

- **Implementation Status:** Completed, 7-8 October 2013
- **Project Cost:** US\$7,500
- **Funding Source:** SPREP and Solomon Islands Government
- **Implementing Process:** The training were jointly organised by Solomon Islands Government and SPREP
- **Cost to Noumea Convention operating account:** Nil
- **Number of Participants:** 43

Objectives:

1. Increase capacity of senior officials on the responsibility of the members of an oil spill response team organization and how to effectively respond to an Oil Spill; and
2. Enhance knowledge of the International Oil Spill Preparedness Response and Cooperation (OPRC) Convention, and Regional Noumea Convention Emergency Protocol

Summary of Outputs:

1. Promote the ratification of the OPRC Convention and Noumea Convention Emergency Protocol;
2. Assist with the finalisation of the National Marine Spill Contingency Response Plans (NATPLANS); and
3. Promote and enhance regional cooperation in the implementation of the Pacific Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN).

Summary:

The training was carried out by Mr. Scott Willson SPREP Marine Pollution Adviser (AMSA Secondment) and Anthony Talouli SPREP Pollution Adviser. The workshop was adapted from the Model IMO Level 2 Training Course. The workshop was run over 2 days from 7 and 8 October 2013 which involved mainly classroom sessions, desktop and field oil spill equipment inspections. The course participants were from eighteen government agencies and private sector comprising mainly of customs, Environment and Conservation, Police Fire and Rescue, Institute of Marine Studies, Fisheries, Quarantine, port authorities, maritime administration, & oil companies.

Activity 13: Tonga Marine Spill Response Exercise

- **Implementation Status:** Completed, 11-15 November 2013
- **Funding Source:** New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT)
- **Implementing Process:** The training was implemented by Maritime New Zealand and SPREP
- **Cost to Noumea Convention operating account:** Nil
- **Number of Participants:** 23

Objectives:

1. Increase capacity of senior officials on the responsibility of the members of an oil spill response team organization and how to effectively respond to an Oil Spill; and
2. Enhance knowledge of the International Oil Spill Preparedness Response and Cooperation (OPRC) Convention, and Regional Noumea Convention Emergency Protocol.

Summary of Outputs:

1. Training in marine pollution risks, impacts, and response techniques;
2. Practical training in equipment deployment;
3. Improved awareness and familiarisation with the Tongan legislation and National Plan;
4. Training in planning and decision-making at incident and site level followed by desk-top exercises at both levels; and
5. Enhanced awareness of a wide range of marine pollution response issues through case studies.

Summary:

The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) funded a Marine Spill Response Exercise training in Tonga that was implemented through the Maritime New Zealand, Tonga Ministry of Infrastructure, Marine and Ports Division (MPD) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The training was run over 5 days that involved classroom as well as equipment deployment and scenario planning exercises