



PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa  
E: [sprep@sprep.org](mailto:sprep@sprep.org)  
T: +685 21929  
F: +685 20231  
W: [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)



*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 7.1: Timing of Noumea COP-13 to align with timing of Waigani COP-8**

#### **Purpose**

1. To seek approval from the Conference of the Parties to the Noumea Convention to convene the next Conference of the Parties to the Noumea Convention in 2015 rather than 2016, so as to align with the timing of the next Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention.

#### **Background**

2. The Conference of the Parties to the Noumea Convention in its first meeting in 1991, determined that the Meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall take place on a biennial basis. This decision has been subsequently followed since 1998. The timing of the Noumea COP has been held back to back with the first Waigani COP meeting in 2002.

3. For strategic reasons, the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention is proposing to hold their next Conference in 2015, rather than in 2016.

4. There are twelve (12) Parties to the Noumea Convention and thirteen (13) Parties to the Waigani Convention of which eight (8) are Parties to both Conventions. There are only two (2) SPREP Members who aren't Party to either Convention.

5. The Secretariat has taken into account the financial implications of such a decision, and concluded that over the long term it would advantageous to keep the Noumea and Waigani COPs and SPREP Meetings together for reasons of financial efficiency.

6. The Secretariat recommends to hold the next Conference of the Parties to the Noumea Convention in September 2015, previous to the SPREP meeting, rather than 2016 as currently scheduled.

## Recommendation

7. The Parties are therefore invited:

- to **endorse** the recommendation of the Secretariat to hold the next Conference of the Parties to the Noumea Convention in September 2015; and
- to **direct** the Secretariat to commence preparations to convene the Noumea Convention “COP-13” in September 2015.

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19 August, 2014

