



PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
E: sprep@sprep.org
T: +685 21929
F: +685 20231
W: 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 7.5: Regional EIA Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development

Purpose

1. An update on the development of Regional EIA Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development.

Background

2. The development of Regional EIA Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development was endorsed at the 11th Conference of the Parties held on 20th August 2012 in Noumea, New Caledonia. The Parties agreed to allocate US\$20,000 funding noting the project's relevance to the following Convention articles:

- Article 7: Pollution from land-based sources
- Article 13: Mining and coastal erosion
- Article 14: Specially protected areas and protection of wild flora and fauna
- Article 16: Environmental impact assessment

3. Tourism is one of the most important and fastest growing economic sectors, with many Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) promoting development in this area. The majority of tourism developments are in the coastal areas in competition with other development uses like agriculture and residential/industrial development and often close to areas of ecological significance. This complex mix of development pressures and conservation issues highlights the need for robust sustainable development and environmental planning approaches, including the use of environmental impact assessment (EIA). EIA is also emerging as a tool for facilitating climate change resilience and the climate-proofing of tourism infrastructure. The promotion of integrated coastal planning and management and the strengthening of national EIA processes are key priorities under SPREP's 2011-2015 Strategic Plan.

4. SPREP has also been collaborating with the SPC-EU Deep Sea Minerals (DSM) Project on a Regional Environmental Management and Monitoring Framework that will include EIA guidance for the mining of seafloor massive sulfides, manganese nodules and cobalt-rich crusts; and scientific research. This work has relevance to the tourism sector as future deep sea mining is likely to impact, to some degree, on coastal tourism. Deep sea mining is also important to consider as part of integrated coastal planning and management.

Project Activity Update

5. Regional Guidelines for Environmental Assessment (Regional Guidelines) are currently being developed to provide the over-arching context and framework for sector-specific guidelines, such as the EIA Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development. The objectives of the Regional Guidelines are to:

- help PICTs strengthen environmental assessment at three scales: environmental impact assessment (EIA) for projects, strategic environmental assessment (SEA) for sectors or regions and integrated environmental assessment (IEA) at the national level;
- provide a tool for capacity building for new and existing staff of government agencies and other national stakeholders; and
- explain how environmental assessment can be linked with existing planning processes and also used as a tool for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

6. Parallel to the development of the Regional Guidelines, SPREP is undertaking consultation with member countries and national stakeholders on the development of the Regional EIA Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development. The Regional EIA Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development will provide sector-specific guidance to Pacific Island environmental managers and other stakeholders for the environmental impact assessment of tourism sector coastal development.

Revised Work Plan and Budget

7. Completion of the Regional Guidelines for Environmental Assessment and the Regional EIA Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development is guided by the following work plan:

January- June 2014	July -December 2014	January - June 2015	July - August 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of Regional Guidelines for Environmental Assessment • Consultation with Samoa and Fiji on the regional EIA Guidelines for Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-country consultation with Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Tonga on the Regional EIA Guidelines for Tourism • Finalisation of the Regional Guidelines for Environmental Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-country consultation with Cook Islands on the Regional EIA Guidelines for Tourism • Drafting of the Regional EIA Guidelines for Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalisation of the Regional EIA Guidelines for Tourism

8. The revised budget for drafting the Regional EIA Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development is:

- country consultation missions – \$17,000; and
- publication of Regional EIA Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development – \$3,000

Recommendations

9. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the progress on Regional EIA Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development;
 - **seek** endorsement of the revised workplan and budget; and
 - **call** on members' active engagement with the development of the Regional EIA Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development and other related initiatives.
-