



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.



Twenty Seventh SPREP Meeting of Officials

Alofi, Niue

19 – 21 September 2016

Agenda Item 9.4.1: Strategic environmental assessment

Purpose

1. To provide an update on SPREP's strategic environmental assessment (SEA) work and to seek endorsement of SEA awareness-raising and capacity-building for member countries.

Background

2. SEA is a higher-scale planning process that supports environmental impact assessment (EIA) by identifying appropriate types of and locations for development, and by examining the environmental impacts that may arise from the implementation of government policies, plans and programmes for development.
3. SEA was included in the *Pacific Regional Environment Programme Strategic Plan 2011-2015* and it has been introduced to members through SPREP's Regional EIA Guidelines, which were approved at the twenty-sixth SPREP Meeting. SEA has been discussed for inclusion in the new SPREP strategic plan and it has been referred to by the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Working Group established to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. SPREP has also provided information on SEA to the SPC-EU Deep Sea Minerals Project, as SEA is a tool that can assist with evaluating deep sea mining proposals, especially in marine areas with multiple uses and values.
4. Given the increasing interest in SEA throughout the region, it is proposed that: (1) SEA be included as a module in the regional EIA Training Manual that is being developed to complement the Regional EIA Guidelines, and (2) dedicated SEA training be delivered to SPREP member countries upon request.
5. Secretariat staff have recently attended an introduction to SEA workshop organised in partnership with The World Bank. This workshop provides a basis for the development of an SEA training module and for the delivery of SEA training.

Recommendation

6. The Meeting is invited to:

- **endorse** SEA awareness-raising and capacity-building for member countries, through inclusion of an SEA module in the regional EIA Training Manual and through SEA-focused workshops.

3 August 2016