

## Fourteenth meeting of the Noumea Convention

### Fourteenth 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)

Apia, Samoa  
14 September 2017

#### **Agenda Item 7.5: Sustainable Regional Capacity Building for Improved Decision Making**

##### **Purpose**

1. To inform the Parties of the planned implementation of sustainable mechanisms for strengthened institutional and human capacity, and to seek the commitment of Parties to participate and actively engage in the proposed capacity building initiatives and the collection and submission of data on waste, chemicals and pollutants.

##### **Background**

2. Cleaner Pacific 2025 identifies the strengthening of institutional capacity and the development of human capacity as strategic priorities. Activities considered essential to achieving these goals include regular data collection and management and the implementation of sustainable human capacity development programmes for stakeholders.
3. Through a number of Pacific regional waste management projects - namely J-PRISM (through JICA), Regional Solid Waste Management Initiative (with AFD), GEF PAS uPOPs Reduction Project (with UNEP) and PacWaste (with EU) - Parties have been provided with practical training on different aspects of waste management and pollution control. The implementation has involved direct country training from the Fiji National University, the University of the South Pacific, Griffith University and independent experts.
4. While these training programmes have been well received and appreciated by participants, a known limitation of such programmes is the lack of any formal mechanism to (a) monitor and/or measure the uptake of knowledge, (b) assess their impact and (c) determine whether capacity gaps have been addressed.
5. To help address this limitation, and to optimise resources, J-PRISM II and PacWaste Plus have agreed to collaborate in conducting institutional and human capacity building activities throughout the region to ensure that uptake of knowledge and competencies will be enhanced. The effectiveness of this training will be captured

through surveys and other mechanisms as part of SPREP's long-term programmatic work.

6. During the project formulation period, JPRISM II surveyed the eight participating countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu) regarding their capacity needs. Similar surveys are proposed for the waste streams and countries that will be covered under PacWaste Plus.
7. To strengthen waste monitoring mechanisms in the region, J-PRISM II and PacWaste Plus aim to establish a Regional Waste Monitoring System that will measure the progress of Cleaner Pacific 2025 against the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and relevant national strategies. This will involve the establishment of indicators and systems to allow country counterparts to regularly collect data that will be consolidated for the Pacific region through a database housed at SPREP.
8. Information housed in the database will also be used to produce Country and Regional Waste Profiles. Such a mechanism will enable stakeholders to have access to country and regional waste information at any time, thus enabling and enhancing national and regional decision-making.
9. To ensure success, both of the proposed strategic actions require strong commitment from participating countries.

## Recommendations

10. The Parties are invited to:
  - **note** the development of sustainable capacity building activities and a Regional Waste Monitoring System;
  - **note** that the success of such activities requires strong commitment from participating countries;
  - **commit** as Parties to participate fully in the capacity building initiatives; and
  - **commit** as Parties to designate country counterparts who will be charged with the task of regularly collecting data and submitting them to SPREP for inclusion in a database.

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Attachments:

Project Report Recommendations  
EDF11 Consultation Outputs  
Clean Pacific Roundtable Outcome Statement

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18 August, 2017

