

## Twenty Eighth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Apia, Samoa  
19 – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017

### **Agenda Item 12.1.2: Draft Marine Species Action Plans 2018-2022**

#### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this paper is to advise Members on progress towards reviewing the Marine Species Programme 2013-2017, and developing a new Marine Species Programme 2018-2022.

#### **Background**

2. SPREP's guidance to Members for the conservation of iconic marine vertebrates is contained within the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme, which has traditionally consisted of Action Plans for:
  - Dugong
  - Marine Turtles
  - Whales and dolphins
3. The Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme is reviewed and re-drafted every five years and is due for renewal for the period 2018-2022. SPREP proposes to retain the basic structure of the Programme and to add a new Action Plan for Sharks and Rays.
4. A Circular was distributed to Members in early July, seeking their feedback on the effectiveness of the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2013-2017, and their suggestions for improving the Programme's effectiveness for 2018-2022.
5. A key outcome of the Whales in a Changing Ocean conference was a number of commitments from individuals and organisations to assist with a draft Whale and Dolphin Action Plan that would reflect the key conclusions of the conference. Work has commenced on reviewing the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan and it is anticipated that a draft will be circulated in early September.
6. A draft Shark and Ray Action Plan is in preparation by the Shark and Ray Conservation Officer, and will be circulated before the end of August. It will build on the activities that SPREP has undertaken with Members over the past two years, and on decisions taken by international conventions, in particular CITES and CMS.

7. A draft revised Dugong Action Plan is in preparation, following consultations with Members who are Range States for Dugong and the CMS Dugong Secretariat, and will be circulated before the end of August.
8. A draft revised Marine Turtle Action Plan is in preparation, drawing on the lessons learned from the recently-concluded community-based monitoring of turtle nesting sites in Fiji, Kiribati and Solomon Islands, jointly managed by SPREP and the NZ Government, and feedback from Members to the survey circulated in mid-July. It is hoped that a draft revised Turtle Action Plan will be available by the end of August.
9. If delegates are willing, SPREP will convene an informal working group to review the draft plans on Saturday 16 September. Members will have until 31 October to make suggested amendments in writing to the draft Marine Species Programme presented to SM 28.

### Recommendations

10. The Meeting is invited to:
  - **note** that the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme is revised every five years and is now due for revision to cover the five-year period 2018-2022; and
  - **agree** to review the draft Programme provided and to give feedback in writing to the Secretariat by 31 October 2017.

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15 August, 2017

