

Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre (SCPRC-5) of the Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and the Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific Region integrated within the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme.

Introduction

1. The Fifth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre (SCPRC 5) for the joint implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions met in Nuku'alofa, Tonga on 21 February, 2017.
2. Present at the Meeting were sub-regional representatives from Australia, Polynesia represented by Samoa, Micronesia represented by Federated States of Micronesia, Melanesia by Vanuatu and New Zealand's position was filled by Niue. A full list of participants can be found in Annex 1.

Agenda item 1: Opening

3. The Steering Committee Meeting commenced at 1.45pm with a welcome from the outgoing Chairperson, Ms Laisani Lewanavanua representing Fiji.

Agenda item 2: Organisational Matters

4. The Secretariat drew the attention of the Meeting to the Rules of Procedure (Rule 22.3) which specifies that the five person steering committee should comprise three sub-regional representatives in addition to Australia and New Zealand.
5. The outgoing Chair invited nominations for, and election of, the Committee.
6. Samoa was nominated as the sub-regional representative for Polynesia. Vanuatu was nominated as the sub-regional representative for Melanesia, and Federated States of Micronesia was elected as the sub-regional representative of Micronesia.
7. In the absence of New Zealand, Niue was nominated as the fifth member of the committee.
8. The outgoing Chairperson, welcomed the Committee Members, before inviting Mr Haden Talagi, representing Niue, to commence official duties as Chairperson.
9. The Steering Committee:
 - **elected** Samoa as the sub-regional representative for Polynesia, Vanuatu as the sub-regional representative for Melanesia, and Federated States of Micronesia as the sub-regional representative of Micronesia; and
 - **elected** Niue as Chairperson, Australia as Vice Chairperson and Vanuatu as Rapporteur.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the Agenda

10. The Chairperson invited the Steering Committee members to assume their roles, and invited members to endorse the provisional agenda.
11. The Steering Committee:
 - **adopted** the Agenda which is attached as **Annex 2**.

Agenda Item 4: Matters relating to work programme of PRC SC-4

12. The Secretariat presented its report on the work undertaken in the implementation of the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Islands Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and the Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention) since COP-8.
13. The Steering Committee:
 - **endorsed** the report and **recommended** it for noting at the Waigani COP-9.

Agenda Item 5: Business Plan for the PRC 2018-2019

14. The Secretariat presented the 2018-2019 Business Plan for the PRC for consideration and endorsement.
15. The representative for Polynesia asked what support and assistance is available for countries not Party to the Basel Convention, and requested advice on the benefits of being Party to the convention and of assistance to non-Parties to attend meetings and access funding opportunities.
16. The Secretariat responded that assistance on the benefits of becoming a Party to the Basel Convention is always available. On the issue of funding to attend meetings, if a country is not Party to Basel convention there is no assistance available to attend meetings. The Secretariat further noted that this is one of the advantages of becoming a Party.
17. The Secretariat clarified that countries need to make formal requests with regard to capacity building.
18. The Secretariat explained that all requests for assistance made by countries at the STAC would be tabulated and sent to participants to confirm that all requests had been captured.
19. The representative of Melanesia requested that information about funding opportunities and timeframes is distributed to countries regularly. The Secretariat explained that this information has been sent out to countries previously and agreed to re-send any current information.

The Steering Committee:

- **considered** and endorsed the 2018-2019 Business Plan for the PRC.

Agenda Item 6: Cooperation with other institutions

20. The Secretariat reported to the Meeting on SPREP's working relationship with other relevant institutions.
21. In response to a question from Australia the Secretariat clarified that the Oceania Customs Organisation is an intergovernmental agency.
22. The Steering Committee:
 - **noted** the report and recommended it for noting at the Waigani COP-9.

Agenda Item 7: Effectiveness of the SCPRC

23. The Secretariat sought guidance from the Steering Committee on the new direction in which the SCPRC is to perform and manage the affairs of the Pacific Regional Centre.
24. The representative of Micronesia requested clarification on the timing of the meetings referred to in the document. The Secretariat clarified that one of the meetings would be a physical one but that the remainder would be virtual meetings, whereby the Chairperson would act as a conduit for information to Committee members.
25. In response to a question from Australia regarding intersessional work, the Secretariat clarified that the purpose of the Committee is to provide oversight on the running of the PRC, whereas the STAC is a subsidiary body of the Waigani Convention.
26. The Secretariat noted a request from the representative of Polynesia for budget assistance to cover communications costs.
27. The Steering Committee:
 - **acknowledged** that the SCPRC needs help with effectiveness, direction and internal capacity;
 - **expressed** its commitment to prioritising the implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions at the national level;
 - **agreed** to trial quarterly reporting meetings between the SCPRC Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and the Secretariat with minutes to be forwarded to all SCPRC Members;
 - **agreed** on the importance of SCPRC Members attending regional and international meetings of relevance, such as the OEWG;
 - **agreed** on the importance of guidance being provided to SCPRC Members by the Secretariat; and
 - **directed** the Secretariat to investigate capacity building opportunities at Tsinghua University.

Agenda Item 8: Other matters

28. The representative of Micronesia enquired as to the status of the co-financing of the Work Programme. The Secretariat advised that this was still under preparation.

29. No other matter was raised by the Steering Committee.

Agenda Item 9: Date and venue of the next meeting

30. The Steering Committee:

- **agreed** the next meeting would take place in Samoa at a date to be determined according to the scheduling of the Basel Convention COP;
- **noted** the request to dedicate one day to preparing countries for the BRS triple COP; and
- **noted** the request from sub-regional groups for one hour of preparation time before the start of future Steering Committee meetings

Agenda Item 10: Adoption of the Meeting Record

31. The Steering Committee:

- **adopted** the draft report of the SCPRC-5 meeting; and
- **recommended** the report be forwarded to Waigani COP 9 for formal endorsement.

Agenda Item 11: Closing of Meeting

32. The Steering Committee Meeting was closed at 4.30pm on 21 February, 2017.

Annex 1:

Participants List:

COUNTRY	NAME OF DELEGATE	ADDRESS
Australia	Khokan Bagchi Assistant Director E: khokan.bagchi@environment.gov.au	Hazardous Waste Section, Chemicals and Waste Branch, Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy GPO Box 787, Canberra, ACT, 2601 Australia T: +61 2 6275 9367 F: +61 2 6274 1164
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Niue	Haden Talagi Senior Environment Officer E: haden.talagi@mail.gov.nu	Department of Environment PO Box 80 Alofi, Niue T: (683) 4021
Samoa (Polynesian sub-regional representative)	Lucie Isaia Senior Chemicals and Hazardous Waste Management Officer E: lucie.isaia@mnre.gov.ws	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) Division of Environment and Conservation Level 3 – TATTE Building, Apia, Samoa T: (685) 67200 F: (685) 23176 M: (685) 7735829
Vanuatu (Melanesian sub-regional representative)	Roselyn Bue Senior Chemicals and Ozone Officer E: rbue@vanuatu.gov.vu	Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (PMB 9063, Port Vila Vanuatu T: (678) 25302 M: (678) 5905041
SPREP Secretariat	Frank Griffin Hazardous Waste Adviser frankg@sprep.org Clark Peteru Environmental Legal Adviser clarkp@sprep.org Stewart Williams PacWaste Project Manager stewartw@sprep.org Anthony Talouli Pollution Control Adviser anthonyt@sprep.org Amber Carvan Communications Officer amperc@sprep.org Ms Faailo Maiuu Project Assistant faailom@sprep.org	Waste Management and Pollution Control Division; and Environmental Monitoring and Governance Division; PO Box 240 Apia Samoa T: +685 21929 F: +685 20231

Observers:		
COUNTRY	NAME OF DELEGATE	ADDRESS
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Fiji	Laisani Lewanavanua Senior Environment Officer E: laisani.lewanavanua@environment.gov.fj	Department of Environment Ministry of Local Government, Urban Development, Housing and Environment Suva, Fiji P: (679) 3311699 F: (679) 331 2871
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Papua New Guinea	Veari Kula Manager – Infrastructure, Utilities and Conventions E: vkula@dec.gov.pg or veari.kula@gmail.com	Conservation and Environment Protection Agency (CEPA) PO Box 6601, Boroko, NCD Papua New Guinea T: (675) 3014500 F: (675) 3250182 M: (675) 73607069
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Tonga	Mafileo Masi Chief Environmentalist/Head of Waste Management and Pollution Control E: mafileo.masi@gmail.com	Department of Environment Ministry of Meteorology, Information, Energy, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communication (MEIDECC) PO Box 917, Vuna Road Nuku'Alofa, Tonga T: (676) 25050 F: (676) 25051 M: (676) 7717182
Tuvalu	Ms. Susana Minute Telakau Director of Solid Waste Agency of Tuvalu (SWAT) E: susey84@gmail.com or stelakau@gov.tv	Ministry of Home Affairs Government Building, Private Mailbag Vaiaiku, Funafuti Tuvalu T: (688) 20164 M: (688) 900341

Annex 2:

**Adopted Agenda
PRC SC-5**

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| Agenda Item 1: | Opening of the Meeting |
| Agenda Item 2: | Organisation of the Meeting
2.1 Rules of Procedure
2.2 Organisation of Work
2.3 Election of Officers |
| Agenda Item 3: | Adoption of Agenda |
| Agenda Item 4: | Matters relating to work programme of PRC SC-4 |
| Agenda Item 5: | Business Plan for the PRC 2018-2019 |
| Agenda Item 6: | Agenda Item 6: Cooperation with other institutions |
| Agenda Item 7: | Effectiveness of the SCPRC |
| Agenda Item 8: | Other matters |
| Agenda Item 9: | Date and venue of the next meeting |
| Agenda Item 10: | Adoption of the Meeting Record |
| Agenda Item 11: | Closing of Meeting |