**Pacific Environment Forum 2012: Draft agenda**

**3 September 2012**

**Noumea, New Caledonia**

***National and Regional State of the Environment Reporting for the Pacific:   
Synergies and Priorities***

**1. Background**

The 1993 Agreement Establishing SPREP recognised the importance of environmental monitoring: "monitor and assess the state of the environment in the region, including the degree of human impacts". In the early 1990s SPREP facilitated a series of National State of Environment Reports and this for many countries is the only such report with more emphasis being given to planning and implementation rather than monitoring. The 2011-2015 Strategic Plan (SP) is the first articulation by SPREP Members and Secretariat to take coherent action to address this issue, with environmental monitoring and governance specified as a strategic priority. The SP commits Members to "engage in environmental monitoring to assess progress and to guide decision making". In turn, measurement of the Secretariat's performance is also linked to positive environmental outcomes in the region, and the SP commits the Secretariat and Members to working together to achieve effective environmental monitoring and assessment.

During 2011-2012 the SP commits SPREP to:

* Establishing national and regional environmental indicators
* Defining a framework for regular regional state of environment (SOE) reporting

These are essential if SPREP is to meet its SP 2015 target to deliver a regional SOE report to Members, and also for *at least* 5 PICTs to produce updated national SOE reports.

**2. 2012 PEF Theme and Objectives**

In view of the importance of environmental monitoring and SOE commitments, it is proposed that the focus for the 2012 Pacific Environment Forum to be held in conjunction with the 23rd SPREP Meeting in Noumea will be meeting national and regional state of the environment reporting targets.

The meeting will be both informative and interactive with the following objectives:

1. Review the role, timing, current commitments, and agree on the scope, of national and regional SOE reporting.
2. Discuss regional and national frameworks for reporting on SOE, including development process and delivery mechanism.
3. Establish a process for Member-Secretariat-partner collaboration in the development of the regional SOE report to be delivered in 2015.

**3. Potential participants**

* SPREP Members - technical agency representatives
* SPREP Secretariat staff
* Partner organisations - CSIRO, NIWA, CROPs, CI, UNEP, UNDP, IUCN, UoM, etc
* Environmental monitoring and SOE specialists as resource persons

| *Time* | *Activity* | *Lead/Facilitator* | *Output* |
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| **Session 1: Role and Scope of National and Regional SOE reporting in the Pacific** | | | |
| 8:45 – 9:00 | Welcome  Expected outcomes and review agenda | SPREP DG or SPREP Chair  Workshop Facilitator | Clarify workshop aims, expected outcomes and agenda. |
| 9:00 – 10:15 | KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Importance of environmental monitoring and reporting in decision making  (20 mins)  History and current status of national and regional SOE reporting: including national and regional framework examples, PECCO  (15 mins)  PICT examples and current process in SOE report development  (2x15 mins)  Facilitated Plenary Discussion –  with speaker panel | (TBD)  SPREP    (TBD)  Workshop facilitator | Regional and global examples of effective SOE reporting, enhancing decision making and streamlining of reporting requirements.  Clarify current strategic planning for regional and national State of Environment Reporting  Introduce current examples and proposed framework development.  Provide current PICT efforts to enhance SOE reporting  Current PICT status and plans for SOE Needs of PICTs prior to SOE |
| 10:15-10:30 | Morning Tea |  |  |
| **Session 2: Defining a Process for Member-Secretariat-Partner Collaboration: roles and responsibilities** | | | |
| 10:30 – 11:45 | Plenary 5-10 minute presentation to generate discussion and define expected outcomes (focus is a collaborative approach to meeting SOE reporting goals) .  Working Groups:  1. Streamlining reporting needs: what outputs are required from SOE reporting.  2. National level SOE Framework development: cross sectoral summary, including assessment of ecosystem condition.  3. Regional level framework: approaches to synthesizing at a regional scale, with national data.  (seed document PECCO). | Working group leads | 1. Identify outputs from SOE reporting that would assist in meeting, and streamlining, reporting needs at national, regional and international levels. 2. Options and frameworks for overall, cross sectoral SOE report, mechanisms to include ecosystem condition assessment. What questions would this reporting address? 3. Options and approaches to regional assessment, linkages between PICTs and balance of regional versus multiple national metrics. What questions would this reporting address? |
| 11:45 – 12:30 | Feedback from working groups –  15 mins per group | Report back by working group lead | Identify key decision points and priorities |
| 12:30-1:30 | Lunch |  |  |

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| 1:30-2:30 | 1. Examples of web databases that could assist in compilation of data, assessment and reporting at multiple scales.  (20 mins demonstration)  2. Databases and mechanisms to support multiple national level SOE reporting efforts.  (20 minute).  3. A proposed way forward (including summary of morning discussions): draft national and regional framework, with mechanisms for interaction and capacity building for continuity. | TBD  TBD    SPREP/Facilitator  (TBD) | One potential for top level indicators at a national/EEZ scale  Describe options for data dispersion and centralization, possibilities for capacity building and maintaining data. |
| 2:30-3:30 | Working groups (3) – discussion and feedback on 3-5 identified key points. | Working group leads |  |
| 3:30-4:00 | Afternoon Tea |  |  |
| 4:00 – 5:00 | Plenary coordination of feedback from working groups on each of 3-5 key identified points, clarifying timeframes, as well as national and SPREP commitments –  Agreement on decision points. | Workshop facilitator | Agreed statements on 3-5 key points for way forward. |