
AGENDA ITEM 7.1:

Update on Upcoming Ocean-related Events

Purpose of Paper

1. Update Members on upcoming ocean events relevant to the 2017-2026 Strategic Plan cross-cutting focus on oceans.

Background

2. SPREP Members endorsed an over-arching ocean focus for SPREP in adopting the 2017-2026 Strategic Plan. Regionally and nationally there has been growing momentum to better conserve and manage the ocean and its resources. Pacific Leaders have committed to take the Pacific Oceanscape forwards with the Blue Pacific Narrative.
3. 2019 and 2020 are going to be particularly important for development of international policy and strategic direction relating to ocean conservation. Key key events include:
 - the Our Oceans Conference hosted by Norway in October 2019;
 - the 25th UNFCCC CoP in Santiago, Chile, in December 2019, which will have an ocean focus;
 - the 2020 UN Oceans Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, with the theme 'Scaling Up Ocean Action Based on Science and Innovation for the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Stocktaking, Partnerships and Solutions'.
 - the EU supported Our Oceans Conference hosted by Palau in 2020 (date to be confirmed);
 - development and agreement of post-2020 Targets at the Convention on Biological Diversity CoP15 in Kunming, China; and
 - continuing negotiations for a Treaty on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) under UNCLOS.
4. Within the region there will also be the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in April 2020 hosted by New Caledonia, which will include ocean-related topics in its agenda.
5. All of these events represent an opportunity for the Pacific islands region to present a strong vision for ocean conservation, and it is therefore, most important that Members cooperate as a region under the Pacific Oceanscape Framework under the banner of the Leaders' Blue Pacific Narrative to present a strong regional voice in these fora. SPREP will continue to support Member engagement in these important events within the capacities of the Secretariat and interests of Members and in the case of BBNJ negotiations, continue to support Member engagement in this important process.

6. Attachment 1 provides a list of strategic events related to ocean conservation or governance for the information of Members.

Recommendation

7. The Meeting is invited to:
 1. **note** the upcoming events which will be key for Member engagement in the coming years and **approve** SPREP engagement in these negotiations.

25 July, 2019