

Fifteenth meeting of the Noumea Convention

Fifteenth 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
29 August 2019

AGENDA ITEM 7.2: Review of the Noumea Convention

Purpose

1. A review of the Noumea Convention was commissioned by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to:
 - a. evaluate how the Convention is being implemented at all levels;
 - b. determine whether the objectives of the Convention are being met by the actions of the Parties; and
 - c. evaluate the effectiveness of the Secretariat.
2. The review has been undertaken in conjunction with a review of implementation of the *Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and the Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region* (Waigani Convention).
3. This paper summarises the review and proposes next steps for Parties to consider. The recommendations were the same for both Conventions.

Background

4. At the 14th Meeting of the Parties to the Noumea Convention, SPREP presented an information paper on Strengthening Membership and Effectiveness of the Convention. The Meeting postponed further discussion on the matter and requested SPREP undertake further background research and develop future options.
5. As part of this research, SPREP commissioned a review of the Noumea Convention, in conjunction with a review of the Waigani Convention.¹
6. The review was undertaken in July and August 2019 and consisted of a desktop analysis of outputs and achievements under the Convention over the past ten years.

¹ Approval for the review was sought, and given, at the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention in Apia, Samoa on 15 September 2017.

Action

7. The report, **attached** as Annex I, represents the outcome of the review. The report contains a series of recommendations for Parties to consider. These range from increased resourcing to administer the Convention and greater commitment from Parties to meet the requirements of the Convention, an award for best project/initiative within the reporting period, a rotational system for hosting COPs that includes a field trip of a demonstration project by the host country, increased scope to include emerging issues such as plastic pollution and amendment procedures to be carried out by tacit acceptance.

Recommendation

8. The Parties are invited to:
 1. **consider** the report including recommendations, **attached** as Annex I; and
 2. **endorse** the report and commit to the implementation of the recommendations.
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