

## 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 7.4: Marine Pollution Protocols

##### Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek:

**1) endorsement** of the *Pacific Regional Marine Litter Action Plan 2018-2025 (PMLAP 2025)*, **2) commitment** for the ratification and implementation of relevant IMO Conventions; and **3) support** for:

- the review of the *Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme 2015-2020 (PACPOL 2020)* and
- the development of **PACPOL 2030 for a 'Clean Ships, Green and Resilient Pacific Ports'**.

##### Background

2. Marine pollution is a significant issue for Pacific islands which rely on shipping for their economies and to help sustain livelihoods. Emerging issues such as garbage disposal particularly plastic and microplastics pollution which has become a global, regional and national problem.
3. Pollution from oil spills from ships continues to impact Pacific islands which have generally limited capacity and resources to prepare, prevent and respond to such incidents as the MV Solomon Trader, MV Kea Trader and MV Southern Phoenix.
4. The international community through the IMO have implemented several conventions that provide assistance to address marine pollution such as *International Convention to address marine pollution from ships (MARPOL)*, *London Dumping Convention and Protocol (LC/LP)*, *International Convention for Oil Spill Preparedness Response and Cooperation (OPRC)*, *International Bunkers Convention (Bunkers)*, *International Convention for Civil Liability (CLC)* and the *International Convention for the management of Ballast Water and sediments (BWMC)*. Many Pacific islands have ratified these conventions, however many are still yet to ratify or accede and fully implement the IMO Conventions.
5. The Noumea Convention and its Protocols assist countries to address marine pollution in a holistic ecosystem management approach through the *Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme 2015-2020 (PACPOL 2020)*. The review for the PACPOL in 2020 and 2021 will provide a holistic integrated approach for addressing **Clean Ships, and Green and Resilient Pacific Ports** assisting in the implementation of SDG13 Climate Action, SDG 14 Life below water), SDG 15 Life on Land, and SDG 17 Partnerships.

### **Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan 2018-2025 (PMLAP 2025)**

6. The *Pacific Regional Marine Litter Action Plan 2018-2025 (PMLAP 2025)* developed in 2018 with funding support from the *UN Environment Programme Regional Seas Programme Clean Seas Campaign*. The *PMLAP 2025* has been developed as a product under the framework of the *Cleaner Pacific 2025* as well as the *PACPOL 2020*. The *PMLAP 2025* covers 11 pillars addressing Policy and regulatory framework; Fishing vessel operations; Shipping operations; Cruise ships; Trans-boundary waste; Take away food and beverage containers; General litter; Awareness and actions; Beachside tourist enterprises; Disaster waste; and Catching water-borne litter.
7. The 2018 Forum Leaders Meeting in Nauru Leaders 'recognised that waste is a critical issue for the Blue Pacific. The Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to eliminate marine litter and the urgency of implementing the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan recently endorsed by the Pacific Region Waste Roundtable.'
8. The *PMLAP 2025* is supported by the *Pacific Regional Reception Facilities Plan 2016 (Pacific RRF 2016)* that includes five (5) regional ports which are in alphabetical order Apia (Samoa), Noumea (New Caledonia), Papeete (Tahiti), Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea), and Suva (Fiji). The *Pacific RRF 2016* is a living document and additional ports are scheduled to be included into the plan. The ports of Majuro and Lautoka gap analysis were concluded in 2017 and can be included in the *Pacific RRF 2016*.
9. The Pacific MLAP is further supported by the *WCPFC Conservation Management Measure (CMM 2017-04) Marine Pollution* that came into effect in 2019 due to substantial illegal discard of waste from fishing vessels in the Pacific. This was based on the findings of the SPC/FFA observer form GEN-6 Data for 2003-2018 that revealed over 18,000 MARPOL violations with garbage discharge making up 71% of the violations. Most of these violations came from vessels flagged by distant water fishing nations.

### **Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme 2021-2030: PACPOL 2030 - Clean Seas, Green and Resilient Pacific Ports**

10. The *Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme 2015-2020 (PACPOL 2020)* is an integrated holistic approach to addressing ship sourced pollution. In the review of the *PACPOL 2020* for the decade the initiative for '*Clean Seas, Green and Resilient Pacific Ports*' will be developed in 2020 and 2021 to provide an ecosystem based approach to addressing both ships and ports from emerging issues such as marine litter and climate change addressing SDG13 on Climate Action, SDG 14 on Life below water, SDG 15 on Life on Land and SDG 17 on Partnerships.
11. The ratification and full implementation of IMO relevant conventions and guidelines such as MARPOL, LC/LP, OPRC, CLC, FUND, Bunkers, Wreck Removal, Cape Town Agreement 2012, Ballast Water, AFS and Hull Fouling will be a key priority focus. This will be supported by assistance to countries in the ratification process, development and implementation of legislation, capacity building through knowledge transfer workshops and trainings and procurement of equipment and infrastructure.

## Recommendations

12. The Parties is invited to:

1. **support** the *Pacific Regional Marine Litter Action Plan 2018-2025 (PMLAP 2025)* and agree to implement the associated plans;
  2. **note and support** the endorsement of the COP under Item 7.1 to the ratification and implementation of marine pollution related IMO Conventions and Guidelines such as *MARPOL, LC/LP, OPRC, CLC, FUND, Bunkers, Wreck Removal, Cape Town Agreement 2012, BWMC, AFS and Hull Fouling*; and
  3. **support** the review of *PACPOL 2020* and the development of ***PACPOL 2030 'Clean Ships, Green and Resilient Pacific Ports'***.
-