



Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre (SCPRC-6) 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 Sixth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre (SCPRC 6) for the joint implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions met in Nadi, Fiji on 21 February, 2019;
2. Present at the Meeting as elected in 2017 were sub-regional representatives from Australia, Polynesia represented by Samoa, Melanesia by Vanuatu and New Zealand's position was filled by Niue. Micronesia was represented by FSM in 2017, however, due to their absence, Marshall Islands was elected to represent the Micronesian sub-region for this meeting;
3. Also present as observers were delegates from Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu. (A full list of participants follows);

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting;

4. The Steering Committee Meeting commenced at 10.30am with a welcome from the current Chairman, representing Niue (who were filling in for New Zealand) and called the meeting to order;

Agenda item 2: Organisation of the Meeting;

5. The Secretariat drew the attention of the Meeting to the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee and advised that in 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.

6. The Secretariat outlined that the tenure for each Committee was 4 years meaning that the committee that was elected in Nuku'alofa, Tonga in 2017 would still be in charge of this Steering Committee meeting.
7. As noted, Samoa was representing Polynesia, Vanuatu was representing Melanesia, and Marshall Islands was representing Micronesia following Federated States of Micronesia's withdrawal from the meeting due to illness.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the Agenda;

8. The Chairman invited the Steering Committee members to comment on the provisional agenda in order to finalise and endorse it;
9. The Steering Committee:
 - **adopted** the Agenda (see below)

Agenda item 4: Matters related to the Business Plan of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre for 2018–2019:

10. The Secretariat welcomed Vanuatu to the meeting, noting its entry into force of the convention on 14th January 2019.
11. The evaluation of the Waigani Convention was discussed, with strong support from some Parties for the regional Convention while others were concerned about overlap with the Basel Convention. It was agreed that the findings of the evaluation report be discussed at the 2019 Waigani COP;
12. Insurance options for Waigani movements and the issues faced by countries in managing insurance claims after breaches of the Convention was discussed by delegates, raising common challenges.
13. It was noted that insurance doesn't cover the illegal movement of hazardous wastes;
14. Country delegates requested training assistance on insurance coverage and how it applies to different types of hazardous wastes.
15. The Australian delegate offered to assist the Secretariat in helping draft up a set of criteria to act as a guide to assist countries with insurance coverage for the movement of hazardous wastes, on finalisation of a proposed consultancy report.
16. The Australia delegate also offered to assist with training for Pacific island countries and requested that the Secretariat invite Australia to provide support for training for implementing the Basel and Waigani Conventions;
17. ; The organization of the pre-COP preparatory meeting for the triple BRS Conventions COP meeting in Geneva in April-May 2019 was warmly received. Members were

advised that Dr Rolfe Payet, Secretary for BRC would attend this meeting. Members were also encouraged to make the most of this meeting to ensure that the Pacific voice was heard at the triple COPs.

18. The Secretariat has continued to provide technical advice and assistance to Parties on matters relating to the transboundary movement of hazardous waste, especially in the processing of Notification and Movement Forms. Support has been provided to Tuvalu and the Solomon Islands. In Tuvalu, training was conducted for Custom offices and the key stakeholders in the implementation of the Waigani Convention. In the Solomon Islands, a general week-long workshop was held on various components of the Waigani Convention where issues such as national reporting, notification and movement forms, and legislation were covered.
19. The Secretariat noted that during this reporting period there have been no reported cases of the illegal trafficking of hazardous waste.
20. The Secretariat reinforced the need for countries to include hazardous chemicals and wastes in their National Development Plans, observing that they will become more critical as countries in the region become parties to other global conventions. It was noted that Palau, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tuvalu and Samoa have developed integrated waste management plans as a component of their National Development Plans. The assistance provided by the Secretariat to Tuvalu, Solomon Islands and Samoa was acknowledged by their delegates.
21. Funding of on-ground improvements has been carried out under the GEFPAS uPOPs project, with country assessments being carried out in FSM, Fiji, RMI, Kiribati, Vanuatu and Niue. Used oil has been removed from FSM and a transfer facility for used oil built.
22. Country delegates raised the need for further support to address asbestos, e-waste, used oil and healthcare waste.
23. Country delegates noted that they have received a lot of support from the Secretariat for the Minamata Convention. Seven countries have put in place a plan to manage mercury waste through this Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) project. PNG and Samoa are doing their planning through national projects while the Cook Island, Kiribati, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu are doing theirs through a regional project.
24. The Secretariat advised the delegates that they have been successful in securing significant funding through regional partners (Australia, AFD, EU and UNEP) to resource waste management projects. The Secretariat acknowledged the help and support provided by countries in securing these funds.
25. The Meeting:

- *endorsed* the report and *recommended* to the COP-10 of the Convention for formal adoption;

Agenda item 5: Business Plan of the Pacific Regional Centre for 2020–2021;

26. The Secretariat introduced the Business Plan for the period 2020-2021 noting that its major objective was to continue the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Basel and Waigani Conventions to 2021, taking into account the realities and needs of developing countries in the Pacific. It also noted that the 2020-2021 Work Plan contained in this Business Plan is for the joint implementation of the Waigani and Basel Conventions and is administered by the Pacific Regional Centre through the Steering Committee.
27. The Secretariat further added that linked to this Work Plan is a budget that has been secured by the Secretariat for the activities that have been included in the Work Plan. Funding of around \$40M has been secured with a further \$20M to be negotiated through the GEF ISLANDS Project.
28. The Secretariat also noted that Parties were often better placed than the Secretariat to request and secure funding for implementing national activities and urged Parties to exploit such opportunities. The Secretariat further advised that it stood ready to assist Parties in the development of project proposals for resourcing considerations.
29. The representative from Samoa requested that the Business Plan also tie in the work on hazardous waste to other critical issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss and plastic pollution.
30. The meeting:
endorsed the work plan in principle and *encouraged* the Secretariat to revised it once the outcomes of the evaluation are made known;

Agenda item 6: Cooperation with other Institutions;

31. It was noted that the MOU with the Oceania Customs Organisation had expired and this cooperative arrangement would need to be revisited.
32. The delegate from Samoa requested that cooperation with other Institutions be expanded to include Private-Public Partnerships and Non-Government Organisations. The Secretariat was also encouraged to take advantage of the cross-linkages with other critical environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss and plastic pollution.
33. The delegates had a fruitful discussion around the GEF ISLANDS Project and were encouraged to submit their endorsement letters of support.

Agenda item 7: Effectiveness of the Steering Committee of the PRC

34. The effectiveness of the Steering Committee of the PRC was discussed and delegates acknowledged the efforts of the Secretariat in facilitating training and on-ground actions in the region
35. Country delegates noted that the timing between meetings was very long and proposed that regular 6-monthly catch-ups remotely by skype would generate more dialogue, activity and ownership.
36. Country delegates noted their limited capacity for undertaking donor funded regional and national projects and requested that the Secretariat explore ways to increase the number of national officers across the region.
37. The lack of funding for the PRC was acknowledged as a barrier to assisting countries in the regions. It also highlighted the importance of countries in supporting the Secretariat in securing donor funding for regional projects to support national actions.

Agenda item 8: Other matters;

38. The issue of radioactive contamination was discussed, with most delegates acknowledging that it is predominately a national issue.
39. The delegate from RMI was updated on work being carried out by the Secretariat with the National Nuclear Commission in addressing specific issues on radioactive contamination in his country.

Agenda item 9: Date and venue of the next Meeting;

40. It was proposed that the date and venue of the next Meeting align with the next STAC meeting.
41. The meeting:
 - **agreed** the next meeting would take place in Port Vila at a date to be determined in consultation with the Vanuatu Government and in accordance to the scheduling of the Basel Convention COP in 2021

Agenda item 10: Adoption of the report;

42. Parties were invited to make comments on the meeting report to make sure that the report reflected the correct version of their respective interventions and send the feedback to the Secretariat;
43. The Meeting:

- **adopted** the draft report for the SCPRC-6 meeting in principle subject to the corrected wording from the parties; and
- **recommended** the report be forwarded to Waigani Convention COP-10 for formal endorsement;

Agenda item 11: Closure of the meeting;

44. The Chair in closing thanked everyone for their input into the meeting acknowledging the hard work that was put in by the Secretariat in making the meeting happen. The Chair then invited the SPREP Director for Waste Management and Pollution Control program to make some closing remarks;
45. The SPREP Director for Waste Management and Pollution Control program in her closing remarks thanked all the parties for their hard work and excellent input into the discussions and provided some highlights of the meeting.
46. The meeting was then closed at 5:15 pm on Thursday 21th February 2019.

– List of Delegates

| Country | Name and details of participants |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Australia | Mr Khokan Bagchi Hazardous Waste Section Department of the Environment GPO Box 787 2601 Canberra ACT AUSTRALIAa |
| Cook Islands | Mr. Vavia Tangatataia Manager - Advisory & Compliance Division National Environment Service (Tu'anga Taporoporo) PO Box 371, Rarotonga COOK ISLANDS |
| Kiribati | Mr. Taulehia Pulefou Senior Environment Officer Environment and Conservation Division Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development PO Box 234, Beikenibeu Tarawa KIRIBATI |
| Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) | Ms. Joann Komanta and Mr Warwick Harris Republic of Marshall Islands Environment Protection Authority PO Box 1322 Majuro, MH 96960 REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS |
| Nauru | Mr. Remik Scotty and Mr Godwin Koroa Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment NAURU |
| Palau | Mr Olkeriil Jaoch and Ms Zena Kulialang Rengulbai The National Capitol Ngerulmud Republic of Palau 93939 |
| Papua New Guinea | Ms Katrina Solien and Ms Ann-Patricia Torea. Department of Environment & Conservation PO Box 6601 Boroko, National Capital District PAPUA NEW GUINEA |
| Samoa | Mr Ulu Bismark Crawley and Mr Afele Faiilagi Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) Private Bag Apia SAMOA |

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| Tonga | Ms. Mafile’o Masi and Ms Sulieti Pongi Hufanga Waste Management and Pollution Control Section Ministry of Lands, Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources PO Box 5, Vuna Road Nuku'alofa TONGA |
| Vanuatu | Ms Roselyn Bue and Ms Donna Kalfatak Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation Nambatu PMB 9063 Port Vila, Vanuatu |
| Fiji | Ms. Sandeep Singh and Ms Sainimili Bulai Waste Management and Pollution Control Unit Department of Environment PO Box 2109 Suva, FIJI ISLANDS |
| Niue | Mr Haden Talagi Department of Environment Ministry of Natural Resources Fonuakula, Alofi NIUE ISLAND |
| Solomon Islands | Ms Debra Kereseke Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology PO Box 21 Honiara SOLOMON ISLANDS |
| Tuvalu | Mr Walter Pulogo and Ms Miriama Uluiviti Department of Environment Vaiaku, Funafuti TUVALU |

Secretariat:

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| <p>Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP)</p> | <p>Dr Vicki Hall Director – Waste Management and Pollution Control E: vickih@sprep.org</p> <p>Dr. Frank Griffin Hazardous Waste Management Adviser E: frankg@sprep.org</p> <p>Mr. Anthony Talouli Pollution Control Adviser E: anthonyt@sprep.org</p> <p>Mr Raymond Schuster GEFPAS Assistant Project Officer E: raymonds@sprep.org</p> <p>Address: PO Box 240 Apia Samoa P: +685 21929 Fax: +685 20231</p> |
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Provisional Agenda
SCPRC-6

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organisational matters:
 - a. Rules of Procedure;
 - b. Election of Officers.
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Matters related to the Business Plan of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre for 2018–2019:
 - a. Maintenance of the Centre and staff training activities;
 - b. Activities for the implementation of the Strategic Framework and other COP-11 decisions;
 - c. Synergies activities (optional);
 - d. Other capacity building activities (optional);
 - e. Financial information.
5. Business Plan of the Pacific Regional Centre for 2020–2021.
 - a. Draft work program:
 - i. Strategic issues;
 - ii. Scientific and technical matters:

- iii. Legal, governance and enforcement matters:
- iv. Regional and International cooperation and coordination:
- b. Financial Matters

6. Cooperation with other Institutions
7. Effectiveness of the Steering Committee of the PRC
8. Other matters.
9. Date and venue of the next Meeting
10. Adoption of the report.
11. Closure of the meeting.