

## Pollution from vessels (article 6)

- prepared a joint paper to the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) 62nd session to amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Convention) in March 2011. The amendments were done to assist countries with unique circumstances such as PICTs, in meeting obligations to provide adequate 'ships' waste reception facilities' under the convention through regional arrangements.

This is an excellent achievement for the region (and globally) in preventing marine pollution from vessels, and it would not have been made possible if not for the efforts of AMSA and the support of the IMO member countries in the region. This outcome brings to an end nine years of work that began in 2003 with the recognition that PICTs had difficulties in providing adequate ships waste reception facilities and this was an impediment for ratification of the MARPOL convention. It is hoped that these approvals by IMO to institutionalise the regional arrangement will enable more PICTs to sign up to the MARPOL Convention.

- conducted joint training focusing on response to oil spills, which also covered hazardous/noxious substances preparedness, response and cooperation (in 2010).
- sent delegations from the Pacific island countries to the International Oil Spill Prevention & Preparedness Conference (SPILLCON 2010) in Melbourne (in April 2010).
- held a joint seminar to update countries in the region on the importance of the Pacific Islands Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN and PACPOL).
- conducted workshops in Kiribati, Fiji, Palau and Republic of the Marsha;; Islands MI on Investigating Shipping Pollution Violations in 2010-11.
- conducted training on national oil spills in the RMI, Kiribati, Fiji, Palau, Cook Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu.

The training helped strengthen national capacity in marine pollution planning, preparedness, and response by ensuring that countries have an updated National Marine Spill Contingency Plan that is implemented through trained specialists in marine spill response.

- assisted PICTs to deal with the introduction of marine species through ballast water discharges through training, and development of two model invasive species legislation. As part of the implementation of the regional strategy that addresses Shipping Related Invasive Marine Pests in the Pacific region (SRIMP- Pac).
- conducted regional training in Fiji to raise awareness of, and assist countries implement, the Convention on Ballast Water Management through the development of appropriate legislation.
- conducted a three-day sub-regional workshop on the Compensation and Liability, Fund and Bunkers Conventions (January 2012).
- conducted a workshop on Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas and Other IMO Tools for Area Specific Management (August 2012).
- conducted a workshop on the Oil Spill Preparedness Response and Cooperation (OPRC) Convention, and Regional Noumea Convention Emergency Protocol (October 2012).
- reviewed the Pacific Islands Marine Contingency Plan through workshops and meetings in Auckland, Sydney and Honolulu (late 2012-early 2013).

- conducted two day training workshops in Incident Command System in Fiji (June 2012).
- conducted five day training workshops in Oil Spills in Fiji (June 2012).
- conducted workshops in relation to the disposal of garbage and the prevention of air pollution under MARPOL (August 2013).
- conducted a regional Workshop on the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001 (November 2013).
- held training on marine pollution investigation and enforcement training in Nauru (March 2013) and the Solomon Islands (October 2013).
- conducted two-day training workshops in the skills and knowledge needed for ensuring proper compliance, monitoring and enforcement regarding the Ballast Water Management Convention in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu (both October 2013).
- conducted a practical training exercise on how to appropriately respond to a marine oil spill in Tonga (November 2013).
- conducted an audit of Regional Port Waste Reception Facilities in Fiji, Guam, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea; and Tahiti in 2014.
- undertook a regional investigation into sources and impacts of Abandoned, Lost, or Discarded Fishing Gear in the region.
- developed a coordinated multi-sector and multi-agency approach to marine invasives, including conducting training and establishing cross-sectoral and multi-agency teams in Tuvalu and the Cook Islands to coordinate actions on invasive species in 2015.
- facilitated and enhanced the ability of PICTs to meet MARPOL requirements for port waste reception facility adequacy through the development of a world-first Regional Reception Facilities Plan.
- assisted Fiji's Maritime Safety Authority to complete a Marine Spill Risk Assessment as part of PACPLAN.
- provided technical assistance and support by updating and disseminating shipping pattern information to all PICTs focusing on container vessels, oil tankers, cruise liners, pleasure vessels as well as fishing vessels.
- completed the review and development of the Pacific Oceans Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL) Strategy 2015-2020.
- updated and disseminated the Marine Pollution Prevention Legislation that incorporates all IMO marine pollution related conventions to include the new MARPOL provisions.
- assisted Samoa, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, Tonga, and Republic of the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji to develop their national ballast water management strategies.
- procured oil spill response equipment for four locations in Fiji, enabling it to meet its obligations under the Noumea Convention for marine spill preparedness and response.
- worked with partners to lay the foundation for the development of the Pacific's first Particularly Sensitive Sea Area to mitigate or eliminate the impacts of international shipping on sensitive marine environments in 2015.
- analysed over 10,000 MARPOL violations from 2013-2015 through an observer programme.

## **Pollution from land-based sources (article 7)**

- assessed riverine and marine debris reduction strategies to help move towards improving integrated waste management in the Pacific.
- held an Ocean Acidification workshop as an official side-event at the 3rd UN SIDS conference in August 2014.
- developed a new Ocean Acidification project in partnership with others to commence a Pacific monitoring programme and build the resilience of Pacific islands countries and territories to Ocean Acidification.
- became a member of the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network.
- signed a Practical Arrangement agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, who are the host of the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre.
- completed the first training in the region covering MARPOL Annex VI GHG Emissions with workshops in Samoa.
- helped to address land-based marine litter in the Pacific, including the Samoa Marine Litter demonstration project in Apia harbor, and the Matanikau River project in Honiara, Solomon Islands as well as supporting coastal clean-up activities in several other countries in 2015-16.
- conducted a study on plastic ingestion by fish in the South Pacific.

## **Pollution from sea-bed activities (article 8)**

- held a regional workshop in environmental perspectives of deep sea mining activities
- participated actively in deep sea mining issues including:
  - provision of input into the mid-term evaluation of the SPC-EU Deep Sea Minerals Project
  - participation in the regional workshop on deep sea minerals policy and legislative drafting
  - review of the Pacific Regional Environmental Management Framework for Deep Sea Minerals Exploration and Exploitation developed by the SPC-EU DSM Project;
  - provision of a submission to the International Seabed Authority on its draft document,
  - development of a Regulatory Framework for Mineral Exploitation in the Area;
  - participation in deep sea mining discussions during the Pacific Ocean Alliance Meeting, High Hopes for High Seas
  - engagement with the Deep Sea Mining Transparency Group
  - preparation of a SPREP Position Paper on deep sea mining.
- reviewed the draft Regional Environmental Management Framework for Deep Sea Minerals Exploration and Exploitation, and the Guidelines for Deep Sea Minerals Scientific Research, both of which were published in 2016.
- delivered presentations on EIA, SEA and Risk Assessment, and Environmental Best Practice and the Precautionary Approach, at the DSM Regional Environment Workshop in Fiji (October 2016).
- published a paper on actions required to strengthen the EIA process in Pacific island countries for effective management of DSM development.
- obtained observer status with the International Seabed Authority (August 2017), highlighting its unique environmental mandate within the Pacific region and its broad portfolio of ocean responsibilities, including ocean monitoring and observation, ocean acidification, protection of threatened and migratory species, marine pollution and debris reduction and protection of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.

- provided feedback on the DSM regional agreement drafted by SPC (March 2017).

### **Disposal of wastes (article 10)**

- developed a background discussion paper on marine plastic litter for Pacific based research and action.
- updated and disseminated IMO marine pollution legislation booklet that included the IMO Guidelines for the disposal of waste at sea.

### **Storage of toxic and hazardous wastes (article 11)**

- completed an assessment of used oil and pesticides in 13 Pacific islands countries, as well as conducting a cost benefit analysis of management options and drafting model legislation based on extended producer responsibility in 2015 and 2016.

### **Mining and coastal erosion (article 13)**

- participated in a workshop on deep sea minerals in the Pacific, held in Fiji (June 2011).
- participated in the International workshop on environmental management needs for exploration and exploitation of deep seabed minerals (in December 2011)
- engaged consultants to assist SPREP in the development of a technical paper on the precautionary principle, and guidance on applying the principle in the implementation of Deep Seabed Mineral mining (in April 2012).
- led a brainstorming session as part of an EIA training workshop in the Cook Islands to support the development of national sand mining guidelines (May 2017).

### **Specially protected areas and protection of wild fauna and flora (article 14)**

- entered into a Memoranda of Cooperation with the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). Activities under this area include:
  - Pacific Islands Cetacean MoU agreed upon by 13 SPREP members (with Pitcairn supportive);
  - Six SPREP members are now party to CMS;
  - the implementation of dugong surveys, and a review of legislation for marine turtles in conjunction with the CMS Abu Dhabi Office;
  - placement of a CMS Pacific Officer at SPREP.
- developed a recovery plan for the Oceania humpback whale.
- completed a review of the regional marine species action plans for 2013-2017.
- coordinated the CITES regional workshop on Strengthening Implementation Capacity to Ensure Sustainable Wildlife Management and Non-detrimental Trade, Nadi, Fiji, 5-7 March 2012.
- enhanced institutional capacity for integrated governance of coastal and marine resources, promoted economic tools to assist the management of marine resources, and supported existing networks and initiatives regarding the Coral Reef Initiatives for the Pacific through activities including:
  - exchange on community-based marine resource management between Wallis and Futuna and Samoa
  - a socio-economic survey in the communities of North Efate, Vanuatu
  - elaboration of a business plan for the financing of Marine Protected Area network in French Polynesia
  - providing support to the Solomon Island government to establish mechanisms to assist community-based management in the Malaita Province.

- as part of marine conservation efforts:
  - mapping Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in Samoa and Kiribati
  - supporting eco-regional analysis supported in Cook islands
  - actively participating in the MESCAL Mangrove project, with mapping support provided to Samoa and Tonga
  - providing technical support provided to Cook Islands in government and community consultations related to initial planning, scope and process for the development of the Cook Islands Marine Park.
- continued to support Pacific Island Country (PIC) Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands with the conservation and wise use of their wetland ecosystems.
- developed a Regional Wetlands Action Plan for the Pacific Islands 2011-2013.
- assisted PIC Parties to access the Ramsar Small Grants Fund (SGF) and to meet associated SGF reporting requirements.
- assisted the preparation of national reports for the 11th Ramsar Conference of the Parties.
- assisted Ramsar PIC parties to update Ramsar Site data and identify priority wetland sites for future Ramsar designation.
- convened the Fifth Oceania Regional preparatory Meeting for Ramsar COP11 to bring together Pacific Ramsar Parties and canvass common priority issues.
- developed a briefing document to assist Pacific Island Parties with their negotiations and deliberations at Ramsar COP11 (6-13 July 2012).
- assisted with the promotion and coordination of annual World Wetlands Day national celebratory activities throughout the region.
- provided assistance to Vanuatu to initiate national preparatory activities for joining the Ramsar Convention, including a briefing for the honourable Environment Minister and development of required documentation for accession.
- completed training on mangrove wetland monitoring, with 15 Pacific Island participants trained and competent in applying monitoring techniques in the field.
- finalised the Manual for Mangrove Monitoring in the Pacific Islands Region.
- provided support provided to Kiribati, Niue and Tonga to follow up preparations for joining the Ramsar Convention. Assistance provided to the Republic of the Marshall Islands to undertake community consultations and field surveys related to the designation of their second wetland of international importance, NamdrikAtoll.
- established a Pacific wide Marine Protected Area 'Network of Networks'.
- updated the 1993 wetland inventories for Kiribati, Palau and Vanuatu under the Ramsar Convention.
- proposed the expansion d the marine conservation areas based on BioRAP surveys in Vava'u to inform decision makers.
- provided technical support for the sister sites agreement between the Cook Islands MPA and the New Caledonia Nature Park.
- updated 1993 wetland inventories for for Wallis, Futuna and Nauru.

- helped to organise a three-day regional workshop “High Hopes for High Seas” on Areas and Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction in Suva (26-28 May 2015).
- completed the biodiversity rapid assessment of the Cloud Forest of Rarotonga, providing the basis for development of a Management Plan to protect and conserve the cloud forest.
- oversaw the signing of the new PIRT Agreement by 11 members of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation.
- supported the CBD Capacity Building Workshop on Aichi Targets 11 and 12 which produced draft national roadmaps for protected areas.
- launched the regional protected area programme at CBD COP13 in Mexico.
- updated protected area related news, events, training, funding and employment opportunities on the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal (PIPAP) and disseminated through PIPAP listserver on a weekly basis.
- produced participatory 3-D Models for islands and catchments in Tonga (Eua Island, Vava’u), Fiji (Taveuni Island), Nauru and Cook Islands (Rarotonga).
- signed Project Cooperation Agreement with UNEP for new regional UNEP-GEF SPREP ABS project to commence in 2017.
- introduced Open Standards for Conservation Planning tools to GEFPAS Integrated Island Biodiversity Project Coordinators and biodiversity officers from Cook Islands, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu.
- promoted mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation into agriculture production in Samoa and at the regional level through workshops, side events and launch of the publication Mainstreaming Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity into the Agricultural Production and Management in the Pacific Islands.
- assisted Nauru to complete its first national wetlands inventory and also a management plan for the conservation of the Anabar Ijuw wetland sites.
- continued to build capacity for effective management of marine protected areas, with several new large MPAs over EEZ waters.
- established the “Biodiversity Blue Belt” project to enhance capacity in MPA management in all four Pacific OCT members.
- engaged Samoa, Nauru, Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Kiribati in the use of marine spatial planning tools and processes by leveraging synergies across projects such as EPOG, MACBIO, PACIOCEA and BIOPAMA.
- trained others in the use of the environment spatial information platform (ESIS), and the application of spatial data in descriptions of marine bioregions and marine spatial planning.
- held a Regional Pacific Ocean Alliance (POA) Meeting and Sustainable Oceans Initiative Workshop on integrated ocean management in Apia with key industry sectors, CROPs and members.
- enabled countries to prepare strong positions on the needs of Pacific SIDS in global negotiations (such as the UN process on ABNJ-BBNJ and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Targets and Indicators) through providing technical input to the Marine Sector Working Group and Pacific Ocean Alliance.
- contributed to the UN Environment Regional Seas Programme Implementation Plan, to address SPREP member priorities on oceans and coral reefs.
- assisted development of 2017 Action Framework for the International Partnership for Blue Carbon, to identify strategies and actions that will benefit SPREP Members in coastal and marine environmental management.

- signed and commenced a partnership MOU with UK Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) with assistance to Vanuatu in coastal water quality monitoring.
- 5 new trainees from SPREP Member countries completed the 2016 Coral Reef Management Fellowship Programme held at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
- convened the Pacific GCRMN (Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network) Workshop to develop a database and key issues for a Pacific islands coral reef status and trends update.
- assisted Kiribati, Palau, Vanuatu to update Ramsar Site data and identify priority wetland sites for future Ramsar designation and management focus.
- provided briefings and guidance to Pacific Island Parties in negotiations and deliberations at Ramsar COP13.
- assisted the promotion and coordination of annual World Wetlands Day national celebratory activities throughout the region.
- provided support to Kiribati, Niue and Tonga and Vanuatu on preparations for joining the Ramsar Convention.
- provided assistance to the Republic of the Marshall Islands to undertake community consultations and field surveys related to the designation of their second wetland of international importance, Namdrik Atoll.
- implemented watershed management, waste management and water supply EbA activities in Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands.
- conducted an Ecosystem based adaptation (EbA) Cost benefit Analysis for Lami Town, Fiji.
- completed ecosystem and socio-economic resilience analysis and mapping (ESRAM) for Port Vila, to inform options for ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change.
- appointed a Shark and Ray Conservation Officer and signed an agreement with Pew Charitable Trusts to promote the conservation of sharks and rays.
- delivered the regional Blue Days conference in French Polynesia to promote conservation of threatened species by supporting development of ecotourism opportunities for communities.
- convened successful CBD/CITES pre-COP meeting for SPREP Parties.
- hosted a Pacific Shark Symposium workshop for the CITES Pacific Parties focused on conservation and management measures to be highlighted in the revised Marine Species Action Plan.
- launched and began to implement of Year of the Whale activities.
- completed and evaluated the GEFPAS Project “Prevention, management and Control of Invasive Species in the Pacific Islands”, which included over 100 invasive species initiatives in nine countries over the past five years.
- received approval of the GEF 6 project, strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of Invasive Alien Species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific.
- oversaw rat control and eradication projects in Tonga, resulting in a significant increase in the Vava’u endemic Tongan whistler at Mt. Talau, Vava’u islands, and seabirds successfully nesting on Malinoa and Motutapu islands in the Tongatapu island group.
- contributed to restoration projects in Samoa resulting in more resilient ecosystems by managing invasive plants and revegetating with native trees.

- completed National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plans for Cook Islands, FSM, Kiribati, RMI and Wallis et Futuna.
- developed the Pacific Invasive Species Battler Series including the first nine publications of common invasive species issues in the Pacific.

### **Environmental impact assessment (article 16)**

- ran several EIA training courses for administrators of EIA systems in Nauru, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, PNG, FSM and RMI.
- introduced Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) training courses for national State of the Environment reviews of PICTs in Samoa, Cooks and Kiribati.
- conducted legal assessments of several pieces of EIA legislation.
- assisted countries on specific EIA assessments on key major development projects of several PICTs. Including:
  - helping to conduct a 12-month marine quality monitoring programme as part of the overall EIA study for augmenting a hydro-electric scheme in Samoa
  - establishing the EIA policy framework and TOR for assessing and making decisions on a proposal to build an airstrip for atoll islands of Tokelau
  - EIA on the proposal to upgrading the South Tarawa road of Kiribati
  - EIA process for the proposed fish processing plant at Blacksands coastal area in Vanuatu.
- introduced a National Integrated Environmental Policy and Planning (NIEP) process starting with Kiribati and Cook Islands and then Samoa and others (in 2011 and 2012).
- drafted regional environmental guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development.
- launched and published Regional Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidelines.
- delivered EIA training workshops in Samoa, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Nukunonu atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands; and Niue and the Cook Islands, as well as an EIA and Biodiversity workshop in Samoa in 2015-17.
- delivered an introduction to EIA and field trip as part of the Pacific Island Environment Conference in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- provided technical back-stopping for countries for key steps of the EIA process, particularly the development of terms of reference for EIA reports, and the review of EIA reports.
- finalised draft EIA guidelines for coastal tourism development in 2017.
- contributed to the component of SPC's Restoration of Ecosystem Services and Adaptation to Climate Change (RESCCUE) project that is exploring options for progressing the mitigation hierarchy and offsets in the Pacific.
- Achieved accreditation status and therefore has its own Environmental and Social Management System and ESS framework under the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund, and Executing agency for the Global Environment Facility.
- commenced development of a complementary environmental planning tool on knowledge and awareness of Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- engaged in SEA capacity-building in 2018#6 at a seminar delivered by The World Bank at SPREP, and also delivered a presentation on the status of SEA in the Pacific at the New Zealand Association for

Impact Assessment annual conference.

- launched an online site, the Pacific Network for Environmental Assessment (PNEA) in March 2017.

### **Scientific and technical co-operation (article 17)**

- collaborated with the Secretariat of the CBD, and CSIRO, to run a regional workshop to assess Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas in the western South Pacific in November 2011.
- continued to collaborate with partners and to provide and receive technical assistance including to develop large proposals to the European Development Fund for EDF11 support to the Pacific European Union Marine Project (PEUMP) and PacWaste plus.
- engaged with several Member countries in the use of marine spatial planning tools and processes by leveraging synergies across projects such as EPOG, MACBIO, PACIOCEA and BIOPAMA: in Samoa, Nauru, Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Kiribati.
- assisted in organising a regional workshop on integrated ocean management held in Apia with key industry sectors, CROPs and all SPREP Members, for multi-sector planning and management at EEZ and regional scales.
- participated in providing technical input to Parties through the Marine Sector Working Group and Pacific Ocean Alliance which has enabled countries to prepare strong positions on the needs of Pacific SIDS in marine conservation and in global negotiations such as the UN process on ABNJ-BBNJ the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Targets and Indicators and preparations toward the UN Oceans Conference.
- organized and hosted the 39th Meeting of the Scientific Group Under the London Protocol and Convention in Suva Fiji in March 2016 regarding the discharge of wastes at sea.

### **Technical and other assistance (article 18)**

- launched a Clearing House for all Multilateral Environment Agreements which includes documents and links associated with the Noumea Convention.
- ran a workshop to develop regional frameworks for reporting and streamlining of reporting and initial development of a regional framework for reporting on ecosystem condition in March 2012.
- provided capacity building to Samoa MNRE in the development of a framework for the assessment of ecosystem condition for inclusion in State of Environment reporting (March 2012).
- provided support for 'greening' of the 3rd International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa, including providing improved waste management infrastructure and planning advice to Samoa and to the tourism industry and assistance with marine pollution response equipment and training in the following specific activities:
  - implementation of the Marine Debris Demonstration Project in Samoa
  - completion of waste audits of conference venues, accommodation sites, and all ports of entry;
  - completion of the Apia Port for the Pacific Jewel gap waste reception facility assessment by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority
  - waste training for all accommodation sites and distribution of trash bins
  - arrangement for oil spill response equipment from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and deployment for the Pacific Jewel
  - completion of oil spill response training.
- provided regional input to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets and indicators, including for the new SDG 14 on Oceans and assisting Pacific SIDS input to the broader G77 countries responses on SDGs.

- enhanced capacity for marine spatial planning with Pacific Island countries and Territories.
- revamped the website in order to facilitate easier access by Parties to the Convention's business.
- assisted Parties in their preparation for and at the Sustainable Development Goal 14 at the UN Oceans Conference in June 2017.