



Sixteenth meeting of the Noumea Convention

Sixteenth 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)

Virtual - Apia, Samoa
02 September 2021

Agenda Item 4.1: Report of the Secretariat on work performed for the period July 2019 – June 2021 in relation to the Noumea Convention and Protocols

INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with Rule 12(vi) of the Rules of Procedure for the Noumea Convention, the Secretariat informs the Parties on the work and activities developed, coordinated, and carried out by the Secretariat for the period July 2019 to June 2021, to assist Parties implement their obligations under the Noumea Convention. These activities were carried out under the following areas:
 - A. Marine pollution work as part of the Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme.
 - B. Marine and coastal conservation work as part of the Island and Ocean Ecosystems Programme.
 - C. Environmental impact assessment (EIA) work as part of the Environmental Monitoring and Governance Programme.
2. The implementation of the two Convention Protocols on Dumping and Oil Spills has been carried out by the SPREP Pollution Adviser with funding mainly from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) which is primarily focused on ship-sourced marine pollution.
3. The Noumea Convention has two main sources of funding comprising of:
 - A. Contributions from Parties (which support the biennial Conference of the Parties); and
 - B. An operating budget for activities under the Convention (which largely consists of an annual contribution to the Convention Secretariat from the United States of America).
4. Over the past biennium there has been a significant focus on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly support in addressing marine litter and plastic pollution through the implementation of the Pacific Regional Marine Litter Action Plan 2018-2025.

5. The capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries Phase III Programme officially commenced its implementation activities late last year. The ACP MEA Phase III Programme aims to build capacity and support the Pacific Island Countries fulfill their obligations as Parties to the MEAs. SPREP has been the implementing entity for the previous ACP MEA Phases I and II as well as for the current ACP MEA Phase III for the Pacific Hub. The unique feature of Phase III is that it now covers the capacity building and support to Parties to implement their obligations under the respective Regional Seas Conventions i.e., the Noumea Convention. Further information on the ACP MEA Phase III Programme and activities is provided in Agenda item 7.3.
6. The report on the work performed under the Noumea Convention is set out below under the relevant articles of the Convention and its Protocols.

Due to the cross-cutting nature of waste and pollution, many activities were carried out in the region to build and strengthen national capacity to combat pollution and waste. The activities performed were undertaken in a holistic and integrated approach to meet Articles 6, 7, 10, 11, 15, 17, 18. These activities are listed in Table 1 as part of this Report.

Article 6: Pollution from vessels

- (a) In the 2019 and 2020 biennium the Pacific completed 2 regional workshops to address ship sourced pollution made possible with financial assistance from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). The Regional Ballast Water and GloFouling workshop was held in June 2019 in Suva Fiji attended by 35 participants from 15 Pacific island countries and territories (PICTs).
- (b) The Secretariat completed an assessment of Vanuatu MARPOL Annex V compliance and carried out a national Oil spill preparedness and response training.
- (c) The Secretariat established an oil spill response agreement with Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) for all PICTs with funding support from NZ MFAT and technical sponsorship from Maritime NZ. This will allow for better protection of the marine environment from impacts of oil spills

Article 7: Pollution from land-based sources

- (a) The Secretariat provided guidance to the development of the Standard Operating Procedures for the operation of material recovery facility in Nauru.

Article 8: Pollution from sea-bed activities

- (a) SPREP continues to be an active member of the CROP technical team that provides technical advice on the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). With the leadership of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS), SPREP provides technical advice to CROP and Member countries on the application of the EIA process on sea-bed activities. As the recognized technical lead for EIA and SEA capacity

building in the region, SPREP has been supporting PSIDS in the technical review of the draft International Legally Binding Instrument for the protection of marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).

Article 10: Disposal of wastes

- (a) During the reporting period, the Secretariat did not receive any information on the disposal of waste at sea.

Article 11: Storage of toxic and hazardous wastes

Further activities implemented under this Article are provided in Table 1 of this Report.

- (a) Legacy wastes safeguarded (12 tonnes of DDT and 600,000 Litres of PCB contaminated transformer oils) in **Papua New Guinea**.
- (b) Identified and ensured safeguarding of asbestos stockpiles in **Nauru** for remediation work in 2021-2022.
- (c) Ten sites were identified for remediation in **Papua New Guinea** and **Nauru** to be addressed through the GEF Islands Project and PacWASTE Plus Programme.
- (d) **Fiji** has updated their National Implementation Plans (NIPs) for the Stockholm Convention.

Article 13: Mining and coastal erosion

- (a) The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Guidelines for Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs)¹ was endorsed by the 2nd SPREP Executive Board meeting in 2020. The SEA guidelines are a first for the region and among the first of these types of guidelines endorsed for use in the world, they also complement and build on the success of the Regional EIA Guidelines. Strategic Environmental Assessment – Guidelines for Pacific Island Countries and Territories have been prepared to provide guidance on the application of SEA as a tool to support environmental planning, policy and informed decision making. It provides background on the use and benefits of SEA as well as providing tips and guiding steps on the process, including case studies, toolkits, and checklists for conducting an SEA².
- (b) The Regional EIA Guidelines “Strengthening Environmental Impact Assessment; Guidelines for Pacific Island Countries and Territories” continue to be highly valued, formally recognised and referenced by the World Bank and Asia Development Bank as good practice in their new shared approach and Environmental and Social Management Framework, released in 2020. This is the first time the World Bank has referenced an outside standard or process in their safeguards and framework system. The Pacific Learning Partnership (PLP-ESS) which consists of SPREP, USP, ADB and the World Bank

¹ The SEA Guidelines commenced drafting in 2018 and circulated to member countries in 2019. Due to a lack of detailed comments on the draft SEA Guidelines, a face-to-face workshop on the principles of SEA and review of the draft was held with representatives from 11 PICTs (American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) in November 2019. Key inputs on the draft SEA Guidelines were also provided by EIanz, IAIA, NZAIA.

² SEA is a means of systematically evaluating the environmental and related socio-economic impacts and cumulative impacts of Policies, Plans and Programmes (PPP) to ensure that opportunities can be maximized, risks can be mitigated and alternatives can be considered during the early stages of PPP.

continue to promote and utilise the SPREP Regional EIA Guidelines as a resource for regional capacity building on EIA for professional development of national environment regulatory staff, project staff, as well as a resource for graduate courses delivered by USP.

- (c) The Secretariat continues to work with Member countries to develop State of the Environment (SoE) reports and National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS) to strengthen reporting, monitoring, and planning processes on infrastructural developments such as mining and coastal development. During the reporting period, **Papua New Guinea** and **Solomon Islands** had completed their respective NEMS.
- (d) The Secretariat through its Environmental Monitoring and Governance (EMG) Programme provided training for the Solomon Islands Mining Division of the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification (MMERE) and the Environment and Conservation Division (ECD) of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management (MECCDM) on how to conduct an EIA training for the mining sector.
- (e) As a key partner to the 2020 Pacific Ocean Climate Conference, the Secretariat delivered a presentation on the importance of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) creating awareness on EIA as an important tool for sustainable development.

Article 14: Specially Protected Areas and Protection of Wild Flora and Fauna

- (1) *Ocean and island ecosystems*
 - (a) The Secretariat presently supports the Parties in negotiations to, and the agreement in the Convention on Biological Diversity for the development of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Following a regional workshop hosted by SPREP, the Pacific region has advocated for a strong ambition on protected areas and supported a 30% target for marine protected areas in the new framework.
 - (b) Through the Bycatch and Integrated Ecosystems Management (BIEM) Initiative and in partnership with IUCN, the Secretariat supported the work by members to conduct Marine Spatial Planning and development of National Ocean Strategies and Plans for their Exclusive Economic Zones.
 - (c) The Secretariat continues to support Pacific countries in negotiations on the UN Law of the Sea legally binding instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction in Part II which relates to Area Based Management Tools including marine protected areas.
- (2) *Biodiversity and marine protected areas*
 - (d) SPREP's partnership with the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas (PIRT) and New Caledonia, hosted a successful 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in November 2020. This was originally planned to be face-to-face event in New Caledonia earlier in the year, however the global COVID-19 pandemic led to the event being postponed and re-scheduled as a virtual event. The event has 21 Action Tracks covering priority topics for the region

including protected areas, threatened species, invasive species, marine pollution, land-based pollution, marine threats and much more. A High-Level segment produced the **Vermore Declaration** addressing the 21 Priority Actions for the region. These Actions are carried forward in the new Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025.

- (e) A State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report (SOEC) was developed during 2019-2020. This Report examines the status and trends of 31 regional environment indicators in 22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories which also updates the 2013 State of Conservation on Oceania assessment, focusing on the period 2015-2020. An interactive webpage was launched in April 2021 to share the digital story and key messages in the Regional Report (<https://soec.sprep.org/>). The information contained in this Regional Report is targeted to national and regional priorities. Each indicator is mapped to facilitate reporting to priority international agreements and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), used to address today's challenges, such as climate change, pollution, and resource extraction.
- (f) The Secretariat provided support and assistance to **Cook Islands** and **Samoa** in their virtual participation to the pre-COP meetings of the CBD Convention, through covering internet costs for the meeting participants. This support was funded under the ACP MEA Phase III Programme.
- (g) EU-ACP Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme Phase II:
 - (i) Completed 3 virtual trainings for **Marshall Islands**, **Samoa** and **Solomon Islands** that engaged over 60 government technical officers and NGO representatives. Participants were equipped with basic practical knowledge of navigating the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal (PIPAP) to find country data, information resources and protected area management tools to assist them with their daily work. Furthermore, the training equipped them with practical skills in field data capture, use of GPS units, data input and the production of basic site maps with primary descriptive features utilizing the freely available QGIS software.
 - (ii) Completed data reviews and updates on Protected Areas for the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) for the **Cook Islands** during 2019-2020. These data updates at the global level will assist **Cook Islands** with more accurate reporting of protected area coverage in relation to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway.
 - (iii) SPREP with IUCN Oceania Regional Office and the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) co-organised and delivered a 3-day regional virtual training from 27 to 29 May 2021 on the Global Database on Protected Areas (GD-PAME) managed by the UNEP-WCMC. The training facilitated understanding on the importance of protected area management, effectiveness of information at the international, regional, or national and site-specific scale. The training familiarized participants with the background, role, and purpose of the GD-

PAME. Furthermore, the training captured important feedback from participants that will contribute to establishing a practical workflow for updating protected area management and effectiveness of data across all Pacific ACP countries.

(3) *Threatened and migratory species*

- (h) The Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDS) was updated and the Secretariat is rolling out training on its use across the region. Tags and applicators continue to be distributed and a monitoring manual as well as a training programme is planned.
- (i) Through the ACP MEA Phase III Programme, the Secretariat engaged in a partnership with Birdlife International to develop a new Regional Marine Species Action Plan which will become part of the new series of 5 action plans.
- (j) The “Strandings of Oceania” database has been developed by the Secretariat to support efforts to manage and monitor strandings of marine mammals across the region.
- (k) The Secretariat supports Parties’ engagement in the CITES and CMS. SPREP, is a member of 2 of CITES working groups, including the Working Group on Electronic Systems and Information Technologies. As a member thereof, SPREP participated in a workshop on this issue on 14 December 2020.
- (l) An updated review of Cetaceans and key threats across WCPO is being carried out by a consultant.
- (m) Through partnerships with the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme and the BIEM Initiative, the Secretariat undertook key activities related to threatened and migratory species as follows:
 - Assessing the risk of marine turtle extinction across the region
 - Consultants are engaged and working with the Governments of **Papua New Guinea** and **Solomon Islands** to develop National Plans of Action for sharks, seabirds and marine turtles and crocodile management plans for Solomon Islands as well as the review of legislation to crocodile management and trade in PNG
 - WWF Pacific is leading a project to improve uptake of bycatch mitigation measures for Species of Special Interest in the Pacific longline fleet through a port-based extension programme. A training is included for observers and crew. Marine turtle bycatch toolkits are being distributed to Fijian longline vessels and seabird bycatch mitigation using tori lines is also being implemented
- (n) Further information is available on this link: <https://library.sprep.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/SOEC-Indicator-21.pdf>.

(4) *Invasive species*

- (o) During the reporting period, 3 multi-country projects began implementation:
 - (i) EDF11 OCT PROTEGE invasive species component in support of the **French territories**, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and **Wallis and Futuna**, and the UK Overseas Territory **Pitcairn Island** (EUR 5,240,000);
 - (ii) GEF 6 funded project “Strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of Invasive Alien Species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific, to support **Marshall Islands, Niue, Tonga and Tuvalu plus a significant regionally focused component** (USD\$6,252,489); and
 - (iii) The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade funded “Managing invasive species for Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific” project with implementing partners Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research and New Zealand Department of Conservation and SPREP (NZD 10million). The SPREP component is worth NZD 2,448,000.
- (p) The Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) was established to facilitate the scaling up of invasive species operational management across the Pacific which was identified as a major gap through regional monitoring of the Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific. PRISMSS partners are BirdLife, Island Conservation, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, New Zealand Department of Conservation, SPC, SPREP and Wellington UniVentures. Operationally, PRISMSS is currently financially supported by the GEF, NZ MFAT and SPREP.
- (q) Completed 1 regional marine invasives GloFouling and Ballast Water Management workshop and 2 national marine invasives GloFouling workshops in partnership with IMO for **Fiji**. This allowed for better protection of the marine environment from impacts of invasive marine species through the implementation of the Guidelines to address invasive species from hull biofouling and Ballast Water Management Convention.
- (r) Regional initiatives:
 - (i) A 5-week PRISMSS Invasive Species Programme Management Course held in late 2019 in Apia, Samoa, followed by several online workshops, guides and training materials focused on invasive species management.
 - (ii) Virtual Pacific Battler Lounge was launched to provide Pacific practitioners an opportunity to learn and share.
 - (iii) Work began on reviewing the *Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific*, a marine biosecurity toolkit, mainstreaming invasive species management across the Pacific into climate change and other sectors, sustainable financing of national invasive species programmes, and the standardization of National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plans (NISSAPs), Early Detection Rapid Response Plans and Biosecurity legislation reviews.

- (s) Further information is available on this link: <https://library.sprep.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/SOEC-Indicator-19-20.pdf>

Article 15: Co-operation in combating Pollution in cases of emergency

Further information on activities undertaken to meet Article 15 are listed in Table 1 of this Report.

Article 16: Environmental Impact Assessment

- (a) In addition to the SEA and EIA Guidelines, the Secretariat continues to promote best practices in EIA through the delivery of EIA in-country awareness training workshops and technical advisory support to member countries' environmental regulators for EIA. This work is now being further supported through the PLP-ESS and the ACP MEA Phase III Programme.
- (b) In November 2019, the World Bank through the PLP-ESS, funded the recruitment of an ESS Consultant to be based in the EMG Programme at the SPREP Headquarters, to assist in identifying EIA-ESS capacity needs for SPREP Member countries and Parties, and to support the delivery of capacity building initiatives of SPREP through the EMG EIA Planning Team. The ESS Consultant developed a training needs assessment for Pacific member countries and assisted in several EIA-ESS training initiatives. Travel restrictions resulted in the delivery of joint SPREP and World Bank series of virtual training modules on Regional Training on EIA, Stakeholder Engagement and Social Impact Assessment in the Pacific. The virtual training was held from 11 November to 3 December 2020 with over 200 participants from 9 PICTs, including Parties to the Noumea Convention as follows: **Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Solomon Islands including Australia.** There was positive feedback received throughout the 8 training modules affirming the usefulness and effectiveness of the training.
- (c) As part of SPREP's webinar "Transitioning to a Post-Pandemic Pacific" in 2020, SPREP's EMG Programme delivered a webinar focused on the use of EIA and the importance of integrating environmental considerations in sustainable tourism planning. Titled "Environmental Consideration in Sustainable Tourism in the Pacific Region", the webinar had speakers from the Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) and the Tourism sector in the Pacific to share their perspectives and expertise on why it is important to ensure that tourism operates in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner. The webinar was joined by over 40 separate logins, many of which were shared as end point mini conference sittings with participants from **Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands and USA.** The webinar resulted in follow up requests for a tourism-sector specific EIA training with the Samoa Tourism Authority (STA) in Samoa, and a planned remote training for SPTO staff in Fiji for 2021.
- (d) The Secretariat's technical support for reviews of Member countries' proposals and EIA/SEA processes included the provision of, and assistance with, the direct review and inputs into several national legislations such as in:

- **Nauru:** a draft Environment Bill to include and refine its EIA process now endorsed as Nauru's first Environmental Management and Climate Change Act.
 - **Cook Islands:** the review of the draft, revised Environment (Seabed Minerals Activities) Regulations 2020 to highlight gaps and conflicts between seabed mining permit process and EIA process.
 - **Tokelau:** a draft of the first EIA Policy currently with the General Fono for approval. The EIA Policy will inform the development of the draft EIA regulations pending approval of the EIA Policy. This work commenced in 2019 during the last face-to-face EIA training conducted prior to the pandemic and then continued remotely throughout 2020 and 2021.
- (e) In addition to EIA trainings, the Secretariat continues to provide technical backstopping for member countries in key steps of the EIA process, particularly the development of terms of reference for EIA reports and the review of EIA reports. The EIA training in combination with direct technical backstopping, has helped to improve countries' confidence with EIA administration and oversight. There are, nonetheless, ongoing challenges with EIA implementation in the Pacific including insufficient quality control exercised over EIA reports, weak compliance, monitoring and enforcement, and low levels of public engagement and participation in EIA. The Secretariat is working with Member countries and partners to identify ways of addressing these challenges such as:
- Encouraging EIA administrators to establish networks with other government agencies and regional partners to help strengthen their compliance, monitoring and enforcement efforts; and
 - Emphasising opportunities for public involvement in key steps of the EIA process such as screening, scoping and EIA report review.

Article 17: Scientific and technical co-operation

- (a) The Secretariat has undertaken numerous activities to enhance environmental monitoring and the exchange of data and other scientific and technical information. Since 2018, the Secretariat established the Pacific Environment data portal network, which hosts 14 country data portals as well as a regional node. This network is used for sharing and storing of data but more importantly, using data to foster national objectivity including the Noumea Convention. In 2020, there were over 9000 datasets available to all members to access and utilise. Further information is available on <https://pacific-data.sprep.org/>
- (b) The Secretariat produced the State of the Environment and Conservation 2020 regional report which provides indicator status for 31 indicators including protected areas, pollution, migratory species and more. This contributes to the regional monitoring and exchange of technical information in the region. Further information is available on <https://soec.sprep.org/>.
- (c) The Secretariat, as a key partner in the 2020 Pacific Ocean Pacific Climate Conference, created awareness through the delivery of a presentation on the importance of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

- (d) In the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas Nature Conservation Action for a Resilient Pacific, the Secretariat presented on the importance of the Coastal Tourism EIA Guidelines on the topic of “Sustainable and regenerative tourism in the Pacific - tools for making progress.”³ At the same Conference, the Secretariat chaired a panel session on threats to migratory species.
- (e) In February 2020, the Secretariat participated in the Pacific negotiators meeting with representatives from the PIFS countries on matters related to the preparation for the then upcoming IGC4 to finalise the BBNJ. The IGC4 was subsequently postponed due to the pandemic and all support work has continued to be undertaken remotely. This has included drafting text on behalf of PSIDS for an international legally binding instrument on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction process of undertaking a Strategic Environmental Assessment for activities. This proposed process was then refined in liaison with Australia and New Zealand for use in PIFS negotiations with other potential BBNJ Parties. As IGC4 and the finalisation of BBNJ is now tentatively planned for August 2021, the Secretariat continues to support the PSIDS and PIFS in preparation for these negotiations.
- (f) Engaged with international conventions specifically the International Whaling Commission (IWC) including hosting a session for Pacific IWC Commissioner in April 2021.

Article 18: Technical and other assistance

- (a) The New Zealand Department of Conservation is supporting SPREP through a secondee working with the Threatened and Migratory Species (TAMS) including the review of the Regional Marine Species Programme 2013-2017 and assist with updating new draft plans.
- (b) The Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser (TAMSA) collaborated with the Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme (SPREP) to support Members in their engagement on marine plastics through the 4th meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics in November 2020.
- (c) A scholarship programme through the Lui Bell Scholarship is being developed to support a student undertaking research in the Kikori Delta Important Marine Mammal Area where bycatch of hump-back and snub nose dolphins is occurring. BIEM is also supporting research on the bycatch of sawfish in the same fishery.
- (d) Capacity building workshops for Parties to CITES on the development of Non-Detriment Findings for species including sea cucumbers, giant clams, and sharks.
- (e) The Secretariat provided technical assistance to all Pacific Island Countries on national reporting mechanisms.
- (f) The Pacific Islands Database of Capacity Development Activities (PIDOC) system was revised to better capture human capacity development activities across the region.

³ COVID-19 is giving many destinations in our region an opportunity to rethink and refine the tourism model including a shift to sustainable and regenerative tourism which benefits local people and places. The session explored different perspectives, tools and elements of creating a more responsible and sustainable tourism model guided by human and traditional values with a focus on the interests of people.

Table 1:

Goal	Activities	Relevant Article
Goal 1: Minimised the adverse impacts of chemicals and all wastes on human health and the environment via environmentally sound life-cycle management in accordance with agreed regional and international frameworks, including Cleaner Pacific 2025, and significantly reduce the release of pollutants to air, water and soil through the following activities	International Maritime Organisation (IMO) completed an assessment of Vanuatu's MARPOL Annex V to assist with compliance.	6, 15
	Moana Taka Partnership established with Swire Shipping to address legacy waste, low value waste and non-commercial waste with 50 shipments from Fiji, Marshall Islands, PNG, Samoa and Australia to Vietnam, Kiribati, Australia, Malaysia, Samoa and Singapore.	7, 11
	Construction and commissioning of a small-scale infrastructure in FSM allowed collection and transfer of used oil drums to a larger T14 ISO Tanktainer for offshore export.	
	Healthcare waste management training materials developed and prepared for use and deployment to facilities in Timor Leste to manage waste stockpiles and new materials (deployment did not occur due to COVID travel restrictions).	
	Healthcare waste incinerator assessment undertaken for 6 incinerators. Contracts for repair have been signed but works have not been undertaken due to COVID travel restrictions.	
	Adoption of a regional framework, the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan 2018-2025 to coordinate and resource activities in the region.	
	The implementation of the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan 2018-2025 through negotiating proposals to acquire financial resources from Australia POLP AUD \$16M, GEF7 Islands Programme USD\$20M and AFD SWAP EUR 3M.	7, 11, 17, 18
	AFD - EU3M secured for the Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP) to increase investments in delivering waste actions on used oil, marine litter, disaster waste and sustainable financing.	
	Developed, in consultation with communities, 9 disaster waste management plans to improve preparations and recovery from natural disasters.	
	Successful execution of the Greening of the Games, Samoa 2019 Pacific Games, by the Greening of the Games Committee co-chaired by Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and SPREP and included the Pacific Games Office, Samoa Tourism Authority, Ministry of Women Community and Social Development, Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, UN Environment and Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association. Donor support was a key part to achieving success for the Greening of the Games which included the Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD), British High Commission in Apia, Clean Seas Campaign of UN Environment, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, Government of New Zealand, Government of Samoa, Pure Pacific Water, Peace Corp	7, 17

Goal	Activities	Relevant Article
	Response Volunteers, Samoa Pure Water, SPREP, Swire Shipping Moana Taka Partnership and Zerobags New Zealand.	
	A Disaster Waste Management Guideline is currently being developed.	6, 7, 11, 15, 17, 18
Goal 2: Strengthened national, regional and international mechanisms for waste management including for chemicals, hazardous wastes, ship and aircraft generated waste, marine plastic litter and other marine debris (Institutional) through the following activities.	PacWaste Plus provided funding support for Plasticity conference event to build knowledge and capacity of waste industry and country government officials on waste management issues and plastics recovery.	6, 7, 11
	Cook Islands, RMI and Samoa undertook feasibility studies to inform the design of a Sustainable Financing Systems.	
	Delivery of detailed legislative assessments and national options papers to 14 PICs (and Timor-Leste).	
	The circulated <u>Practical Guide to Solid Waste Management</u> in the PICTs offered guidance to properly address waste issues based on lessons learned. The guidebook complemented landfill management and operation trainings for Samoa, RMI and FSM .	6, 11, 18
	4 technical working groups (Disaster Waste, Recycling, Marine Litter, Hazardous Waste) have been identified to provide additional technical assistance in implementing the aspirations stated in the Outcome Statement during the 2018 Clean Pacific Roundtable.	6, 7, 11, 15, 17, 18
	The baseline assessment of waste management in RMI, FSM and Samoa helped gather relevant information for country engagements.	
	The 2019 PACPLAN was endorsed at the COP15 of the Noumea Convention, 29 th SPREP Meeting with the support from Australia through the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and the New Zealand through Maritime New Zealand (MNZ). This will allow for better protection of the marine environment from impacts of oil spills.	6, 15
	Establishing an oil spill response agreement with Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) for all PICTs with funding support from NZ MFAT and technical sponsorship support from Maritime NZ. This will allow for better protection of the marine environment from impacts of oil spills.	
	The guideline on uPOPs Prevention and Chemical Awareness: Considerations on Awareness Raising produced through the <u>GEF-Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GEF-PAS)</u> Project which included measures to reduce uPOPs emissions and improve the management of chemicals across all sectors including agriculture.	7, 11
	The continuing Waste Chemicals Pollution awareness and educational programmes in Fiji, Cook Islands, FSM, RMI, Samoa allowed progress in some of the specific waste streams and issues being addressed such as single use plastic, resource recovery, waste collection, CDL, among others.	7, 11, 17
	Capacity building needs assessments have been completed in 8 PICs namely, Samoa, Solomon Islands, PNG, RMI and FSM .	

Goal	Activities	Relevant Article
	<p>The <u>sub-Regional Disaster Waste Management</u> workshops in Samoa with Polynesia sub-region (Samoa) and Melanesia sub-region (Fiji, Solomon Islands) and in the Micronesian sub-region, established the linkage between the National Disaster Management Offices and the Waste Management Offices for better disaster preparedness.</p>	7, 11, 18
	<p>Consultations on the <u>Regional Guidebook on Disaster Waste Management</u> aims to provide guidance on how to deal with disaster waste issues.</p>	
	<p>Students from the National University of Samoa (NUS) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) of Samoa benefitted from a practical training on litter data collection and reported during river clean ups (prior to the XVI Pacific Games). NUS students and MNRE benefitted from a training on waste audit which was utilised to undertake the waste audit during the XVI Pacific Games; waste data reported as part of the Sustainability Report of the Greening of the Games initiative.</p>	
	<p>The presence of the PICTs in the 8th and 9th Asia Pacific Regional 3R Forum held in India and Thailand increased knowledge on current recycling trends and provided networking opportunities with Asian recyclers.</p>	
<p>Goal 3: Recovered resources from waste and pollutants through composting (nutrient recovery), recycling (material recovery), energy recovery and other measures in order to minimise waste and contribute to economic and social development through the following activities.</p>	<p>The <u>Regional Waste Monitoring System</u> initiated to be developed, will measure diversion rate of wastes from the landfill.</p>	7, 11
	<p>The functioning Container Deposit Legislation implemented in FSM and recently in RMI minimised wastes going to the landfill.</p>	
	<p>The Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association (1st of its kind in the region) with its 5-year Strategic Plan paved the way for developing public-private partnerships and encouraged Solomon Islands to establish a similar association.</p>	
	<p>Similar recycling associations established in Solomon Islands and Fiji provide a promising outlook in establishing a good recycling network in the region.</p>	
	<p>Provision of guidance for the development of the Standard Operating Procedures for the operation of material recovery facility in Nauru.</p>	
	<p>Technical assistance provided to Samoa in the development of a resource recovery of waste pilot project.</p>	
	<p>Technical assistance provided to the Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association in pursuit of on-the-ground activities particularly educational awareness and development of project proposals.</p>	
<p>Goal 4: Improved waste and pollution monitoring of receiving environments to enable informed decision making on appropriate measures to protect human health and the environment and to reduce associated environmental damage through the following activities.</p>	<p>The Regional Waste Monitoring System initiated with the conduct of regional workshop focused on refining the target indicators with reference to WMPC Results Framework.</p> <p>Technical assistance provided to all PICs on national reporting mechanisms.</p> <p>Progressing on National Waste audits undertaken for all PICs in collaboration with PacWastePlus, POLP, Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF), World Bank, UNEP, JPRISM2.</p>	6, 7, 11, 15, 17, 18

Goal	Activities	Relevant Article
	<p>Commenced planning for development of Regional Waste Monitoring System.</p> <p>Aided with the development of the Tuvalu and Nauru State of the Environment Reports.</p> <p>Waste audit data used to inform the development of waste management policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cook Islands - to inform the Advanced Recovery Fee and Deposit system included in the Solid and Hazardous waste bill development. ○ FSM – to develop projects to manage organic waste generated in Chuuk and Yap. ○ Nauru – to inform the Advanced Recovery Fee and Deposit system and development of national recycling plan. ○ Samoa, Solomon Islands - to inform the Advanced Recovery Fee and Deposit system and development of infrastructure to manage priority wastes. <p>Prepared individual country implementation plans based on the Cleaner Pacific 2025 Implementation Plan 2021-2025. Waste audit data uploaded to Inform data portal.</p> <p>Continued engagement with Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP), Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF), ADB, World Bank, JPRISM II on publishing waste data collected through projects into Inform data portals.</p> <p>Aided 14 PICs (and Timor-Leste) to develop National Education and Awareness plans for implementation 2021-24.</p> <p>Waste audit data to be utilised to develop the Regional Waste Investment Prospectus to attract investment in the region and assist countries to attract interest in resource recovery of problem wastes.</p>	
