



“Accelerating actions for a resilient Blue Pacific”

7th, 8th, 9th September 2021, Virtual Platforms
12:00pm – 5:00pm Samoa Standard Time

Agenda Item 8.2.1: Update on CBD COP15 and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Purpose of paper

1. To provide an update on the SPREP regional support for parties to the CBD for the upcoming COP15 and associated meetings of 2020/2021;
2. Outline Pacific priorities for CBD COP15;
3. Highlight the challenges for Pacific Parties’ participation in virtual CBD meetings of 2021; and
4. To encourage countries to participate in CBD meetings and processes as required.

Background

UPDATE ON REGIONAL SUPPORT

5. The CBD COP15 meeting which was to be held in Kunming, China in October 2020 was postponed until October 2021 due to the COVID19 global pandemic. The participatory process for the contribution to the development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be continued as endorsed during the 29th SPREP meeting.
6. A series of consultation meetings for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework commenced in 2019 including the First Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework in Nairobi, Kenya attended by Palau and Tonga, and the Second Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework in Rome attended by Tuvalu and SPREP.
7. A Pacific regional workshop was convened 3 – 6 February 2020 in Apia to discuss and provide inputs into the zero draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The workshop resulted in the development of a series of recommendations into the zero draft which was submitted to the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group and the CBD Secretariat.

8. Given the postponement of the CBD COP15 to late 2021, and working within budget and constraints associated with the pandemic, SPREP has supported the countries in providing regional input to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and associated meetings including the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI), Third Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) sessions, and Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) through the following mechanisms:
 - The 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas including a High-Level Session focused on endorsing key priorities for the region post-2020.
 - Associated Conference products that support Pacific interventions, advocacy and decision making:
 - High Level Vemoore Declaration
 - State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report and website <https://soec.sprep.org/>
 - Regional workshop in preparation for the SBI Meeting for Pacific delegates and members of the Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) hosted in partnership with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under the European Union (EU) Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific States (ACP) Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA) Phase 3 project (March 2021)
 - Participated in, and invited to present on the regional preparations during Fiji's preparatory CBD workshop hosted by Fiji Department of Environment and WWF-Fiji (April 2021)
 - A collaborative regional session on the CBD Soil Biodiversity SBSTTA agenda item hosted in partnership with the UN Food and Agriculture (FAO) and Pacific Community (SPC), and bringing together Pacific biodiversity and agriculture focal points (May 2021)
 - Pacific talanoa session on the SIDs Biodiversity Coalition concept, hosted in partnership with UNDESA (June 2021)
 - Pacific regional post-SBI/SBSTTA briefing session, to be hosted in partnership with UNEP under the EU ACP MEA Phase 3 project (*TBC at time of writing* – July 2021)
 - A regional preparatory meeting (August 2021) for the OEWG, and preparatory meeting (date TBC) for the CBD COP15 for Pacific Island countries
 - Completed and submitted to the SCBD the SBSTTA survey on Headline Indicators of the Global Biodiversity Framework (May 2021)

9. SPREP attended all virtual CBD meetings throughout 2021, including informal and formal SBSTTA and SBI, Open-ended working group (OEWG) on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and will be present at the upcoming CBD COP15. During these meetings, SPREP provided support mechanisms for the Pacific delegates including a Pacific skype group, a Google Drive with resources, briefs, draft interventions and supporting documents, and provides advice and drafting assistance for interventions as requested.

PACIFIC PRIORITIES FOR CBD COP15

10. Priority agenda items that the Pacific islands have been following, or engaging in and making national or sub-regional interventions include the following:
 - I. Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
 - II. Invasive alien species
 - III. Soil biodiversity and agriculture
 - IV. Coastal and marine
 - V. Capacity development
 - VI. Resource mobilization
 - VII. Nagoya protocol and access and benefit sharing

CHALLENGES AND SUPPORT FOR PACIFIC PARTICIPATION IN CBD MEETINGS

11. Pacific delegates have had an overall low participation in the virtual SBI and SBSTTA meetings throughout 2021. We acknowledge the active participation by the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Samoa, and Tonga in the virtual CBD meetings during 2021.
12. Low participation can be partially attributed to the time zone of these meetings which results in them occurring during the middle of the night for the Pacific region, over two to six weeks. Another challenge to the virtual modality of these meetings, is the need for delegates to have access to internet outside office hours, as well as the reliability of this internet connection.
13. SPREP, through the ACP MEA Phase 3 project has been supporting delegates by covering the cost of internet so that they can participate in these meetings outside of the office.
14. Members are encouraged to look for strategies to manage these challenges, and to support delegates to participate in these important meetings.

NEXT STEPS

15. Pacific island countries are encouraged to submit their national inputs to the CBD Secretariat as requested, and to participate in opportunities provided by the CBD Secretariat and other global or regional processes, and to ensure delegations are registered to participate in the upcoming CBD COP15 (Oct 2021).
16. In the lead up to CBD COP15, SPREP will prepare a regional briefing document on priority agenda items, a CBD COP15 Pacific Compass for quick reference by Pacific delegates, visibility products to promote and advocate Pacific priorities and will support countries with internet access.
17. Any information provided to SPREP from the Secretariat will be forwarded to Members.

18. SPREP is also assisting countries to engage in the discussion that is currently underway regarding the formation of a SIDS Biodiversity Coalition, led by the SIDS Ambassadors to the permanent UN Missions and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), including an option for countries to request that it be established within the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

Recommendations

19. The Meeting is invited to:

- 1) **note** the update on the SPREP regional support for parties to the CBD;
- 2) **note** the Pacific priorities for CBD COP15;
- 3) **note** the challenges for Pacific Parties participation in virtual CBD meetings and to identify strategies to manage these challenges; and
- 4) **encourage** Members to register and support delegations to participate in CBD COP15 and associated meetings and processes.

18 June 2021