

Eighteenth Meeting of the Noumea Convention
Sheraton Aggie Grey's Hotel & Bungalows
5 September 2025

Eighteenth 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)

Agenda Item 4.3: Secretariat's report on the Protocol concerning cooperation in combating pollution emergencies in the South Pacific Region (1990)

Purpose of paper

1. To provide an overview of the activities undertaken by the Secretariat in support of the Noumea Convention Protocol concerning cooperation in combating pollution emergencies from July 2023 to June 2025.

Background

2. In accordance with Rule 12(ii), the items mentioned in Article 16 of the Dumping Protocol are to be considered by the Conference of the Parties. The following activities and measures were undertaken by the Secretariat to support the implementation of the Emergencies Protocol.

Technical Assistance

3. The Secretariat in the reporting period July 2023 to June 2024 delivered and facilitated two regional workshops to address ship-sourced pollution with funding support from the International Maritime Organisation. The Regional Taskforce meeting for the Biofouling Management was held in July 2023, in Suva Fiji and was attended by 20 participants from 10 member countries. The Regional oil spill preparedness and response planning workshop was in September 2023 in Brisbane, Australia and was attended by 38 participants from 12 member countries.
4. The Secretariat provided assistance to Fiji and Tonga in the completion of their Biofouling Strategies and Action Plans. A national training on dry-lock operations for biofouling prevention and management was held in October 2024, in Suva Fiji and attended by focal points and various stakeholders from the two countries.
5. The Secretariat also provided guidance to the development of the Standard Operating Procedures for the operation of material recovery facility in Nauru.
6. The Secretariat continues to participate in the Marine Environment Protection Committee and the Technical Cooperation Committee to advocate for robust international regulations and enhanced technical cooperation that directly benefit our Parties.

7. Support to Parties is also provided to emphasize the need for effective mechanisms to prevent pollution from all sources, promote sustainable shipping practices and strengthen our regional capacities for environmental protection and response. The engagement highlights the Pacific's perspective, ensuring that global maritime environmental policies are inclusive and responsive to the specific challenges and aspirations of our region.
8. Overall, the Secretariat 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 and the Agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). With the leadership of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Secretariat provides technical advice to CROP and member countries on the application of the Environmental Impact Assessment process on sea-bed activities.

Recommendations:

9. The Parties are invited to:
 - 1) **Note** the Report on the Emergencies Protocol for the period July 2023 to June 2025.
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