

**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 4.4: UNEP Regional Seas Programme**

**Purpose of paper:**

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide Contracting Parties an overview and update on the Secretariat's ongoing engagement in the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, outlining contributions and participation in key forums including the Twenty-Fourth Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Programme held in Nice, France.

**Background:**

2. The UNEP Regional Seas Programme is a global initiative that supports regional cooperation for the sustainable management and protection of the marine and coastal environment. The Noumea Convention, administered by SPREP, is one of the 18 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAP) and is the legal instrument for addressing marine pollution and environmental protection in the Pacific.
3. The Secretariat continues to actively engage with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme to advocate for Pacific priorities, align regional ocean governance efforts with global commitments, and enhance the implementation of the Noumea Convention. Such engagements include participation in the Meetings of the Regional Seas Programme to report on the progress carried out by the Secretariat under the five programmes that support the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions.
4. The Secretariat participated and contributed in the review and development of the new Regional Seas Strategic Directions (RSSD) 2026 – 2029, ensuring that the new RSSD aligns with the regional frameworks such as the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, SPREP strategic plan, Framework for a Cleaner Pacific, Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan etc.
5. In preparation of the Third UN Ocean Conference held in Nice, France, the Secretariat contributed on the development of the roadmap and strategic engagement of the RSCAPs at Third UN Ocean Conference. This includes contribution in the position paper on Accelerating Coastal Adaptation with Regional Seas and proposed engagement of RSCAPs that would increase the visibility in Nice.

6. The Twenty-Fourth Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Programme held in Nice; France concluded with the following key outcomes: the approval of the Regional Seas Strategic Direction 2026 – 2029, an official statement by the RSCAPs endorsed and submitted under the Ocean Action Panel 8 on Promoting and supporting all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional and sub-regional level. Other discussions included the Regional Seas' contribution to enhanced ocean global agenda such as the SDGs, BBNJ Agreement and other global frameworks. A guidance document was developed to support the coordinated regional approaches toward global biodiversity commitments for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

**Recommendation:**

7. The Parties are invited to:
    - 1) **Note** the updates and activities undertaken by the Secretariat in the Regional Seas which supports the implementation of the Noumea Convention.
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