

Thirty Second SPREP Meeting of Officials

Sheraton Aggie Greys Hotel & Bungalows
2-4 September 2025
Apia, Samoa

“Sustaining our Pacific Environment in Harmony with Our Cultures”

Agenda item 6.7: Update on the preparation of the next SPREP Strategic Plan 2027–2036

Purpose:

1. To update Members on the preparation of the next SPREP Strategic Plan 2027–2036.

Background:

2. SPREP is preparing its next Strategic Plan in the context of a ‘triple planetary crisis’ of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and a region characterised by rapid geopolitical, technological, financial, and social change. Within this context SPREP’s mandate and strategic direction remains clear: to assist Pacific island countries and territories in addressing their priority needs and challenges regarding climate change resilience, biodiversity conservation, waste management and pollution control, and environmental governance.
3. At the Fourth SPREP Executive Board Meeting, Members endorsed an approach, process, timeline, and indicative budget for preparing the SPREP Strategic Plan 2027–2036. The Secretariat has commenced strategic planning activities in line with the endorsed process, with direction and guidance from the SPREP Executive and facilitation by the Strategic Planning, Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation Department (SPPR-D). The two-phase process involves:
 - a) Phase 1, Strategic Plan stocktake and scanning, September 2024 to May 2025; and
 - b) Phase 2, Strategic Plan formulation (drafting, review and feedback), June 2025 to June 2026.
4. Phase 1, stocktake and scanning, has focused on the analysis and review of information, and the identification of issues raised by Members, to inform the next Strategic Plan’s context and high-level priorities. Activities during this phase have included:
 - a) Horizon scanning and visioning activities led by an internal Strategic Plan Working Group, comprised of representatives from each of SPREP’s Programmes and Departments.
 - b) A strategic planning session with the SPREP Senior Leadership Team.
 - c) Identification of priority issues raised by Members at regional meetings and events, for example, the 4th Clean Pacific Roundtable, CIRCLE EXPO 2025, Pacific Subregional Workshop on the Climate and Nature Nexus 2025; and through the preparation of Country and Territory Strategic Partnership Frameworks.
 - d) Review of relevant regional and global strategies, frameworks and reports.
 - e) An SPC-facilitated Futures and Strategic Foresight workshop for strategic thinking and planning skills.

Elevating engagement with Members and partners:

5. Consultation sessions, discussions and outputs related to existing SPREP platforms and strategies are informing the next Strategic Plan, including the:
 - a) Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR), Loss and Damage Dialogue, Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT), Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, Noumea and Waigani Convention meetings, 5th Clean Pacific Roundtable (CPRT).
 - b) Current review and development of SPREP thematic and corporate strategies, e.g. Cleaner Pacific Strategy, Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy, SPREP Communications Strategy.
6. The SPREP Partners Dialogue on 1st September 2025 will be an opportunity for Members and partners to provide input into SPREP's future strategic directions from an integrated programmatic perspective, while the Ministerial Talanoa on 5th September 2025 will allow for Members' high-level strategic input.
7. Additional engagement and consultation with SPREP Members, especially during Strategic Plan drafting and review, is to be led by the SPREP Troika.

Shaping the Strategic Plan 2027–2036, outputs from Phase 1 (stocktake and scanning):

8. Phase 1 of the strategic planning process has emphasised SPREP's unique regional role and position:
 - a) the currency of SPREP's Mandate, Vision and Mission;
 - b) SPREP's existence as the region's independent intergovernmental environment organisation under the direction of its members through the SPREP Meeting;
 - c) the regional triple planetary crisis lead through the UN Environment Assembly;
 - d) Secretariat for the Noumea and Waigani Conventions;
 - e) Secretariat for the Pacific Meteorological Council, which is a specialised subsidiary body of SPREP;
 - f) an accredited entity under the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund;
 - g) a regional centre supporting implementation and reporting for global and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs);
 - h) the host of centres of excellence – Pacific Climate Change Centre, Invasive Species, and Project Coordination Unit; and
 - i) SPREP's regional convening and coordination power, raising Pacific voices in critical international fora including Convention of Parties meetings for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Convention on Biological Diversity; Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; and the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; and for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution.

9. The next Strategic Plan will provide clear and focused articulation of SPREP's purpose, role and functions within the regional architecture, supporting implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. It will be shaped around SPREP's core technical areas of climate change resilience, climate science and information, biodiversity conservation, and waste management and pollution control, with environmental governance supporting all areas. SPREP will remain focused on assisting Members with their core roles and responsibilities across these technical areas, including implementation and reporting for global and regional MEAs. The intention is to consolidate existing work and only address additional themes where there is a solid foundation or Member needs e.g. providing support for Members within the scope of SPREP's mandate in areas including implementation of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement, loss and damage, environmental security, trade and environment, One Health.
10. Phase 1 has also identified the following issues and themes that are informing the focus and setting the context for Strategic Plan 2027–2036:
 - a) Strengthening of integrated work across SPREP's technical areas to effectively address the interlinkages and impacts of the triple planetary crisis, with an overall objective of supporting thriving Pacific communities.
 - b) The critical importance of SPREP's work for maintaining and strengthening Pacific green and blue economies, and supporting sustainable livelihoods.
 - c) Mainstreaming of the Noumea Convention (SPREP Convention) across all relevant Programmes and areas of SPREP work, as the major MEA in the Pacific for the protection of natural resources and the environment.
 - d) Building SPREP's capacity and reputation for providing credible and valued technical advice, including through regional environmental data collection, monitoring and reporting to support MEAs negotiation and implementation, State of Environment reporting, and the development of national environmental laws and policies.
 - e) Application of technologies to support more effective and efficient service delivery (e.g. digital transformation of financial and human resources processes, artificial intelligence, geographic information systems), backed by a strong policy framework incorporating ethical, environmental, social, cultural and security considerations.
 - f) A need for increased focus on articulating the results of SPREP's work in a tangible and compelling way, and clearly demonstrating the measurable impacts achieved for Members.
 - g) Clearly embedding gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) within SPREP's Programmes, projects and activities, and associated monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning frameworks.
 - h) Ongoing work to diversify funding sources and access modalities, and to seek new, likeminded partners in the context of shifting geopolitics and budgetary constraints.
 - i) Ensuring that the new Strategic Plan recognises the unique and special circumstances and priorities of Smaller Island States (SIS) and identifies targeted assistance.
 - j) Preparing a costed Strategic Plan that considers the workforce and resourcing required to support effective implementation, in the context of a challenging funding landscape.

11. Activities and achievements identified through the Performance Implementation Plan (PIP) process of the current Strategic Plan 2017–2026 will inform the implementation of the next Strategic Plan. The intention is that PIP 5 of Strategic Plan 2017–2026 will be reported on at the 33rd SPREP Meeting in 2027, and PIP 1 for the next Strategic Plan 2027–2036 will commence in 2027. Final reporting for each two-year PIP under the next Strategic Plan will be aligned with SPREP Meetings, as outlined in the table below.

SPREP Strategic Plan 2027–2036 Performance Implementation Plan – biennial reporting		
<i>PIP timeframes</i>	<i>Progress reporting years</i>	<i>Final reporting years</i>
PIP 1 (2027–2028)	2028 (6 th Executive Board Meeting)	2029 (34 th SPREP Meeting)
PIP 2 (2029–2030)	2030 (7 th EBM)	2031 (35 th SM)
PIP 3 (2031–2032)	2032 (8 th EBM)	2033 (36 th SM)
PIP 4 (2033–2034)	2034 (9 th EBM)	2035 (37 th SM)
PIP 5 (2035–2036)	2036 (10 th EBM)	2037 (38 th SM)

Recommendation:

12. The Meeting is invited to:

- 1) **Note** the update on the preparation of the next SPREP Strategic Plan 2027–2036; and
- 2) **Encourage** Members to engage in opportunities to contribute to the formulation of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2027–2036.