

Thirty Second SPREP Meeting of Officials

2-4 September 2025

Sheraton Aggie Greys Hotel & Bungalows
Apia, Samoa

“Sustaining our Pacific Environment in Harmony with our Cultures”

Agenda item 8.2: Report on the outcomes of the CBD COP16

Purpose:

1. To present the outcomes of the of CBD COP 16 in Cali, Colombia in October 2024, and the Resumed COP 16.2 in Rome, Italy in February 2025; and
2. Reporting on actions taken by SPREP in its role as the technical advisor and coordinator to Members including the new designated role as CBD sub-regional Centre for Technical and Scientific Cooperation.

Background:

Actions Arising from COP16

3. COP16 was one of the most successful CBD COPs in terms of the Pacific's level of engagement in negotiations, including taking the floor and working as a region to lead and support agenda items. This resulted in some strong outcomes for the Pacific.
4. All Pacific countries participated in the Pacific preparatory meeting held in Apia, Samoa, and were represented at the CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia. The Pacific also had cross sectoral representatives with agriculture (fisheries, forestry or agriculture) agencies participating alongside environment focal points for several countries thanks to the support of FAO.
5. SPREP plays a vital role to elevate and amplify Pacific voices internationally and our ongoing work to support PICs at COPs is a key part of this role. Our support includes:
 - a) Coordinating a One CROP approach for agencies that engage in biodiversity which has to date included SPC and OPOC, joining SPREP.
 - b) Developing a Pacific brief and supporting country-led position papers, including live updates and briefings during negotiations
 - c) Coordinating Daily Pacific meetings and briefings, and engagement with SIDs and other partners as requested
 - d) WhatsApp group established for coordinated communication with all Pacific delegates, as well as with key partners
 - e) Design, setup and support of the Pacific Booth and securing and coordinating a Pacific side event.

6. A summary of the key outcomes of CBD COP16 aligned to the Pacific-led priorities and next steps can be found in WP 8.2/Information Paper 1. Next steps include the region identifying how best to implement and utilise the new stand-alone COP agenda item for 'island biodiversity' and what could be negotiated or decided at the global level, for islands including strengthening implementation of the Island Program of Work into the future. Aligned to the Financial Mechanism CBD COP16 reached a landmark agreement on resource mobilization, establishing a framework for financial support for biodiversity conservation. Additionally, it addresses the long-standing issue of the financial mechanism under the Convention, aiming to operationalize international financial flows from developed to developing countries.
7. COP16 also saw a new Programme of Work and new Subsidiary Body on Article 8J and integrated work with IPLCs across the efforts under the CBD. We need to work together to support Pacific SIDS understand Secretariat of the CBD actions in the future, Pacific priorities and opportunities as well as the next steps.
8. SPREP acknowledges the financial support from New Zealand through the Climate Change Grant funding, which supported the Pacific preparatory meeting (pre-COP) for CBD COP16. We also acknowledge the participation by metropolitan members from Australia and New Zealand, PIRT Members, CROP partners and FAO for the pre-COP and ongoing engagement at COP.

SPREP as the sub-regional Centre for Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC)

9. SPREP was selected as the Oceania sub-regional Centre for Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC) in 2024, during the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 4) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) where Parties selected 18 regional organisations spanning the globe in a multilateral push to bolster the implementation of the GBF. SPREP is the only organisation to be selected for the Oceania region.
10. SPREP is currently negotiating with the CBD Secretariat to provide resources for the functioning of the Centre and is developing a business plan to identify opportunities, needs and gaps within the biodiversity and conservation programme which will support the TSC role.
11. SPREP as a TSC, will use our existing mandate to continue to elevate Pacific voices at the global level (COP negotiations); support regional policy (e.g. Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation) and support National implementation (NBSAPs).
12. Key focus areas for the Oceania TSC Centre are:
 - a) Capacity Building – Facilitating training, workshops and sharing scientific research
 - b) Knowledge Exchange and Scientific Cooperation – Promoting the use of best practices and innovative management approaches through international cooperation;
 - c) Access to Environmental Data – Connecting Pacific Island Countries to high-quality research and technology, improving access to data and tools;
 - d) Technology Transfer – Facilitating the transfer of new and proven technologies and methodologies for sustainable biodiversity and ecosystem management.

13. With existing partnerships, initiatives and projects spanning environmental governance, biodiversity and conservation, climate resilience and waste management and pollution control, SPREP functions as a coordinating mechanism for countries and partners, under Pacific-led governance. The Director of SPREP's Biodiversity and Conservation Programme will oversee the TSC with relevant SPREP programmes and PIRT as a key mechanism.
14. Existing regional and global initiatives we engage with which play a key role in our TSC functions include:
 - a) PIRT –coalition of regional organisations and includes 6 working groups covering species, protected areas, invasive species, nature and culture, environmental law and nature-based solutions.
 - b) NBSAP Accelerator – SPREP was awarded a NBSAP Facilitator jointly with Vanuatu High Ambition Coalition for Nature and people – help desk and opportunity for workshop within the region.
 - c) Monitoring and Reporting project with UNEP WCMC – to enhance Pacific countries ability to report against the GBF
15. SPREP is utilising global initiatives and programmes including the NBSAP Accelerator, a global, country-led initiative designed to fast-track implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in support of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). SPREP alongside the government of Vanuatu was awarded a shared facilitator funded by the NBSAP Accelerator. The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership offers tailored support to participating countries. SPREP, Vanuatu and Federated States of Micronesia are Pacific island members of the initiative (as of end May 2025). Other SPREP Members may want to consider joining this and other global initiatives offering support for NBSAP implementation. Further information on the NBSAP Accelerator can be found in WP 8.2/Information Paper 3.
16. Further information on SPREP as a TSC can be found in the fact sheet in WP 8.2/Information Paper 2.

Recommendation:

17. The Meeting is invited to:
 - 1) **Note** the outcomes of CBD COP16;
 - 2) **Encourage** Members to implement required national actions and engage in the intersessional CBD meetings; and
 - 3) **Utilise** the support of SPREP's technical advisory and assistance role and its designation as the CBD sub-regional Centre for Technical and Scientific Cooperation for Oceania.