

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 9.2.1: Pacific Chapter of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN)

Purpose:

1. To invite Members' to:
 - a. Utilise the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) Pacific Chapter as a strategic youth partner in regional biodiversity governance.
 - b. Be part of a joint effort to develop a regional Youth Engagement Strategy aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Target 22 (equitable and inclusive representation and participation).
 - c. Encourage Members to consider supporting youth engagement through existing activities including government regional training workshops and as part of delegations for regional and global fora.
 - d. Nominate national youth focal points to engage with the Chapter.

Background:

2. The Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), the official youth constituency to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), ensures youth participation in global biodiversity governance. Establishing a Pacific chapter is timely, offering a platform for regional youth to address unique challenges like climate-driven biodiversity loss and limited support.
3. In this context, the term 'youth' refers to individuals between the ages of 18 and 35.
4. While there is strong engagement of youth in the climate change space, there is limited youth engagement or coordination in biodiversity decision making. The establishment of a GYBN Pacific chapter will support develop of a Regional Youth Engagement Strategy which will support more organized and impactful participation of youth in biodiversity related processes.
5. Pacific youth are often excluded from policy-making, despite their deep ties to land and sea. A regional GYBN chapter would support inclusive governance, as called for by the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), empowering youth to contribute local knowledge and lead biodiversity efforts aligned with global goals.
6. Through the support of the EU funded Pacific Bioscapes Programme, SPREP is leading coordination and establishment of the Pacific youth chapter, driven by a dynamic youth led steering committee. This Chapter will also play a vital role in elevating the efforts of Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) members, offering a powerful platform to showcase and amplify youth impact at CBD meetings and other critical decision-making arenas.

7. The Pacific Youth Chapter will be officially launched during the second half of 2025, and SPREP will seek from Members nomination of Focal points in each country for progressing youth engagement. Further information on the Pacific Youth Chapter can be found in WP 9.2.1/Information Paper 1.
8. SPREP commends those countries who already support strong youth engagement including in country delegations to CBD meetings, including their participation in negotiations, as well as those who are on the Pacific Youth Chapter steering committee.

Recommendation:

9. The Meeting is invited to:
 - 1) **Note** the GYBN Pacific Chapter is being developed as a strategic platform for youth engagement in regional biodiversity frameworks and consultations;
 - 2) **Support** and **collaborate** with the GYBN Pacific Chapter to develop the regional Youth Engagement Strategy;
 - 3) **Support** the participation of youth in government regional training workshops, mentorship programs, and youth fellowships in biodiversity science, policy, and advocacy;
 - 4) **Consider** including a youth representative/s in national delegations for CBD meetings and other global and regional fora; and
 - 5) **Nominate** youth focal points to engage with the Chapter.
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