

## 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 9.2.2: 11<sup>th</sup> Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Area**

#### **Purpose:**

1. To update Members on the plan and progress for the upcoming 11<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.
2. To raise visibility of the conference to mobilise regional and international participation, seek partnerships, and secure financial/technical support.
3. To highlight the regional Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas as a major outcome guiding regional action and collaboration.

#### **Background:**

4. This series of major regional conservation conferences has met approximately every five years since 1975. It has become the principal gathering of Pacific government agencies, regional organizations, NGOs, community-based organizations, and donor agencies concerned with conservation science and practice in the region. SPREP co-hosts this conference alongside the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature conservation (PIRT) and a Pacific Island host country.
5. Each Conference endorses and launches a new regional Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. The current Framework is currently being reviewed, including consultation with Members and our partners, before developing the next regional Framework covering 2026-2030. The next Framework will be informed by the Regional State of Environmental and Conservation Report which is currently being drafted and will have strong linkages with the Global Biodiversity Framework. The Secretariat is grateful to Government of New Zealand for the financial assisting which is supporting the review of the Framework and the Regional State of Environment and Conservation Report.
6. The previous 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation was scheduled to be held in April 2020 in Noumea, co-hosted by the Government of New Caledonia. The event was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was held in November 2020 as a fully virtual conference. It was one of the largest environmental conferences ever held in the region, with 187 speakers and over 1,800 participants.

7. The 11th Pacific Islands Nature Conference is to be co-hosted by the Government of New Caledonia, PIRT and SPREP in mid-2026. This will be a hybrid event, with a strong focus on marine protection and conservation, the biodiversity-climate change nexus, and other Pacific-led priorities. The event will have strong youth and local and indigenous community engagement, as well as the potential for regional hubs hosted by PIRT partners and other partners. The event is proposed to be novel in its approach including happening beyond a Conference venue and within the Provinces. Technology will play a key role in engaging with voices from across New Caledonia and the Pacific and taking key messages from the local and regional level and amplifying globally.
8. SPREP has a Conference Coordinator who is anticipated to start mid 2025.
9. It is anticipated that the Conference will have a high-level segment with a Declaration as the key outcome.
10. SPREP seeks partnership, participation and funding support from our Members and partners. A sponsorship prospectus will be developed which outlines opportunities for partners to provide financial contributions. Other opportunities exist for financial support for key components including the virtual platform which will allow online participation including translated live sessions, and networking opportunities.
11. We also encourage Members to plan and budget for their attendance, as well as to support other representatives from Pacific Island countries and territories, including youth and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) representatives.

**Recommendation:**

12. The Meeting is invited to:
    - 1) **Note** the importance of the 11<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Nature Conference for setting the regional conservation agenda, as well as progress in preparations;
    - 2) **Commit** to participating including through collaboration, partnership and financial support including to support participation of country representatives, youth representatives, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities; and
    - 3) **Note** current process for updating the regional Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas which will be a major outcome from the Conference to set the direction for regional action and collaboration into the future.
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