

Draft Agenda of the Pacific Regional COP CBD Workshop

Dates: 21st-25th September 2026

Background

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is organizing the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Seventeenth Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The workshop will help Pacific Island countries coordinate regional positions, share updates, and refine strategies to advance the region's priorities at COP 17.

The meeting will be held in Suva, Fiji, from 21 to 25 September 2026.

Participants will include focal points for NDCs, NAPs, and NBSAPs from Pacific countries, members of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT), and representatives of the UNFCCC and CBD Secretariats. The five-day programme is designed to support dialogue, strengthen negotiation skills, and highlight innovative solutions that reinforce a Pacific-led and coordinated response to the triple planetary crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution.

Over the five days, the preparatory meeting and workshop will provide a platform for Pacific Parties to:

1. Coordinate regional biodiversity priorities for COP 17, including the preparation of position briefs, in alignment with policy development across the climate and biodiversity nexus in the Pacific.
2. Strengthen engagement at COP 17 through a One-CROP approach and technical backstopping from regional partners.
3. Build negotiation skills on priority agenda items, with lead, co-lead, and alternate countries identified for further support.
4. Enhance political support and cross-sector engagement by involving representatives from agriculture, forestry, and fisheries at the pre-COP and during COP 17.

Objectives of the Pre-COP CBD Workshop

- Strengthen whole-of-government approaches by improving coordination among CBD and UNFCCC focal points and other relevant government experts.
- Identify nexus areas and practical entry points for integrating NDCs, NAPs, and NBSAPs at the national level.
- Promote synergies with sector-specific strategies and action plans, including those related to food systems, disaster management, climate change, and biodiversity.
- Build on lessons from the Pacific's COP 16 experience to identify priority entry points for stronger synergies across climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, conservation finance, and capacity building in the implementation of revised NBSAPs and NDCs.
- Provide a platform for NDC and NBSAP focal points to discuss how scientific evidence and policy coherence approaches can better inform national policymaking on the climate–nature nexus in a coordinated, holistic, and synergistic way.

Expected Outcomes

- Participants develop a stronger understanding of where policy coherence can be improved by jointly examining the NBSAP and NDC processes.
- Participants gain a more practical understanding of how biodiversity and climate linkages can be advanced at the national level through stronger institutional coordination and collaboration among CBD and UNFCCC focal points. This discussion will also consider relevant links to the UNCCD, particularly for Pacific SIDS that are parties to the Convention, and highlight shared nexus areas such as food systems, nature-based solutions, and ecosystem-based adaptation.
- Participants better understand the importance of integrating national climate and biodiversity targets into sectoral plans. The workshop is also expected to support regional peer learning and encourage new partnerships through the exchange of best practices and lessons learned in preparing national reports on biodiversity and climate change.
- Participants gain clearer insight into the role of SPREP's *Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre* for the Convention on Biological Diversity and how its existing resources can be used to strengthen capacity building across the Pacific region.
- Priority needs of Pacific SIDS for implementing the CBD, UNFCCC, and other relevant MEAs in a more coherent and synergistic way will be identified, along with how regional partners can collectively support countries in addressing those needs and priorities.

<i>Date & Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Monday, 21 September 2026		
8:30–9:00	Registration of participants Welcome Coffee	
9:00–9:45	1. Opening Session 2. Global Context	Welcome and Overview Welcome remarks (TBD) and an overview of the workshop objectives and agenda. Introduction Participant introductions and an icebreaker activity. Intended Outcome Participants are introduced to the workshop objectives, agenda, and expected outcomes.
MORNING TEA BREAK & Group photo		
10:15 -12:15	3. Overview of the COP Agenda and Pacific Priorities Engagement since COP 16, including the AHTEG on indicators for the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and SBSTTA. SPREP's role in hosting the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre.	Country Presentations SPREP and member countries present on national implementation progress and any positions on priority themes. SPREP Presentation SPREP presents the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre.

LUNCH BREAK (1.45 hour)		
2:00 -4:00	4. Pacific Priorities Monitoring Framework for the Global Biodiversity Framework and related mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting, and review. 5. Country Context: NBSAP Targets	Overview of Ongoing Negotiations Discussion of current negotiations related to Pacific priorities. Country Updates 2-3 countries will be invited to provide updates on NBSAP reporting progress and related synergies with NDCs and NAPs.
Tuesday, 22 September		
8:30-9:00	Recap	
	6. Pacific NBSAP Accelerator Partnership Duration: 45 minutes Question and Answer Session	Partnership Overview The Pacific NBSAP Accelerator Partnership is a joint initiative of UNEP, the CBD Secretariat, and UNDP to accelerate the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) globally. SPREP serves as co-host of the Pacific Partnership and Facilitator Programme, which provides tailored, country-driven support to strengthen coordination, unlock financing, and fast-track priority actions aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework. Matchmaking Mechanism A key part of this support is the Matchmaking Mechanism, which connects countries with technical and financial partners by identifying priority needs, facilitating dialogue with donors and implementing agencies, and helping translate national biodiversity priorities into concrete, fundable initiatives.
MORNING TEA BREAK (20 minutes)		
10:15 -12:00	7. Outcomes of the 11th Pacific Nature Conference 8. Updates from SBSTTA-8 and SBI-7	Presentations The SPREP/PIRT Chair will present on the outcomes of the 11th Pacific Nature Conference. Plenary Discussion PIC member delegates who attended these lead-up sessions will share reflections and updates in plenary.
	9. Country Context: NBSAP Reporting (continued)	Country Presentations Two to three countries will be invited to present on their experience with NBSAP reporting progress and related synergies with NDC and NAP pathways.
LUNCH BREAK (1 hour)		
2:00 – 4:00	Part I. Overview of the Negotiations Toolkit Building on our Negotiations skills	PICAN/ SPREP Training session targeting CBD national focal points. About COP 17 in Armenia.

Wednesday, 23 September		
8:30-9:00	Recap Update: UNFCCC COP Linkages	Discussion Focus Recap of the previous day, followed by an update on linkages with the UNFCCC COP process. Deep Dive PSIDS deep dive.
	10. Pacific Visibility and Coordination at COP 17	Lead and Focus SPREP will lead this session, with a focus on communications, partner coordination, and booth visibility at COP 17.
	11. Research and Advocacy	Technical Backstopping SPREP, with partners like PICAN, will provide technical backstopping to support country mandates, Pacific positions, and pathways for high-level support and approval.
LUNCH BREAK		Bilateral Sessions Dedicated bilateral sessions for member countries.
2:00 – 4:00	Part II. Negotiations skills training	Better understanding of the CBD negotiation process.
Thursday, 24 September		
8:30-9:00	Recap Update: UNFCCC COP Linkages	PSIDS Deep Dive
10:00	Part III. Negotiations Training	
4:00	End of Day	Bilateral: Pacific NBSAP Accelerator Partnership
Friday, 25 September		
8:30-9:00	Recap & outline day's program	
10:00	Brainstorm & preparatory drafting of Pacific-led Position Papers	Group work in conjunction to the negotiation training group of PIC focal points.
	Part IV. Negotiation Skills	Communications & Outreach SPREP Comms
LUNCH BREAK		
4:00pm	Presentation of Certificates Negotiations skills training Conclusion Remarks	SPREP

For further information, please contact:

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