

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 5/4/1

TO: SPREP National Focal Points
Invited Participants

DATE: 4 December 2018

CIRCULAR: 18/73

SUBJECT: Experts Workshop to Define Bioregions for the South Western Pacific Ocean

Dear Focal Point,

SPREP and CSIRO, Australia will convene the 2nd regional workshop to develop a bioregionalisation for the South Western Pacific Ocean, to take place at Nadi, Fiji from the **12- 14 March 2019**. The purpose of the workshop is to finalise bioregional boundaries and descriptions for the Western South Pacific Ocean. National level experts and other thematic experts on regional data and information have collaborated to develop preliminary bioregional boundaries and descriptions for the region (**Annex 1**). The report from this workshop can be downloaded from:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/z8kp3gj23j45itp/Preliminary-worskop-report-Pacific_v2.pdf?dl=0

The word document is:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/q0v2ez5nfc9527r/Preliminary-worskop-report-Pacific_v2.docx?dl=0

and finally, a zip file containing all the shape files:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/4b7z8r8hg9592kd/Pacific_shape_draft15112018.zip?dl=0

Recommendations and outputs from this workshop will be used to further refine these preliminary bioregions.

The South West Pacific Marine Bioregionalisations will provide important information towards national and regional marine spatial planning and management. They will also contribute to the integrated ocean management objectives of the *Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape*.

If possible, we request that Focal Point nominate experts who attended the original workshop (**Annex 2** for reference).

All airfare and per diem expenses will be covered by the project for a limited number of participants.

During the workshop participants will:

1. Develop an understanding of the (biological, physical and chemical) coastal and marine data and analyses available for the Western South Pacific Ocean.
2. Integrate this information to develop benthic, meso-pelagic and pelagic bioregions, covering coastal and offshore waters.
3. Outputs of the bioregionalisation project for the Western South Pacific will be released in digital format. This will include a report on the data and analyses used in the process plus the final

bioregionalisation boundaries and descriptions. This will be provided to all participants, to national CBD focal points and as Documents to CBD meetings.

We invite you to nominate an appropriate national expert on marine ecosystems to attend the Bioregionalisation Workshop, preference will be given to participants of the first workshop. Please respond and submit nomination forms (**Annex 3**) before **Friday 18 January** by email to Akiko Hamada-Ano at akikoh.ext@sprep.org

A draft agenda will be sent to participants closer to the event.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kosi Latu', is positioned above the typed name.

Kosi Latu
Director General

KL/AHA/ma



ANNEX 1: Project background, scope and approach

Background

This project has developed sub-regional bioregionalisations for the western-south Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean. This combines approaches CSIRO developed in Australia, used in the Bay of Bengal (in collaboration with BOBLME) with similar approaches that have been used throughout the Indian and Pacific Oceans to derive a single combined bioregionalisation. The project has developed an expert derived bioregionalisation in the Indian and Pacific Oceans through expert workshops and novel statistical analysis of physical and biological data.

New bioregionalisations for the western-south Pacific and Indian oceans incorporate understanding of shallow, deep and pelagic species, ecosystems, physical environments and their likely boundaries based on current information. The expert-based bioregionalisations will be supported by development of statistical analysis of datasets of selected species groups to identify bioregions specific for each taxon, with data from the Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSA) process and additional regional biogeographies based on new invertebrate and fish collections from CSIRO, University of Tasmania, Museum Victoria and regional partners.

The project draws on experience in CSIRO, GOBI partners, and other collaborators, using approaches currently being trialled in Australia and around the Antarctic margins, and has collaborated with regional and national stakeholders to ensure a consistent approach. The project provides examples of how this information was included and suggest. Outputs have been released in digital format, including a report, the data and analysis used in the process and the final bioregionalisation. This will be provided to all participants, to national CBD focal points and as Documents to future CBD and relevant meetings.

Proposed Approach

Physical and biological data for the South Pacific, produced in collaboration with regional partners, will be analyzed to produce pelagic, mesopelagic and benthic bioregions. The statistical biogeographies, physical and biological data, will be used as inputs into Expert workshops in the Indian and South Pacific. In each region, two workshops will be held.

The finalisation workshop will consider the results of the analysis and provide an opportunity for regional experts to refine their understanding. These workshops will produce a final version of the biogeography for the South Pacific, and a report on the data and spatial models used. The bioregion descriptions and report will be available to all participants of the workshops and bioregionalisation development process, plus relevant stakeholders. The map of bioregions and their descriptions will be most important for multi-sectoral marine spatial planning, to help maintain ecological health and connectivity of the different bioregions.

Project Contacts:

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The draft regions from the first workshop are attached below.

South West Pacific Pelagic Provinces

DRAFT November 2018
GOBI CSIRO Bioregionalisation Project

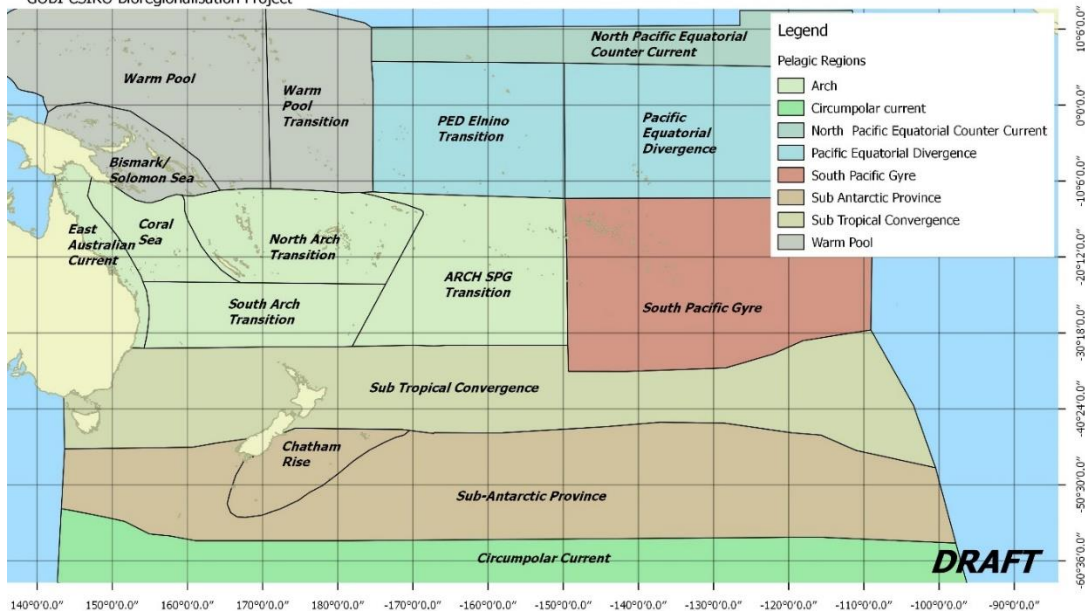


Figure 1 Pelagic Province

South West Pacific Benthic Province

DRAFT November 2018
GOBI CSIRO Bioregionalisation Project

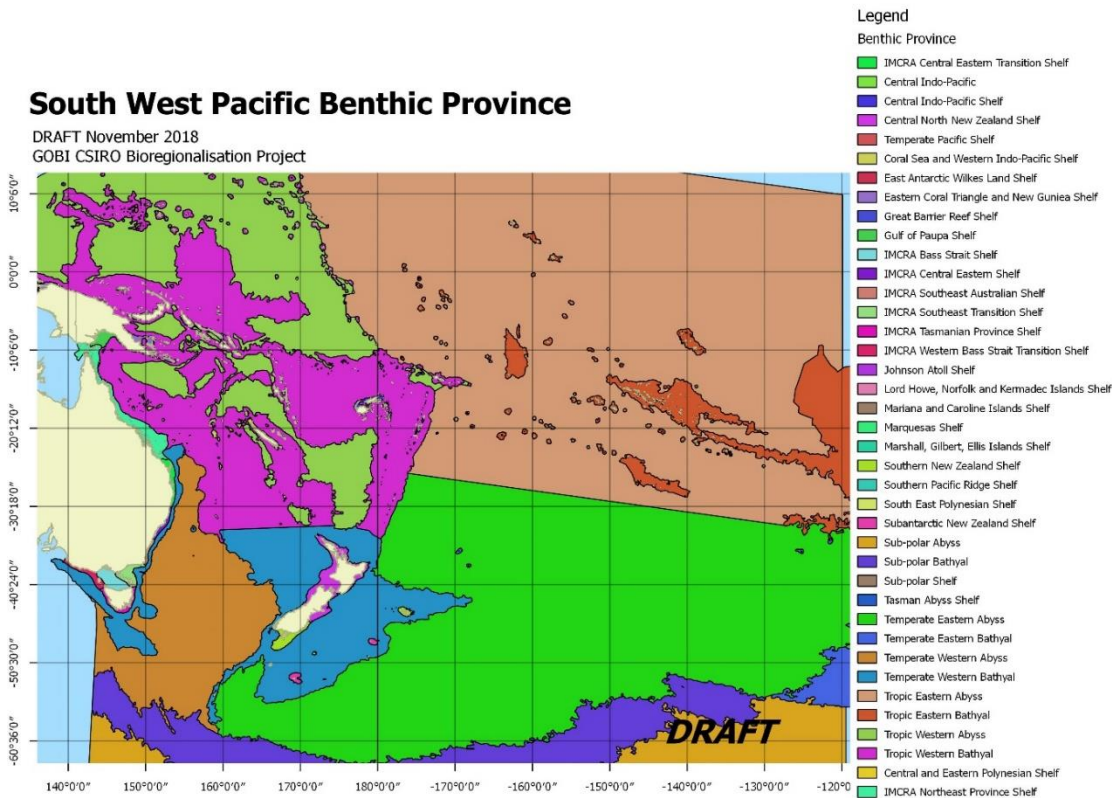


Figure 2 Benthic Provinces

ANNEX 2: List of Participants from 1st Workshop 13 March 2018

| Attendee | Representative of |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mr. Koroa Raumea | Cook Islands |
| Ms. Sandeep Singh | Fiji |
| Ms. Kabure Yeeting | Kiribati |
| Ms. Julie-Anne Kerandel | New Caledonia |
| Ms. Adelle Lukes Isechal | Republic of Palau |
| Mr. Malcolm Keako | Papua New Guinea |
| Ms. Maria Satoa | Samoa |
| Mr. Joseph Joe Hurutarau | Solomon Islands |
| Mr. Mikaele Fatia | Tokelau |
| Ms. Atelaite Lupe Matoto | Tonga |
| Mr. Manuela Falaile | Tuvalu |
| Mr. Vatumaraga Molisa | Vanuatu |
| Mr. Bradley Moore | Reef Fish |
| Mr. John (Charlie) Veron | Coral Reef Bioregionalism |

ANNEX 3:

2nd South West Pacific Marine Bioregionalisation Workshop
12 - 14 March 2019, Tanoa International Resort, Nadi, Fiji

Please nominate **one participant** (preference is for 1st workshop attendee) whose work covers bioregionalisation.

| | PARTICIPANT |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Name as shown in Passport: | |
| Passport Expiration Date: | |
| Country: | |
| Job Title/Designation: | |
| Organization & Department: | |
| Phone No.: | |
| Email Address: | |

Please email the completed nomination form no later than Friday 18 January to Akiko Hamada-Ano at akikoh.ext@sprep.org. Please also send us a copy of your passport biodata page for your travel arrangements.