



Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The Thirtieth SPREP Meeting (30SM) of Officials was held from 7 – 9 September 2021 through a virtual meeting platform.
2. Present at the Meeting were representatives from, Australia, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, France, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna. A full list of participants, including Observers, is available in the full report of the 30SM.
3. The Opening Prayer for the Meeting was delivered by Ms Ake Puka-Mauga from Tokelau.
4. The Meeting was officially opened by Peseta Noumea Simi, the Chief Executive officer (CEO) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Government of Samoa.
5. Mr Kosi Latu, Director-General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) presented a statement, welcoming delegates to the Meeting.

Agenda Item 2. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Meeting:

- 1) **confirmed** the Representative of Tokelau as Chair; and
- 2) **confirmed** the Representative of Kiribati as Vice-Chair.

Agenda Item 3. Adoption of Agenda and Working Procedures

The Meeting:

- 1) **considered** and **adopted** the Provisional Agenda; and
- 2) **agreed** on hours of work

Agenda Item 4. Action Taken on Matters Arising from the 2nd Executive Board Meeting

The Meeting:

- 1) **noted** actions taken against the decisions and directives of the 2nd Executive Board Meeting.

Agenda Item 5.1. Presentation of the Annual Report for 2020 and Director General's Overview of Progress since the Second Executive Board Meeting.

The Meeting:

- 1) **noted** the Director Generals Report.

Agenda Item 5.2. COVID-19 Impacts of SPREP Work Programme and Secretariat Response

The Meeting:

- 1) **noted** the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the SPREP 2020 work programme, and likely continuing implications on programme delivery;
- 2) **noted** the responses of the Secretariat to limiting the impacts of the pandemic on the organisation; and
- 3) **noted** the opportunities provided in these responses to strengthening SPREP engagement with Members.

Agenda Item 5.3. Progress towards achieving PIP (2020 – 2021) strategic outcomes summary

The Meeting:

- 1) **endorsed** the 2020 Progress Towards Achieving PIP2 (2020-2021) Strategic Outcome Report and 2020-2021 Work Programme and Budget;
- 2) **noted** the 2020 PIP2 Achievements by strategic goals; and
- 3) **noted** the Secretariat responses and actions in addressing cross-cutting issues in the implementation of the 2nd PIP 2020-2021.

Agenda Item 5.4 Audited Annual Accounts for 2020

The Meeting:

- 1) **reviewed** and **adopted** the audited Financial Statements and Auditors' Report for 2020.

Agenda Item 6.1. SPREP 3rd Independent Corporate Review and Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017 – 2026: Initial findings

The Meeting:

- 1) **noted** the update from the Secretariat on the Third Independent Corporate Review and Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026;
- 2) **noted** the consultant's presentation on the Joint Reviews that includes the methodology, background and consultations; and
- 3) **endorsed** the Special Meeting of SPREP Members to convene on 15 October, 2021 that shall consider the full report of the Third Independent Corporate Review and Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026 and recommendations.

- 4) **established** a working group to discuss governance and programmatic issues as an outcome of the reports, in the first six months of 2022. The Secretariat will develop TOR for the Working Group.

Agenda Item 6.2. Audit Committee Report

The Meeting:

- 1) **noted** and **approved** the report of the Audit Committee for the period August 2020-July 2021,
- 2) **noted** the reserve position though improved when compared to 2019 is still at a critical level.
- 3) **requested** Members to clear their outstanding membership contributions and provide extra voluntary contributions in support of their Secretariat,
- 4) **noted** the proposed changes in the Audit Committee Charter; and
- 5) **recorded** its appreciation for the cooperation and support it has received from the Director-General, management, and staff of SPREP over the past 12 months.

Agenda Item 6.3. Report on Member's Contributions

The Meeting:

- 1) **considered** the report and **addressed** the issue of outstanding member contributions; and
- 2) **committed** itself collectively and individually to paying current and outstanding contributions in full in 2021.

Agenda Item 6.4. Review of Staff Remuneration: Terms and Conditions

The Meeting:

- 1) **noted** the agenda of the Special Meeting of SPREP Members on 15 October 2021 to discuss the Independent Corporate Review and the Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017 – 2026, will be extended to include consideration of Agenda Item 6.4: Review of Staff Remuneration and the proposed recommendations.
- 2) **established** an informal open-ended working group comprising members, but not limited to, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, France, New Zealand, Samoa and Tonga to meet and discuss further the recommendations of WP 6.4, and the full report by the Birches LLC consultancy group and to report back with any revised recommendations to the Special Meeting on 15 October.

Agenda Item 6.5 Sustainable financing

The Meeting:

- 1) **established** an ideal core funding structure that strengthens the core revenue of SPREP and enables the Secretariat to leverage additional funding sources;
- 2) **considered** a structure similar to the core funding structure of SPC, which is an increase of the SPREP support to the core from 58 percent to 80 percent which enables SPREP to be financially resilient to current and future unforeseeable events;
- 3) **encouraged** SPREP Members and Partners to consider entering multiyear core funding partnership arrangements similar to Australia and New Zealand; and
- 4) **provided** guidance to address sustainable financing for the long-term financial resilience of SPREP.

Agenda Item 6.6 Appointment of External Auditors

The Meeting:

- 1) **considered** the paper and **endorsed** the appointment of BDO Samoa to audit SPREP's financial accounts for the financial years ending 31 December 2021 and 2022.

Agenda Item 6.7 SPREP Outgoing Director General's Performance Assessment

The Meeting:

- 1) **noted and endorsed** the review completed by the Troika of the outgoing DG's PDP for the period Sept 2020 - Sept 2021, acknowledging his excellent performance and achievements in this final year of his contract; and,
- 2) **noted and endorsed** the proposal by the Troika to invite Members to propose relevant and appropriate specific targets to be included in the incoming DG's PDP by the end of December 2021, and further **noted** that the Troika will work with the new DG to finalise their PDP targets in early 2022.

Agenda Item 6.8: Appointment of Incoming Director General

The Meeting:

- 1) **approved** the appointment of Mr Sefanaia Nawadra to the position of Director General of SPREP with starting date of 4 April 2022;
- 2) **approved** the extension of the current Director General's contract, Mr Kosi Latu, up to 3 April 2022.

Agenda Item 7.1. Implementing the Pacific Leaders Agenda

The Meeting:

- 1) **noted** the coordinated efforts of SPREP to implement the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Agenda as outlined in the 2021 CROP Strategic Work Agenda, and the SIS Regional Strategy 2016 – 2020 for the period July 2020 to May 2021; and
- 2) **provided** guidance on the strategic issues identified on the implementation of the key decisions of Pacific Islands Forum Leaders.

Agenda Item 7.2. Securing climate financing to build resilience to Climate Change in the Pacific Region

The Meeting:

- 1) **noted** the discussion paper on ‘Securing Climate Financing to build Resilience to Climate Change in the Pacific Region (WP 7.2/Att.2);
- 2) **noted** the gaps and opportunities in accessing climate financing, in particular the opportunities available under the Adaptation Fund, and urge Members to work with SPREP to better articulate their climate change priorities for potential projects or programmes;
- 3) **endorsed** SPREP’s approach to capitalising on opportunities in the climate finance landscape in the Pacific;
- 4) **endorsed** the multi-country SPREP Readiness proposal and encourage Members to support by allocating their respective unallocated 2021 country readiness funds. SPREP would like to also acknowledge those countries that have made commitments to support the SPREP Readiness and look forward to receiving the No Objection Letters; and
- 5) **encouraged** Members to maximise the Readiness support programmes available for climate financing to support national and regional Direct Access Entities.

Agenda Item 7.3. New European Union Funding Support Framework for the Pacific 2021 – 2027

The Meeting:

- 1) **noted** the EU priorities and recent developments in the context of the programming of EU support for the Pacific for 2021-2027; and
- 2) **informed** the EU which priority areas (current and new) for cooperation they would wish to continue in the form of future programmes. The Members may also propose new areas of cooperation, within the priorities for EU funding in the Pacific for the next 7 years. Replies are to be sent by 30 September 2021 to the following email address: andreja.vidal@eeas.europa.eu

Agenda Item 7.4: Strategic Partnership between SPREP and JICA: future opportunities for collaboration

The Meeting:

- 1) **noted** and **reaffirmed** the positive outcomes of JICA's on-going technical cooperation projects with SPREP in the Pacific region; and
- 2) **supported** the current process for developing the next phase of the technical cooperation on waste management and its implementation which is scheduled to start in 2022.

Agenda Item 8.1. Regional Goal 1 Overview: Pacific people benefit from strengthened resilience to climate change

The Meeting:

- 1) **endorsed** the key strategic priorities and activities to support the implementation and achievement of Regional Goal 1 for the biennial period 2022 to 2023.

Agenda Item 8.1.1 UNFCCC COP26

The Meeting:

- 1) **noted** the progress of preparations by SPREP and One CROP+ in the lead up to the UNFCCC COP26.

Agenda Item 8.1.2 Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment

The Meeting:

- 1) **noted** the **endorsement** of the Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment by Leaders at the 51st Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting Retreat on the 6th of August 2021.
- 2) **acknowledged** the progress made by SPREP in cooperation with the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, World Meteorological Organisation, PMC members, SPC and other partners on the request of the PMC-5 to scope a decadal Pacific regional extreme weather, water and ocean response program initiative
- 3) **acknowledged** funding support of the Government of Ireland towards development of the Investment plan.
- 4) **noted** the Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment and progress to date; and
- 5) **requested** the Secretariat to advocate for and seek funding for the Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment

Agenda 8.1.3. Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) strategic partnerships and cooperation through the e-learning innovative platform

The Meeting:

- 1) **noted** that PCCC strategic partnerships and cooperation is crucial for the Centre's effectiveness and the Secretariat encourages donors and partners to work with PCCC to secure ongoing funding for the implementation of the key core functions of PCCC; and
- 2) **noted** the progress of PCCC e-learning platform as an innovative online learning solution and the positive impacts through increased number of participants and therefore increasing the opportunities for adaptive capacity and awareness of Pacific Island countries and territories on climate change.

Agenda Item 8.2: Overview of Regional Goal 2 - Pacific people benefit from healthy and resilient island and ocean ecosystems

The Meeting:

- 1) **endorsed** the key strategic priorities and activities to support the implementation and achievement of Regional Goal 2 for the biennial period 2022 to 2023.

Agenda Item 8.2.1. Update on CBD COP15 and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

The Meeting:

- 1) **noted** the update on the SPREP regional support for parties to the CBD;
- 2) **noted** the Pacific priorities for CBD COP15;
- 3) **noted** the challenges for Pacific Parties participation in virtual CBD meetings and to identify strategies to manage these challenges; and
- 4) **encouraged** Members to register and support delegations to participate in CBD COP15 and associated meetings and processes

Agenda Item 8.2.2. Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021 – 2025, and the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

The Meeting:

- 1) **endorsed** the Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021 – 2025;
- 2) **encouraged** Members and partners to support the implementation of the Framework;
- 3) **noted** the successful virtual 10th Pacific Islands Conference; and
- 4) **invited** Members that did not attend the high-level segment of the Nature Conference to endorse the Vemööre Declaration.

Agenda Item 8.2.3. Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan

The Meeting:

- 1) **endorsed** the Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan;
- 2) **encouraged** Members and Partners to commit and support the cross-sectoral implementation of the Plan; and
- 3) **directed** the Secretariat to support implementation of the Plan by Members.

Agenda item 8.3. Overview of Regional Goal 3: Pacific people benefit from improved waste management and pollution control.

The Meeting:

- 1) **endorsed** the key strategic priorities to support the implementation and achievement of Regional Goal 3 for the biennial period 2022 to 2023.

Agenda Item 8.3.1 Strategic planning and management of disaster waste

The Meeting:

- 1) **supported** and **committed** to establishing Environment sectors (with disaster waste included) within National Disaster Management Offices to address disaster waste and other environmental issues; and
- 2) **directed** the Secretariat to work with Members and Partners in seeking assistance from the FRDP PRP in the establishment of a Regional Disaster Waste Management Taskforce.

Agenda Item 8.3.2. Strategic planning and management of hazardous waste

The Meeting:

- 1) **endorsed** the “Asbestos Management Legislative Reform Pathway” that is derived from the Asbestos Management Code of Practice and Policy Note to ban the importation of asbestos containing materials and support progress towards its adoption by Members;
- 2) **noted** the status of addressing mercury waste in the Pacific and support the development of a “Mercury Free Pacific Campaign” to phase out mercury containing products; and
- 3) **supported** the development of a “Healthcare Medical Waste Investment Plan”.

Agenda Item 8.3.3. Pathway to introduce Sustainable Financing Mechanism

The Meeting:

- 1) **noted** and **supported** the proposed Pathway for a sustainable financing mechanism; and
- 2) **directed** the Secretariat to work with Members and Partners in developing and implementing sustainable financing mechanisms for waste management.

Agenda Item 8.4. Overview of Regional Goal 4 – Pacific people and their environment benefit from commitment to best practice of environmental governance.

The Meeting:

- 1) **endorsed** the key strategic priorities to support the implementation and achievement of Regional Goal 4 for the biennial period 2022 to 2023.

Agenda Item 8.4.1 Scaling up environmental data management in the Pacific islands region

The Meeting:

- 1) **supported** the scaling up of environment data management in the Pacific and directed the Secretariat to initiate a process for developing a full-sized project proposal to support the scaling up environmental data management and explore the options of seeking resourcing from the GEF 8 replenishment and other funding sources.

Agenda Item 8.4.2. State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report and process for developing future SOEC Regional Reports

The Meeting:

- 1) **approved** the State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report; and
- 2) **approved** the process and timeline for reporting on the next State of Environment and Conservation Regional Report.

Agenda Item 8.4.3. Deep Seabed Mining: A Pacific Environment and Governance Challenge

The Meeting:

- 1) **noted** the position paper prepared by the Secretariat “Deep Seabed Mining: A Pacific Environmental and Governance Challenge” and the reservations on it expressed by some Members;
- 2) **encouraged** Members, who are exercising their sovereign right to develop their mineral resources according to their national priorities, in accordance with international law as reflected in UNCLOS, to implement a sound precautionary approach, together with comprehensive scientific analyses of the deep-sea environment and impacts of deep seabed mining and any associated social and economic issues; and
- 3) **recognised** the centrality of UNCLOS in ensuring the protection of our Blue Pacific Continent.

Agenda item 9.1: Draft Performance Implementation Plan (PIP) 2022-2023 and Updated Results Framework 2017-2026

The Meeting:

- 1) **endorsed** the Performance Implementation Plan for the biennial period 2022 – 2023; and
- 2) **endorsed** the updated Results Framework 2017 – 2026

Agenda Item 9.2. Consideration and Approval of the Proposed Biennial Work Programme and Budget for 2022 – 2023

The Meeting:

- 1) **considered** and **approved** the proposed Biennial Work Programme and Budget of **USD\$35,194,757 for 2022** and **provisional Work Programme and Budget of \$23,731,883 for 2023.**

Agenda Item 10.1. Report on the Sixteenth ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the convention for the protection of the natural resources and environment of the South Pacific Region and related protocols (Noumea Convention).

The Meeting:

- 1) **noted** the Report of the 16th Conference of the Parties to the Noumea Convention

Agenda Item 10.2. Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and the Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (the Waigani Convention).

The Meeting:

- 2) **noted** the Report of the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention

Agenda Item 11. Other Business

6. The Director-General outlined no other business was submitted to the Secretariat in advance of the Meeting. The Chair opened the floor for any other business to be tabled.
7. No matters were raised under this agenda item.

Agenda Item 12. Observer Statements

8. No statements from Observers were made from the floor on the virtual platform.
9. The Secretariat announced to the meeting that Observers can submit their statements to the Secretariat for the Meeting record.

Agenda Item 13. Dates of the 3rd Executive Meeting

10. The Secretariat confirmed it will send information to all Members as to who constitutes the Third Executive Board, as well as who will Chair this Meeting, in response to queries from French Polynesia and the Chair respectively.

The Meeting:

- **agreed** to convene the Third Executive Board Meeting during the week of 5 September 2022.

Agenda Item 14. Adoption of the Outcomes of the 30th SPREP Meeting

The Meeting:

- **adopted** the Outcomes of the 30th SPREP Meeting

Agenda Item 15. Closing

11. The Chair closed the 30th SPREP Meeting of Officials with a closing statement that expressed gratitude on behalf of all SPREP Members to Director General Kosi Latu for his leadership during his two terms at the Secretariat.
12. The Chair on behalf of all Members and the Secretariat presented a gift to the Director-General as a token of their appreciation.
13. Mr Kosi Latu, Director-General of SPREP in his closing remarks expressed his gratitude to all the Members for their guidance, support, and cooperation over the years in his role as Director General and through his role as Deputy Director General before that.
14. The Chair closed the meeting with a word of prayer.
15. The Meeting closed at 5.15pm Samoa time.