



## “Accelerating actions for a resilient Blue Pacific”

15 October 2021

12:00pm – 5:00pm Samoa Standard Time

Virtual Meeting

### **Agenda item 3.1: SPREP 3rd Independent Corporate Review and Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026 Report**

#### **Purpose of paper**

1. To consider the Third Independent Corporate Review (ICR) and Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026 Report and recommendations together with the responses from the Secretariat and subsequent responses from the Natural Solutions Pacific Consultant.

#### **Background**

2. In 2020 the 2<sup>nd</sup> SPREP Executive Board Meeting:
  - i. approved the proposal to combine the Independent Corporate Review of SPREP with the Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026, to be undertaken in 2021 at lesser cost than that of two separate reviews;
  - ii. approved the draft Terms of reference and timeline for the Review noting the intention to establish a Reference Group to guide the Review;
  - iii. directed the Secretariat to ensure the outcomes of the combined Review are considered by the 2021 SPREP Meeting; and
  - iv. noted the interest in principle from Australia and New Zealand to assist with funding the Review noting that this is not included in the 2021 budget.
3. The last reviews of SPREP were conducted in 2014 led by a consortium of consultants under the leadership of Professor John E. Hay. For more information on the last reviews, please visit the following links for a copy of the [2014 Independent Corporate Review](#) and [Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan \(2011 - 2015\)](#)
4. Natural Solutions Pacific were selected by Public Tender to undertake the Third Independent Corporate Review of SPREP and Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026. This consultancy has been made possible with the generous support of the Governments of Australia and New Zealand.

5. Members of the SPREP Troika and Governance Group<sup>1</sup> with the Secretariat met with the Independent Review Team of Natural Solutions Pacific on 02 September 2021 on the Draft Report. The meeting agreed that:
- given the time constraints, the consultants shall present at the 30th SPREP Meeting on the following only: methodology, background and consultations particularly engagement with Members.
  - the SPREP Troika, Governance Group and Secretariat may provide their final comments to the consultants by Friday 10 September.
  - the final report with the comments from the consultants and the Secretariat to be shared with all Members by Friday 17 September.
  - the Special Meeting of Members on the Independent Corporate Review and the Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026 to be postponed from 30 September to 8 October, to allow Members adequate time to review the Final Report, noting the importance of member ownership in the future of SPREP.

### Update

6. The 30<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021:
- **noted** the update from the Secretariat on the Third Independent Corporate Review and Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026;
  - **noted** the consultant's presentation on the Joint Reviews that includes the methodology, background and consultations;
  - **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; and
  - **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.
7. The full ICR and MTR report together with the responses from the Secretariat and subsequent responses from the Natural Solutions Pacific consultant were circulated to Members via the SPREP Circular 21/108.

### Recommendations

8. The Meeting is invited to:
- 1) **note** the update and feedback from the Secretariat on the Third Independent Corporate Review and Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026;
  - 2) **note** the consultant's presentation on the Joint Reviews that includes the methodology, background, and consultations; and
  - 3) **consider** the full report of the Third Independent Corporate Review and Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026 and recommendations.

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3 September 2021

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<sup>1</sup> Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Samoa, and Tokelau