Ad Hoc Meeting of the Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region and related Protocols (Noumea Convention) – June 2023
Review of the Convention for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (1986): Noumea Convention
A Reflection

• Adopted in 1986, the Convention and its related Protocols entered into force in 1990.

• Fourteenth Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Noumea Convention (COP14) in 2017, the conference agreed for the Secretariat to carry out a review of the Noumea Convention after considering an information paper on Strengthening Membership and Effectiveness of the Convention.

• COP14 decision - the Secretariat firstly undertakes further background research and development of future options

• The TOR
  - Evaluate how the Convention is being implemented at all levels;
  - Determine whether the objectives of the Convention are being met by the actions of the Parties; and
  - Evaluate the effectiveness of the Secretariat.

• Desktop Analysis and findings presented in COP15- 2019
Outcomes Presented to COP 15 - 2019

• Increased resourcing to administer the Convention
• Greater commitment from Parties to meet requirements of the Convention
• Rotational system for hosting COPs that includes a field trip to demonstrate a project
• An award for best project/initiative within the reporting period
• Increased scope of the Convention to include emerging issues such as plastic pollution
• Adoption process for protocols to be either by definitive signature or tacit acceptance.
The COP 15 Decision

- Parties deferred any decision on the review and tasked Secretariat to consult the Parties.

- This triggered the 2021 review which commenced in July and concluded in November 2021.

- The 2021 review was broader in scope than the first review and more regional/national-focused.
**Objectives of the review:**

- **Governance and operation of the Noumea Convention**
- **Implementation of the Noumea Convention**

**Review recommendations:**

- List of 20 Recommendations that will guide the project in consultations with the Parties.
- Per COP16 decision, an intersessional meeting will convene for the Parties to discuss the recommendations from the review.

**Some key recommendations:**

- That the Noumea Convention be more clearly and explicitly linked with key regional frameworks
- That the profile and awareness of the Noumea Convention be more targeted through increased communications and awareness campaigns
- That a sustainable financing strategy is developed for the Noumea Convention
- A dedicated, permanent staff position for the Noumea Convention Secretariat is established within SPREP
- For Parties to consider 2 options: (1) no substantive changes to the Convention; (2) substantive changes to be made to the Convention.