# DRAFT Workplan and Budget to implement the recommendations from the review of the Noumea Convention

**Purpose of this workplan**

The main purpose of the Workplan and Budget is to implement the activities and recommendations from the Review of the Noumea Convention carried out in 2021. In addition, the Workplan and Budget will support focal points in their implementation efforts and strengthen monitoring and evaluation. The budget will also allocate resources to the raise the profile of the Noumea Convention with the aim to increase the membership of the Noumea Convention from other SPREP Members and improve understanding and awareness on the role of the Convention in the protection of our environment in the Pacific Region.

Goal I: Strengthening the Secretariat of the Noumea Convention and its sustainability

Goal II: Effective Communications and awareness

Goal III: Strengthening Regional Seas

Goal IV: Monitoring and Reporting

**Critical actions?**

**Background – Noumea Convention**

The Noumea Convention is the Pacific Region’s component of the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Seas that was launched in 1972. It was adopted in 1986 and came into force in 1990 with two protocols namely the Dumping Protocol and the Emergencies Protocol. The focus of the Noumea Convention is to prevent, reduce and control pollution in the convention area from any source, and on ensuring sound environmental management and development of natural resources in the same. The two related protocols were introduced to assist with the implementation of the Convention. The Dumping Protocol aims to prevent, reduce and control pollution by dumping of wastes and other mater in the Pacific. This was later amended in 2006 to be consistent with other relevant international legal instruments. The Emergencies Protocol is to enhance cooperation amongst State Parties to protect the Pacific Region from threats and effects of pollution incidents. There are currently 12 Parties to the Noumea Convention comprising of Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and United States of America.

Include background of review of the convention

In 2021, a comprehensive review of the Noumea Convention was undertaken to evaluate and assess its governance, operation and implementation. It examined the effectiveness of the Noumea Convention, the roles and functions of the Secretariat as well as the linkages to its work programmes. Further, the Convention was assessed to determine whether its purpose is achieved and if its purpose remains relevant to the current environmental challenges of the Parties and Region as a whole. The approach collection and analysis of relevant data and literature and conducting wide consultations with key stakeholders comprising of Member Countries.

Overall, the Review provided twenty (20) Recommendations which broadly focus on improved engagement by the Parties within and outside of the Noumea Convention and focal points are better supported in implementation. Increased membership from other SPREP Members will prompt effective implementation and compliance to the Noumea Convention noting issues such as marine pollution are transboundary and require a regional approach.

**Review and amendment of this workplan**

The Review and Amendment of this Workplan is subject to endorsement of the Parties at the next Noumea Convention Conference of the Parties Meeting.

## Goal I: Strengthening the Secretariat of the Noumea Convention and its sustainability

| **Strategic Action** | **Activities** | **Budget &**  **Source** | **Expected outcomes** | **Impact created** | **Timeline** |  |  |  |  | **Potential**  **Partners** | **Lead**  **Agency** |
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|  |  |  |  |  | **COP19**  **(2027)** | **COP20**  **(2029)** | **COP21**  **(2031)** | **COP22**  **(2033)** | **COP23**  **(2035)** |  |  |
| * 1. Establish dedicated Unit for the Noumea Convention within SPREP | * + 1. Develop clear terms of reference to establish a dedicated permanent position within the Secretariat to coordinate and lead the delivery of activities under the Noumea Convention as well as promote its linkages to key regional frameworks     2. Long-term funding for the position secured and hiring of personnel |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Mainstream the Noumea Convention into the new SPREP Strategic Plan   [Recommendations: 1,2,11,15,16,17,18, 19,] | * + 1. Develop and align targets and indicators of the SPREP Strategic Plan and the Noumea Convention     2. Noumea Convention activities are reported under the SPREP Annual Report     3. Link and align targets and indicators to other key regional frameworks.     4. Strengthen internal coordination meetings through existing informal mechanisms (e.g., Ocean Coordination Group)     5. The role of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Advisor (CMEA) explore opportunities to align and work particularly with the Noumea Convention and SPREP programmes     6. The Noumea Convention to be a standalone component of the SPREP Strategic Plan, annual report and side event   \*align with strategic action 5 – sustainable partnerships | Utilise existing resources for development of the SPREP Strategic Plan and the Noumea Convention Secretariat  No cost determined  No cost determined | Improved connection and alignment between the Noumea Convention activities and SPREP Strategic Plan  Increased interest to ratify/accede to the Noumea Convention, as a result of clearer linkages between SPREP plan and NC  Increased membership of the Noumea Convention  Effective coordination and support | Better understanding by SPREP Members and Parties on the value and role of the Noumea Convention for protection and sustainable use of the Pacific marine environment.  Better coordination of the Noumea Convention with other key regional frameworks  Increased visibility of the Convention within the regional architecture | Final draft pre-approved by EB in 2026 and tabled at the COP19 |  |  |  |  | Parties  SPREP Members  UNEP  MEA Secretariats | SPREP |
|  |  |  |  |  | Parties  SPREP Members  Partners of the SPREP-led regional frameworks | SPREP  Parties  National Focal Points  Internal SPREP programmes |
| * 1. A sustainable financing strategy to ensure a more effective implementation of the Noumea Convention.   2. [recomm: 12,13,15,16,17,18] | * + 1. Explore all possible linkages with SPREP Sustainable Financing Strategy     2. Develop the sustainable financial strategy     3. Approach potential donors with proposal for sustainable financial strategy     4. Identify and consider options for the development of a financial mechanism to support non-Parties to ratify the Noumea Convention     5. Identify options for increased core funding assistance to the Noumea Convention     6. \*align with strategic action 5 –sustainable partnerships | No cost determined  Current extra-budgetary multi-year contributions  Utilise existing resources | Financial needs assessment concept and sustainable financial strategy are developed  Endorsed sustainable financing strategy for the Noumea Convention by COP20  Terms of refence developed and staff recruited  Better exposure of the Noumea Convention | Sustained efficiency, effective implementation and operations of the Noumea Convention  Dedicated funding support for the Secretariat to undertake activities within Parties’ jurisdictions  Permanence of the Noumea Convention strengthened  Better service to Parties with single point of contact  Improved reporting of impacts of activities and coordination of support and delivery of assistance |  | Finance strategy endorsed at COP |  |  |  | Metropolitan Parties | SPREP (in consultations with Parties) |
| * 1. Integrate the Noumea Convention into key regional frameworks and roundtables (OPOC, Nature Conservation Roundtable, 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy and others)   [Recomm: 2,6,7,8,11] | * + 1. Profile the Noumea Convention linkages in key regional meetings that support these regional strategies including expanding stakeholder engagement to create more cross-cutting engagement and link to other non-SPREP meetings and frameworks such as One Health, Fisheries Roadmap, Oceanic Fisheries, etc.     2. Identify and use existing partnership to raise the profile of the Noumea Convention     3. Raise the profile of the Noumea Convention’s relationship and linkages to the global frameworks such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, Intergovernmental Negotiating Process (INC) on Plastic Pollution, Deep Sea Minerals (DSM), Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), UNEP   \*align with strategic action 5 –sustainable partnerships | Utilise existing resources  Use existing regional mechanisms (e.g., CROP WGs) | Increased understanding of scope and application of the Noumea Convention by Parties and SPREP Members (non-Parties)  Reduce repetition and redundancy  Improved allocation and use of resources  Enhanced synergies and collaboration  Increased exposure of the Noumea Convention and its linkages with high profile entitles such as SPREP as an organisation and key regional frameworks (FNCPA, Cleaner Pacific)  Effective coordination of regional issues relating to ocean governance | Noumea Convention is better utilised by Parties and SPREP Members  Increased membership to the Noumea Convention  Donors and Partners have greater understanding of the value of the Noumea Convention for investment  Increased visibility of the Noumea Convention  Coordinated regional approaches to ocean governance to support the 2050 Blue Strategy |  |  |  |  |  | Parties  SPREP Members  Partners of regional roundtables  CROP | SPREP  Focal points |
| * 1. Identify key issues that the Noumea Convention can support and integrate these into an action plan of the Noumea Convention   [recomm: 2,6,15] | * + 1. The Secretariat to support Parties in facilitating the sharing of information, provision of scientific and technical assistance to support national efforts to address key environmental issues.     2. The Secretariat to utilise existing opportunities (i) internally under activities in the SPREP Strategic Plan or annual/biennial workplans; (ii) regionally through existing (and new) regional mechanisms such as the Marine Sector Working Group (MSWG), PRP on disasters, Sustainable Development WG; (iii) globally through clear articulation of the relationship between the Noumea Convention with global frameworks such as CBD, BBNJ (discussions on INC, DSM, EBSAs);     3. Integrate the Noumea Convention in Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) negotiations through briefing materials and to support Pacific Island Countries (PICs) ratification and implementation actions under existing and new MEAs. | Utilise existing resources | Key issues identified  Clearer plan for actions  Increased efficiency through utilisation of Noumea Convention and new frameworks | Better protection and management of natural resources and environment  Increase use of the Noumea Convention to address key issues  Increased membership to the Noumea Convention  Effective responses to emerging issues |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * 1. Maintain Sustainable partnerships within the Noumea Convention framework to support the Secretariat’s discharge of its Secretariat functions and Parties’ implementation of the Noumea Convention [recomm: 7,8,11,13,15] | * + 1. Create opportunities to seek support from Partners (e.g., COP18 event, Partners Dialogue).     2. ~~Identify options for increased core funding assistance to the Noumea Convention~~   1.7.2 Engage with UNEP Regional Seas during annual global meetings of the Regional Seas secretariats to support active engagements as well as to raise awareness on the sustainable financial strategy   * + 1. Engage actively with Partners to harness support for the sustainable financial strategy | Metropolitan Parties and Partners  JICA  Any other partners  Existing core contributors | Strengthen the implementation of the Noumea Convention  Targeted support for specific key issues  Secured support for Noumea Convention | Enduring, sustained presence and visibility of the Noumea Convention  Sustainable Regional Seas mechanism  Sustainable, durable presence of the Noumea Convention as a regional mechanism to implement global frameworks  Stronger regional coordination under the 2050 Blue Strategy |  |  |  |  |  | Metropolitan Parties  Private sector | SPREP |

## Goal II: Effective Communications and awareness

| **Strategic Action** | **Activities** | **Budget &**  **Source** | **Expected outcomes** | | **Impact created** | **Timeline** |  |  |  |  | **Potential**  **Partners** | **Lead**  **Agency** |
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|  |  |  |  | |  | **COP19**  **(2027)** | **COP20**  **(2029)** | **COP21**  **(2031)** | **COP22**  **(2033)** | **COP23**  **(2035)** |  |  |
| * 1. Develop a communication action plan for the Noumea Convention   [recomm: 7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16,17,18] | * + 1. Develop clear terms of reference to reflect and include, but not limited to, the relevant items as follows: * Information webinars to highlight scope and application of the Noumea Convention including its history as a Regional Seas Convention * Develop, coordinate side events at key SPREP events, regional and global platforms (PIF Leaders Meetings, (e.g. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNFCCC, CBD) COP meetings, UNOCs, etc) * Develop and conduct integrated trainings for awareness of the Noumea Convention and the SPREP Strategic Plan including joint regional workshops * Develop a dedicated website for the Noumea Convention * Initiatives that raise the profile of the Noumea Convention * Develop badging (logo) for the Noumea Convention * Staff education and awareness – improve staff awareness of the important linkages of their work to the Noumea Convention * Develop resources to implement and raise awareness on the Noumea Convention (toolkits, guidelines, advocacy materials) * Create national championship programs on the Noumea Convention * Conduct public campaigns including socialising the Noumea Convention during major national events * Integrate the Noumea Convention into school and environmental clubs’ activities and initiatives (e.g. quizzes, etc.) * Effective means of communicating activities under the Noumea Convention to COPs with the aim of promoting the impacts of these activities * Develop and conduct a survey (questionnaire) for national focal points and relevant national implementing agencies of the Noumea Convention to gauge awareness levels * Undertake and coordinate in-country visits to non-Parties using diplomatic approach * Develop advocacy materials to encourage ratification * Incorporate branding of the Convention name i.e., Noumea Convention, and other activities into all of SPREP’s promotional materials | USD 75k for development of the communication plan  75k annually for the delivery of activities | | Profile and visibility of the Noumea Convention is elevated  Members have better understanding of their obligations under the Noumea Convention  Strengthened partnership and collaboration  Increased investment  Enhanced synergies and collaboration between other MEAs and regional frameworks with the Noumea Convention…?  Better alignment of the Noumea Convention to support national actions  Increased public awareness on the Noumea Convention  National focal points awareness and knowledge are raised and enhanced  Increased engagement and awareness by Parties | Increased protection and sustainable management of the environment  Shared understanding on the Noumea Convention  National focal points are better supported through the Noumea Convention  Transparency of information on the Convention amongst Parties  Measurable results on increased engagement is created (e.g., number of hits and views)  Inter-, cross-sectoral awareness is increased  Enhanced cooperation and collaboration by Parties  Prioritisation of specific items referred to intersessional meetings are given sufficient attention to discuss |  |  |  |  |  | Parties  Development partners  CROP | SPREP |
| * + 1. Secure funding to convene at least 1 inter-sessional meeting between COPs to progress key items outside of meeting years | USD50-70K | |  |  |  |  |  | SPREP Members  SPREP Partners | SPREP  Parties  Focal Points |

## Goal III: Strengthening Regional Seas

| **Strategic Action** | **Activities** | **Budget &**  **Source** | **Expected outcomes** | **Impact created** | **Timeline** |  |  |  |  | **Potential**  **Partners** | **Lead**  **Agency** |
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| 3.1 Identify and undertake grouping of minor changes proposed for the Noumea Convention ~~for consideration by~~ COP decision  [recomm: 3,4,5] | 3.1.1 Engage a consultant or in-house capacity to review the Convention text and identify proposed text changes | USD15-20k | Parties have clarity on the potential minor changes to the Noumea Convention as well as gauging COP position on substantive proposed changes  Updated Noumea Convention text | Parties have an opportunity to consider and vote on potential minor changes as well as determine positions on substantive changes |  |  |  |  |  | Parties  CROP (if required) | SPREP to lead and to review with the Parties |
| 3.1.2 Present proposed changes to the Convention for COP decision |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Focal points will be better supported to implement the Noumea Convention  Better monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the workplan and budget to elevate the profile of the Noumea Convention and improved engagement by Parties within and outside of the Noumea Convention framework  Increased membership of the Noumea Convention from other SPREP Members, as a result of increased understanding of the role of the Convention in the protection of environment in the Pacific region. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Goal IV: Monitoring and Reporting

| **Strategic Action** | **Activities** | **Budget &**  **Source** | | **Expected outcomes** | | **Impact created** | **Timeline** |  |  |  |  | **Potential**  **Partners** | **Lead**  **Agency** |
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|  |  |  | |  | |  | **COP19**  **(2027)** | **COP20**  **(2029)** | **COP21**  **(2031)** | **COP22**  **(2033)** | **COP23**  **(2035)** |  |  |
| * 1. Improve reporting under the Noumea Convention through the development of a standardised monitoring and evaluation framework   [recomm: 15] | * + 1. Develop a standardised monitoring and evaluation framework for the Noumea Convention (with identified baseline, defining goals, targets and indicators similar to SDGs and CBD-GBF processes). Including: * Review and update, as required, the current template for reporting under the Noumea Convention * Assess the feasibility of an online reporting tool/system/template for the Convention including ongoing maintenance costs | | USD30-40k | | National reporting template more standardised, user friendly and comprehensive  Potential ease of conducting national reporting through online means  Establish environmental baseline data set for Noumea Convention  A standardised M&E framework (clear goals, indicators, etc) | Increase in number of good quality national reports submitted on time, outlining tangible implementation results in a timely manner  clear guidance on additional national reporting requirements  national reporting as well as new data – also recognising other existing data and repositories | Standardised M&E framework endorsed at COP |  |  |  |  | Parties  National Implementation Partner Agencies  SPREP Partners  Donors | SPREP |
| * + 1. Conduct national and regional capacity building/training workshops on the Noumea Convention monitoring and evaluation framework elements and an approved reporting template in conjunction with outreach activities to Parties and SPREP Members | | No cost determined | | Better understanding of the M&E Framework and its elements  Improved quality in reporting under the Noumea Convention | Impacts of activities under the Noumea Convention are reported to COP  Delivery of activities under the Noumea Convention are monitored and evaluated for impacts to leverage funding support |  |  |  |  |  | Metropolitan Parties  SPREP Partners | SPREP |
| * + 1. Utilise existing national environment portals as a knowledge hub and to monitor and report to the Noumea Convention | |  | | Centralized repository of data and information for national reporting as well as raw data - also recognizing other existing data repositories that exist.  National environment portals updated and maintained | Level of knowledge on the Noumea Convention by focal points is maintained |  |  |  |  |  | Parties | SPREP |
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