

ANNEX 1

First meeting of the SPREP Members Working Group to guide and inform Strategic Plan 2027-2036

11 June 2026
1.00pm to 3.00pm (Samoa time)

Agenda item 1: Welcome / opening

The meeting was opened with a prayer by the SPREP Director General.

The Director General welcomed Members, thanked them for nominating to be part of the SPREP Members Working Group, and explained that Working Groups are convened when the Secretariat requires specific Members' input to guide SPREP work. The Director General advised that to date, Working Group nominations have been received from Australia, Cook Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand and Samoa.

Agenda item 2: Appointment of Working Group Chair

The Cook Islands was nominated and agreed to accept the role of Chair.

The Director General congratulated the Cook Islands and advised that the Secretariat would assist the Chair, ensure strong functioning of the Working Group, continue to encourage other Members to join, and keep all Members informed of progress.

Cook Islands thanked the Secretariat and Members for their support.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of agenda

Cook Islands, supported by Australia, recommended switching Agenda items 4 and 5, to allow the Working Group TOR to be reviewed after the Secretariat's strategic planning update.

Agenda item 4: SPREP strategic planning update

The Director General presented a strategic planning update (presentation attached separately), describing the two-phase strategic planning process led by the Secretariat Senior Leadership Team, with oversight by SPREP Troika; consultation through various fora with Secretariat staff, Members and partners; and connection with SPREP's responsibilities under the 2050 Strategy.

The Director General explained that the Strategic Plan is being developed as a higher-level planning document, connected to more detailed thematic, sub-thematic and corporate strategies. Members were advised that SPREP's strategic focus areas of climate change, biodiversity conservation, waste management and pollution control, and environmental governance, remain unchanged. However, there will be increased focus on operating as one SPREP, consolidating and integrating technical work, and holistically addressing the triple planetary crisis through programmatic approaches. The Director General presented proposed core elements of the Strategic Plan, including draft goals and outcomes for Strategic Focus Areas and for Service for Impact, which covers SPREP's Governance and Operations functions.

Next steps were outlined, including submission of a zero draft Strategic Plan to the Executive Board Meeting in August 2026. Following consideration of the zero draft by Members, the Director General advised that the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning (MERL) framework and other elements of the Strategic Plan package will be developed, with the full package to be presented to the 33rd SPREP Meeting for approval in 2027.

The Director General provided an overview of the Secretariat's proposal to strengthen SPREP MERL through outcome mapping, looking beyond outputs to the identification of short-term, mid-term and long-term outcomes over the period of the next Strategic Plan.

Cook Islands expressed appreciation for the presentation and for the overview of work to date.

Australia requested clarification on whether the zero draft would be presented to the Executive Board Meeting for consideration or approval, and enquired about adapting the Strategic Plan if the 2050 strategy changes.

The Director General explained the zero draft will be presented for Members' consideration, with the view that it provides the Secretariat with a framework to be further developed. The Director General also advised that it is not anticipated there will be major changes to the 2050 Strategy or to SPREP's mandate under the 2050 Strategy, during the period of Strategic Plan 2027-2036.

Australia supported the Strategic Plan's global, regional and national framing, and the focus on outcomes, noting alignment with a programmatic approach. Australia suggested the triple planetary crisis and collaboration could be further elevated within individual Strategic Focus Areas, to emphasise interlinkages across all.

The Director General clarified that delivery of outcomes under individual Strategic Focus Areas is not restricted to specific SPREP teams; all teams can contribute and report against them.

Cook Islands welcomed the proposed Strategic Plan approach as a shift in the right direction and emphasised explicitly framing SPREP's role as an enabler of the 2050 Strategy, particularly under the two thematic areas that SPREP is responsible for, Climate Change and Disasters, and Ocean and Environment.

The Director General explained that details on how SPREP will address the 2050 Strategy will be in the Strategic Plan and other SPREP thematic strategies, and that 2050 Strategy coordination and delivery is being undertaken through existing SPREP collaboration mechanisms and current work programmes.

Agenda item 5: Review and approval of Working Group Terms of Reference

Cook Islands requested that Members consider the draft TOR, and in particular, the level at which the Working Group will advise the Secretariat on alignment with the 2050 Strategy and other relevant strategies and frameworks.

Australia suggested that Members could 'provide input' rather than 'provide advice' on strategy alignment. The suggestion was supported by New Zealand.

Members approved the TOR with the change proposed by Australia (approved TOR in Annex 2).

Agenda item 6: Next steps and closing

The Director General thanked Members for their time, comments and guidance, and advised that a zero draft Strategic Plan will be distributed to Members as part of the Executive Board Meeting papers. It was proposed that the Working Group reconvene after the Executive Board Meeting in August 2026.

Cook Islands supported next steps, thanked Members for joining the meeting, and encouraged other Members to join the Working Group.

Cook Islands closed the meeting with a prayer.

List of Participants

SPREP Members

Australia

1. Susan McErlain
Assistant Director
Pacific and Regional Section
Department of Climate Change,
Energy and Water
E: susan.mcerlain@dcceew.gov.au
2. Kevin Yang
Pacific and Regional Section
Department of Climate Change,
Energy and Water
E: kevin.yang@dcceew.gov.au
7. Melanie Bradley
Strategic Planning Adviser
E: melanieb@sprep.org
8. Siwawut Chaiya
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Adviser
E: siwawutc@sprep.org
9. Audrey Brown-Pereira
Executive Officer
E: audreyp@sprep.org

Cook Islands

3. Eden Brown
Acting Director
Pacific and Regional Affairs Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration
E: Eden.Brown@mfa.gov.ck

New Caledonia

4. Emilie Manauté
Chargée d'études pour la coopération régionale
Service de la coopération régionale et des
relations extérieures
E: emilie.manaute@gouv.nc

New Zealand

5. Rachel Chisholm
Senior Adviser – Climate Change and
Environment
Development People and Planet Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
E: rachel.chisholm@mfat.govt.nz

In attendance:

Secretariat

6. Sefanaia Nawadra
Director General
E: sefanaian@sprep.org

**Terms of Reference for SPREP Members Working Group
to provide guidance and support for preparing
SPREP Strategic Plan 2027–2036**

1. Key objectives for the Members Working Group:
 - a. Support and facilitate consultation with SPREP Members to provide guidance to the Secretariat on the formulation of the draft Strategic Plan.
 - b. Provide input on Strategic Plan alignment with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, and other relevant strategies and frameworks.
 - c. Provide oversight of the Secretariat’s Strategic Plan consultation with regional partners and donors.
2. The Members Working Group will work in association with the Secretariat’s Senior Leadership Team.
3. Working Group meetings will be held virtually and conducted in English.
4. Outputs and recommendations from Working Group meetings will be submitted to the SPREP Troika with a view of submission of a progress update to the 5th SPREP Executive Board Meeting in 2026 and the submission of a draft Strategy for consideration by the 33rd SPREP Meeting in 2027.