

**Agenda Item 9.4: Overview of Regional Goal 4 - Pacific people benefits and their environment benefit from commitment to and best practice of environmental governance.**

**Purpose:**

1. To update Members on the implementation of Regional Goal 4 for the biennial period 2024-2025

**RO4.1: Strengthened national sustainable development planning and implementation systems through increased utilisation of the results of environmental development assessments such as EIA, SEA, and Spatial Planning**

2. Continue to provide environmental assessments and planning training in the Pacific region.
3. Supported the development of the Environmental and Social Management Plan for a C-Band Weather Radar Infrastructure in Vanuatu funded through the GCF VanKIRAP project and continue to provide advice on environmental and social safeguards on SPREP projects (RG-1).
4. Continued to provide support to members to raise to attend International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) Conference, New Zealand Association Impact Assessment (NZAIA), emphasizing the importance of incorporating Pacific perspectives in global environmental impact assessments.
5. Supported Kiribati by raising awareness on Strategic Environmental Assessment for seabed mining activities and EIA training for the Solomon Islands. Will provide similar support to other member countries.
6. Delivered GIS awareness, training, and capacity building to its members (Solomon Islands and Samoa) to ensure that they have the necessary skills and knowledge to interpret and apply spatial planning in collaboration with Islands and Oceans Ecosystem (IOE) (RG-2).
7. Delivered GIS and data management training for the Solomon Islands under the Ensuring Resilient Ecosystems and Representative Protected Areas in the Solomon Islands (EREPA) project.
8. Conducted training sessions on the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal (PIPAP) to enhance participants' access to information on protected areas and conservation initiatives, thereby improving departmental outputs and contributing to regional conservation efforts (RG-2).
9. Deliver GIS training to the Samoa Department of Fisheries, and Solomon Islands for data-driven fisheries conservation and management (RG-2).
10. Develop GIS training materials for the Fiji Department of Environment in collaboration with the BIEM project.

**RO4.2: Improve national capacity for good environmental governance supported by technical assistance for the development of policy and legislation, and in support of the implementation of Member international and regional commitments**

11. Completed Palau National Environmental Management Strategies and supported the development and finalisation of the Palau Country Strategic Partnership Framework (CTSPF).
12. Supported Members in the international negotiations for the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) treaty right up to adoption on June 19, 2023, and will provide support to members on its ratification process.
13. Ongoing support to Tokelau on the development of an EIA policy to serve as a framework for the assessment and management of environmental and social risks in the territory and will provide support to member countries on development of Environmental Assessment Policies.
14. There is mutual and ongoing interest between the Secretariat and the Australasian Environmental Law Enforcement and Regulators neTwork (AELERT) as well as the New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI) to bolster regional collaborative efforts and capacity to advance and strengthen environmental assessments, planning, compliance, enforcement, and regulation.
15. Renewed the MOU with the Pacific Tourism Organization (SPTO) which supported the two CROP agencies to strengthen their complimentary roles in supporting environmental and social sustainability across the region.
16. Ongoing support to Niue on the development of its Environmental and Social Management System.
17. Supported Nauru with the review of its Regulation on Substantial Development and Regulation on Dumping at Sea.
18. The Pacific Dialogue on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) convened in March 2024 and was supported by the project. The Pacific engagement in the Dialogue was successful to exchange insights on Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) (RG-2).
19. Developed the SPREP Mana Kit. The Guide on Multilateral Environmental Agreements is completed however, the development of negotiation toolkit based on experienced and seasoned Pacific negotiators remains to be developed. This toolkit will be accompanied by mock negotiation scenarios that can be used for training purposes.
20. Drafted instructions for Vanuatu's CITES legislation was completed which would facilitate a technological support for the enforcement of CITES legislation in Vanuatu (RG-2).
21. Supported Cook Islands national efforts to conduct an analysis of national legal and policy framework to determine national capacity to accede to the CITES Convention.

22. Delivered the intersessional meeting of the Parties to the Noumea Convention to discuss and endorse the workplan and budget to implement the recommendations from the review of the Noumea Convention. The intersessional meeting is tentatively scheduled for August this year (RG-3).
23. Led the development of SPREP Ocean Governance Framework is designed and developed as an internal document by the Secretariat to clearly define the role and areas of ocean work related to SPREP's mandate, the Noumea and Waigani Conventions, Strategic Plan 2017-2026, 2050 Strategy, ocean-related global MEAs and associated MOUs, regional strategies and frameworks.

**RO4.3: Strengthen environmental data collection, monitoring, and analysis and reporting on results, nationally and regionally.**

24. Continued to provide technical and capacity building support to member countries on the use and function of the National and Pacific Environmental Portal.
25. SPREP will continue to support the development of high priority national environment reporting documents including the State of Environment (SOE) Report and the National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS) for at least 2 PICTs.
26. Supported the Government of Samoa on the development of the Samoa State of Environment Report (SOE) – 2024 Samoa National Environment Sector Plan (NESP) – 2024; and the Vanuatu State of Environmental Report.
27. Continued to implement the outcomes and results of the Regional Inform Project and the UN Joint Programme on Ecosystem Services focusing on:
  - a) Implemented data initiatives with technical programmes within SPREP utilizing the data platforms developed under the Inform project including Climate Change Resilience (CCR), Biodiversity and Waste Management initiatives to produce at least 4 high quality datasets and data products such as the Pacific Waste Audit Inventory; Status of Pacific Coral Reefs; Pacific Seabirds Database; and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) Database. (RG-1)
  - b) SPREP as a regional technical partner to the GCF funded UNEP CIS-Pac5 programme continues to provide support on data collection, analysis and sharing of climate-related information for Cook Islands, Niue, Palau, RMI and Tuvalu; and Engaged in the development of climate action plans for each of the project member countries (RG-1)
  - c) Showcased SPREP-led climate change initiatives in the Marshall Islands during Climate Change Week 2024
  - d) Continued to review and incorporate traditional knowledge into effective dissemination of climate information for disaster response for Tuvalu.
  - e) Developed key priority datasets on the Pacific Environment Portal (PEP) and national data portals the 5 project member countries for tracking environmental indicators on environmental governance, climate change, biodiversity and waste management to track environmental trends.

## Challenges

28. Delay in the formalisation of the extension of the ACPMEA Phase 3 resulted in the delay in funds disbursement which impacted the timely delivery of the project activities.
29. Securing sustainable funding to support capacity building in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) remains a challenge.
30. GIS and spatial planning are gaining momentum in terms of training for Member countries however, national environment agencies lack the hardware to continue the mapping work on environmental issues to support better decisions. EMG Programme will be seeking financial and technical support from donors and development partners.

## Opportunities

31. Growing recognition among members and donors on the importance of environmental and social safeguards in ensuring sustainable development. SPREP is leveraging partnerships with key regional and international organizations to enhance its capacity to support member countries in implementing these safeguards.
32. The Secretariat is proactively working with various projects to identify complementary funding sources to provide targeted support to member countries on EIAs and other core areas of environmental governance.

## Recommendation:

33. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
    - 1) **Note** and **endorse** progress in the implementation of Regional Goal 4 activities for the biennial period 2024-2025.
-