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Name of the Region: **South Pacific**

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

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Guidance: Please provide any updates since the 18th GMRS held in 2016 up to date

I. Progress in the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 -2020 since 2017 up to date

1. Reduce marine pollution of all kinds in line with the SDG Goal 14.1.

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
1.1	Enhance data, information management, monitoring and assessment at national and regional level through development of guidelines, baselines, regional indicators, and monitoring programmes as well as identification of region-specific emerging issues through research.	GEF Regional Inform Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Established data portals in 14 Pacific Island Countries (PICs) linked to the regional Pacific Environment Portal ▪ Developed Indicator based reporting tool ▪ Developed core set of environment indicators ▪ State of Environment Reports completed for Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Cook Islands and Niue. ▪ Tonga, Solomon Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Papua New Guinea currently under development. 	2018 - 2020
		SPREP coordinating regional indicators with key partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will result in SMART database on marine pollution 	2020

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
		Citizen Science promoted to collect data from clean-up activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish database on coastal marine pollution in the Pacific region. 	2018-2025
		Henderson Island study in the Pitcairn Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High level of plastic pollution originating from Pacific rim countries 	2019
		No plastic in nature: assessing plastic ingestion from nature to people by Dalberg and University of Newcastle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food security and human health 	2019
1.2	Raise the visibility of relevant pollution issues at all levels and facilitate science-policy interactions emphasizing socio-economic impacts and promoting relevant practices, tools, technologies and measures	<i>Cleaner Pacific 2025: Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016-2025</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopted by 21 Pacific island countries and territories 	2016-2025
		SPREP Clean Pacific Roundtable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange of knowledge between Government, civil society, industry, community and donors 	2016/2018/2020
		Pacific Leaders Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsed <i>Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan</i> and called for action on plastic pollution 	2017,2018,2019
		Pacific Environment Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasis on the links between waste, climate, biodiversity and governance and sharing of knowledge 	2019
		Greening of the Pacific Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significantly reduced the use of non-essential single-use plastic items 	2019
		3Rs Forum – Bangkok	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific issues facing the Pacific were raised at the forum and included in a publication on <i>State of Plastic Waste in Asia and the Pacific</i> 	2019
		Multiple donor support of US\$61.7 million obtained for multiple projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In implementation 	2019-2025

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
		(POLP, SWAP, PacWaste Plus, GEF ISLANDS and J-PRISM II) to assist in the implementation of Cleaner Pacific 2025 and the Marine Litter Action Plan		
1.3	Raise issues at global level and facilitate regionalization of outcomes of the GPA IGR4 and mandated global partnerships	<p>UNEA 4</p> <p>IMO</p> <p>CWPFC</p> <p>BRS COP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contributed to resolutions: Marine plastic litter and marine plastics; Environmentally sound management of waste; Addressing single-use plastic products pollution; ▪ Featured Moana Taka partnership between Swire Shipping and SPREP for transport of non-commercial waste from Pacific countries at GLPM Tent. ▪ <i>Marine Litter Action Plan</i> (led by Vanuatu) ▪ Conservation and Management Measure on Marine Pollution (led by RMI) ▪ Changes to Basel Convention regarding transboundary movement on plastics and Global Partnership on Plastic 	<p>2019</p> <p></p> <p>Came into force 2019</p> <p>2019</p>

2. Create increased resilience of people, marine and coastal ecosystems, and their health and productivity, in line with the SDG Goal 13 and decisions made at the UNFCCC COP21.

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
2.1	Support mainstreaming of climate change into regional and national policies and institutional frameworks	Pacific Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainstreaming guidelines and practical application tools developed and tested in countries, and incorporated in SPREP project cycle 	2013-2017
		Pacific Gender and Climate Change Toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practical guide for ensuring that gender (as well as social inclusion) issues feature prominently in project development and implementation, and incorporated in SPREP project cycle 	2015 with ongoing revisions
		<i>SPREP Strategic Plan 2011-2026</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In implementation 	2011-2026
		<i>Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In implementation 	2017-2030
		Joint National Action Plans for disaster risk and climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several countries 	Ongoing, 2 nd versions in Niue, Tonga
2.2	Assess the impacts of climate change and the resilience of people, society and ecosystems in marine and coastal areas to propose adaptation strategies	Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessed OA impacts in three countries, continued observations and localised adaptation options trialled 	2016 - present
		Adaptation Planning Tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online tool on Pacific Climate Change Portal to allow projects to be developed from 	2017 - present

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
			idea to concept to project, with assessments built in	
		€5 million Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Programme funded by BMU IKI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented Ecological and Socio-economic Resilience Assessment Mapping (ESRAMs) in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu Implementing EbA solutions based on assessments and options analysis 	Ongoing to 2020
		€9 million Blue Carbon Ecosystems Initiative Programme funded by BMU IKI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commencing 2020 	2020-2025
2.3	Create or support climate research, policy networks and inter-regional knowledge exchange towards a better understanding of climate impacts on the marine and coastal environment	Pacific Climate Change Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional information and data repository linked to national portals and other portals 	2012 - present
		Pacific Climate Change Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared regional resource for assessment, capacity building, planning and applied research 	2019-ongoing
2.4	Facilitate access to instruments for climate financing at national and regional levels	Climate Finance Navigator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online tool on Pacific Climate Change Portal to allow projects being developed from idea to concept to project, to find appropriate funding source, and to populate format for that fund 	2017 - present
		SPREP appointed regional implementing entity for Adaptation Fund and Green Climate Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project and programme development ongoing GCF US\$28 million climate services project commenced in Vanuatu 	Ongoing 2018-2023

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
		Convened regional <i>GCF Pacific Dialogue</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened partnerships and identified Pacific country priorities 	2018

3. Develop integrated, ecosystem-based regional ocean policies and strategies for sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, paying close attention to blue growth.

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
3.1	Promote application of guidelines, rules and regulations for exploitation and exploration of living and non-living resources within Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and develop such instruments, where necessary, based on the ecosystem approach	SPREP Environmental Monitoring and Governance Programme capacity building and training programme on EIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed <i>Strengthening EIA Guidelines in Pacific island countries and territories</i> Developed <i>EIA Guidelines for coastal tourism</i> 	2015 - present
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Strategic Environment Assessment Guidelines</i> under formulation 	2018 - present
		Support at regional and national levels for shark and ray conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declaration of EEZ shark sanctuary in Samoa Listing of shark and ray species on CITES Appendices 	2017-2018
		Revision of marine species action plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved approach to marine species conservation 	2019-2020
		Address fisheries bycatch mitigation in EU-funded Bycatch and Integrated Ecosystem Management component of Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve protection of endangered marine species. 	2019-2022

4. Enhance effectiveness of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans as regional platforms for supporting integrated ocean policies and management.

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
4.1	Support science-policy dialogue, science-based decisions and provision of regional guidelines	Pacific Resilience Partnership and Pacific Resilience Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forum for integrated solutions to be developed 	2019 - ongoing
		Pacific Meteorological Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forum for science solutions, building on outcomes of its expert panels 	2012 - ongoing
4.2	Support member states with developing integrated ocean policy and improve relevant national legislation to enhance chronological consistency and coherency across sectors	National marine spatial planning implemented in Solomon Islands and Fiji as part of Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership programme including support to Solomon Islands government to develop national ocean policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National ocean policy development 	2018-ongoing
		Inclusion of marine components in development of State of Environment (SoE) Reports and National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basis for national decision-making 	Ongoing
4.3	Enhance information exchange and interregional cooperation towards common goals	Convening regional pre-CoP meetings to establish agreed positions prior to MEA CoPs: CBD, UNFCCC, CITES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unified Pacific voice at CoPs 	Ongoing
		Key regional policies and frameworks: <i>Regional Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas; Cleaner Pacific 2025; Invasive Species Guidelines</i> ; etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies to support national and regional decision-making 	Ongoing
		Convening multiple regional meetings on all relevant topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various 	Ongoing
4.5	Ensure the highest standards of Secretariat performance in support in administration of the Conventions and Action plan	EU ACPMEA Phase 3 project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation starts as soon as the Project Cooperation Agreement is signed between UN Environment and SPREP 	

II. Challenges with the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 – 2020

Lack of comprehensive monitoring and observation systems in the region

Lack of human and financial resources to implement at national and regional levels

III. Lessons learnt (2017 – up to date)

Gradually improving regional coordination and cooperation is key.

IV. Any other issues / decisions / case studies / experiences to be shared

V Emerging issues that have not been covered in the RSSD 2017-2020 but are proposed to be covered during the next RSSD

There is a need to consider issues in a holistic and integrated manner, for example the threat multiplier effect for atolls of ocean acidification, sea level rise, saline intrusion, rainfall pattern changes and king tides as a whole rather than as separate impacts.

*Please submit this report to Nancy Soi at Nancy.soi@un.org by **30 August 2019**