ANNEX 1

YEAR OF THE WHALE IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS 2016/17

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR WORKSHOP
Saturday 19 September : 0900-1700
at the SPREP campus, Vailima, Apia, Samoa

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

BACKGROUND TO YEAR OF THE WHALE (includes promotional video)

KEY ELEMENTS OF YEAR OF THE WHALE:

- Themes
- Outreach
- Educational material
- In-country support
- Branding

WORK PROGRAMME

- General observations and comments on draft work programme
- Review of work programme:
  - Science-based proposals
  - Other proposals
- Funding

BREAK-OUT GROUPS TO FURTHER CONSIDER SPECIFIC ELEMENTS OF WORK PROGRAMME

CONCLUSION

- Commitments by governments, NGOs and others
- Next steps
- Report/Statement to SPREP meeting
- Any other business

WORK PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

Building on previous collaborations between SPREP, its members and organisations that have an interest and experience in research and conservation management of cetaceans in the Pacific Islands region, the following is suggested as a preliminary work programme for the Year of the Whale:

Concept	Relevance to SPREP Strategic Plan	Potential partners	Potential cost (USD)	Developed by	Status
Status of humpback whales in Oceania	BEM 2.1.1	SPWRC IFAW MMC	$1 million+	SPWRC, SPREP	Not funded - research plan developed
The Kermadec Connection – migratory corridors and destinations of humpback whales	BEM 2.1.4	SPWRC IFAW MMC Pew		SPWRC, SPREP	Not funded - research plan developed. Expedition taking place in October 2015.
Population identity of humpback whales migrating through Pitcairn and Chesterfield Islands	BEM 2.1.4	SPWRC Darwin Initiative IRD Op. Cetaces UK Govt Uni St Andrews	$500k+	SPREP, SPWRC IRD Op. Cetaces BAS	Not funded - awaiting opening of Darwin Initiative for OCTs. Provisional research plan developed. Uni St Andrews undertaking acoustic monitoring this year.
Promoting responsible whale-watching in Tonga (and other locations)	BEM 2.1.2	SPWRC Government of Tonga NZODA Auckland Institute of Studies	$200k	SPREP, SPWRC, Govt of Tonga, AIS	Not funded - consistent with recommendations of Blue Days conference.
A Dolphin Management Plan for Solomon Islands	BEM 2.1.1	SPWRC Government of Solomon Islands	$250k	SPREP, SPWRC, Govt of Solomon Islands	SI Gov has some funding - bid submitted to Round 1 of Darwin Initiative.

Baseline surveys and assessment of impacts (including noise) of deep-sea mining on cetaceans, e.g. in PNG, Cook Islands, Tonga and Nauru	BEM 2.1.2	SPWRC SPC Blue Planet Marine	$250k	SPREP, SPWRC, WDC, SPC	Not funded
Regional workshops on managing and documenting whale and dolphin strandings	BEM 2.1.2	SPREP IWC NOAA SPWRC (strandings database)	$100k	SPREP, IWC, NOAA, SPWRC	Not funded - workshop format established.
Disentanglement of whales caught in marine debris	BEM 2.1.2	SPREP IWC NOAA SPWRC (strandings database)	$30k (in conjunction with above strandings workshop)	SPREP, IWC, NOAA, SPWRC	Not funded - workshop format established and IWC willing in principle to provide leadership in training.
The role of cetaceans in large MPAs	BEM 2.1.2	SPWRC Governments of New Caledonia, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, French Polynesia, WDC, ICMMPA, MMPATF PEW?	$300k	SPREP, SPWRC, Op Cetaces IRD	Not funded - concept yet to be refined.
Cultural transmission of humpback song in New Caledonia and across the Pacific Islands	BEM 2.1.2	SPWRC Govts French Polynesia and New Caledonia Uni St Andrews Uni Queensland WDC	$150k	SPREP, SPWRC, Op Cetaces, IRD Uni St Andrews Uni Queensland	Uni St Andrews has some funding.
Cetacean culture and its relevance to conservation in the Pacific Islands	BEM 2.1.1	SPREP WDC		SPREP WDC University?	Not funded, but expressions of interest from key stakeholders.

Dissemination of results of the REMMOA programme of aerial surveys to census cetaceans and other marine megafauna	BEM 2.1.4	AAMP SPREP Consortium		AAMP SPREP Consortium	Verbal commitment from AAMP.
Climate change and Habitat use by humpback whales in the Pacific Islands	BEM 2.1.2	SPWRC University of Auckland Opération Cétacés, IRD	$180k	SPWRC, Uni Akld, Opération Cétacés, IRD	Not funded - concept yet to be refined.
Regional workshop on Important Marine Mammal Areas (Implementation of IMMAs in the Region)	BEM 2.1.1	Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force, ICMMPA Committee, WDC and Tethys Research Institute SPREP	$100k	Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force, ICMMPA Committee, WDC and Tethys Research Institute SPREP	Funding bid submitted by ICMMPA Committee and Tethys.
Survey of cetaceans in Yap	BEM 2.1.4	SPREP FSM government Local and international NGOs SPWRC		SPREP FSM government NGOs SPWRC	Not funded, but expressions of interest from key stakeholders.
Establishing Whale Heritage Sites in the SPREP region	BEM 2.1.2	SPREP WCA		SPREP WCA Member govts	Early stages of development - could be incorporated into other projects
Guidelines for whale watching… reviewing, updating, labeling, etc.		SPREP INTEGRE SPTO		SPREP, members	Fonds Pacifique for labeling, other funds for guidelines