SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
E: sprep@sprep.org
T: +685 21929
F: +685 20231
W: www.sprep.org

*The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*

Natural Solutions for Island Resilience

# CIRCULAR

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| **FILE:** | MTG 2/3 | **TO:** | SPREP National Focal Points |
| **DATE:** | 22 September 2014 | | CROP Organisations |
| **CIRCULAR:** | 14/85 | | SPREP Partner Organisations |

**SUBJECT: Update for SPREP Members and Partners on SIDS Conference 2014**

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Dear SPREP Members and Partners,

The attached paper provides information on the landmark Small islands Developing States Conference, held in Samoa from 1st to 4th September. This Conference will also be discussed at the 2014 SPREP Meeting to be held in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands from 30 September to 3 October.

Please let me know if you would like more information.

Kind regards

David Sheppard
**Director General**

**Update for SPREP Members and Partners on SIDS Conference 2014**

## Purpose

**(1)** To update SPREP Members and Partners on the final outcomes of the Third Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Conference 2014, held in Samoa from 1 to 4 September, 2014.

## Background

**(2)** This conference was the 3rd SIDS Conference ever held, with the first conference held in Barbados in 1994 and the second in Mauritius in 2004. The conference was hailed by all participants and stakeholders as a major success and Samoa was widely praised for their outstanding efforts as host and chair of the conference.

**(3)** The conference was attended by 3,500 delegates including 115 UN member states delegations (which included 21 Heads of State and 97 Ministers) and 548 NGOs and other major groups.

**(4)** The main outcome document adopted by the Conference was the **S**IDS **A**ccelerated **M**odalities **O**f **A**ction (SAMOA) Pathway Outcomes, which will be recommended for endorsement by the UN General Assembly at its 69th Session (September 2014). The conference also produced separate outcome documents from the four pre-conference forums: Youth; Renewable Energy; Private Sector and Major Groups and also the six multi-stakeholder partnerships dialogues: Sustainable Economic Development; Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management; Social Development; Sustainable Energy; Oceans, Seas and Biodiversity; Water, Sanitation, Food Security: and Waste Management.

**(5)** The SIDS Conference was very successful for SPREP and our objectives and action plan for the SIDS Conference were fully achieved. In particular, we were able to raise the profile of SPREP programmes and regional issues as well as strengthening existing partnerships, while establishing a number of new partnerships. SPREP was directly involved with 23 side and parallel events at SIDS; including 8 events hosted on the SPREP campus. The majority of these events were implemented jointly with SPREP members and partners, such as the Ocean Acidification workshop where SPREP supported the Governments of New Zealand and United States of America. SPREP also fully participated in the preconference forums, multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues and at other parallel events. The SPREP executive also held more than 25 bilateral consultations and this was complemented by other similar consultations by technical staff. (Refer to Attachment 1: Schedule of SIDS Side Events and Parallel Events with SPREP Involvement)

## SPREP Highlights

**(6)** SPREP highlights included: (i) the launching of the UNEP Sub-regional Office hosted at SPREP together with the signing of The Host Country Agreement between Samoa and UNEP. This office was launched by the Executive Secretary of UNEP, Mr. Achim Steiner

as well as the Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi ; (ii) the launching of the "Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014 – 2020"; (iii) the signing of a €5 Million (Natural Solutions to Climate Change in the Pacific Islands Region: Implementing Ecosystem-based Adaptation) project with the German Government; and (iv) the signing of partnership agreements with The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Conservation International, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Waitt Foundation, National Geographic Society and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

**(7)** The SPREP Communications team for the conference was exemplary in successfully highlighting SPREP issues with local and international media as well as at the various conference venues.

**Post Conference Actions**

**(8)** The Secretariat conducted a post conference debrief and assessment of implications for SPREP. The SIDS Conference will also be discussed at the 2014 SPREP Meeting and is included as one of the agenda items for the Ministerial Session of the SPREP Meeting on 3rd October, with this discussion being led by the Minister of Natural resources and Environment of Samoa.

**(9)** SPREP has completed the mid-term review of its current Strategic Plan (which will end in December 2016) and this will be discussed by the 2014 SPREP meeting. It is anticipated the initial formulation of the next Strategic Plan will commence in 2015 once the review has been considered by SPREP Members. It is anticipated the next SPREP Strategic Plan will incorporate relevant elements from the SAMOA Pathway outcomes.

**(10)** The Secretariat has identified two key priority areas that emerged from the conference relevant to SPREP's work that require particular attention. The first priority area is oceans where we agreed that we would continue to support implementation through the Pacific Oceanscape Framework but focus on our areas of mandate and comparative advantage, in particular marine protected areas, marine pollution, marine mammal species and ocean observation work, including the implications of ocean acidification. The second priority area is sustainable energy where we agreed that SPREP will work to maximise opportunities for funding of proposals on renewable energy with GEF and other development partners, building on the successes of the PIGGAREP and PIGGAREP Plus projects. We have established two SPREP working groups to lead our implementation in these two priority areas. Both areas will be discussed by the 2014 SPREP meeting.

**(11)** SPREP currently chairs the CROP Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), which will coordinate follow up regional actions, across all relevant CROP agencies, and also provide regional inputs from the SIDS Conference into the Post 2015 Development Agenda Process. An initial assessment of the SAMOA outcomes and existing regional implementation modalities shows that the region has existing implementation frameworks and strategies for most priority areas (Refer to Attachment 2). The SDWG will continue to develop regional coordination arrangements to ensure implementation of the SAMOA Outcomes.

**Further information on SIDS**

**(12)** Further information on SIDS and the key outcomes is provided on the following websites:

- SAMOA Pathway http://www.sids2014.org/content/documents/358A-CONF-223-5%20ENGLISH.pdf
- Side Event Reports http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?menu=1596
- Parallel Event Reports http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?menu=1597
- Major Groups & Other Stakeholders Outcomes Document http://www.sids2014.org/content/documents/403MG_OS_31%20Aug_Final.pdf
- Youth Forum Outcomes Document http://www.sids2014.org/content/documents/406SIDS%202014%20PRE%20CONFERENCE%20FORUM%20OUTCOME%20DOCUMENT%20-%20FINAL.pdf
- SPREP-Tok Special Bulletin https://www.sprep.org/attachments/Publications/Newsletters/SIDS-Tok.pdf
- SIDS Partnerships http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?menu=1589
- SIDS Statistics http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?menu=1589