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CLEAN PACIFIC

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# CIRCULAR

**FILE:** CONV 1/3/7
**DATE:** 22 April 2013
**CIRCULAR:** 13/25

**TO:** SPREP National Focal Points of Parties to the Noumea Convention

**SUBJECT:** **Finalised Activities for Operational Budget of the Noumea Convention**

Dear Focal Points

At the 11th Conference of the Parties for the Noumea Convention, held in Noumea, New Caledonia, Parties "**Directed the Secretariat to solicit party recommendation and comments on priority activities for use of the operational funds**."

A proposed list of activities was circulated to parties on 15th January, 2013. The Secretariat received prioritization from five Parties; Australia, Cook Islands, France, Samoa and the USA. There was a wide range in the activities prioritized by different parties, the Secretariat took this into account in developing the finalized list for current funding – as well as assessing all other potential funding sources that could potentially support these activities.

Total funding available under Noumea Convention operating funds was $175,000 and the Secretariat was successful in identifying a further $153,000 to fund additional activities in support of the Noumea Convention. As a result, 10 of the 14 proposed activities can be funded at the current time.

Yours sincerely

David Sheppard
**Director General**

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# LIST OF ACTIVITIES

| Decision | Activity | Justification | Cost |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Endorsed at Noumea COP 11 (FUND $40,000)** | **Regional Workshop on Environmental perspectives on Deep Sea Mineral activities** | **Article 13: Mining and Coastal Erosion**<br>**Article 8: Pollution from Seabed activities**<br>**Identified area of interest for Parties** | **$60,000** |
| Alternate Funds identified | Support to workshop to develop a Samoan Archipelago MPA network (Oceanscape) | Article 14: Protection of flora and fauna | $8,000 |
| **FUND** | **Seed funding to initiate a Pacific wide Marine Protected Area 'network of networks' (Oceanscape)** | **Article 14: Protection of flora and fauna** | **$20,000** |
| | Synthesis report on the current and historic trends in Crown of Thorn outbreaks in Pacific Islands | Article 14: Protection of flora and fauna | $15,000 |
| **FUND (2) countries** | **Update 1993 wetland inventories for up to 11 Pacific Island Countries (Ramsar convention)** | **Article 14: Protection of flora and fauna** | **$10,000 per country (required in 11 PICs)** |
| | Develop wetland inventories for up to 2 Pacific Island Countries (Ramsar convention) | Article 14: Protection of flora and fauna | $50,000 per country (required in 2 PICs) |
| **FUND 50%, additional funds identified** | **Carry out a Risk assessment for Marine Pollution by reviewing the Shipping patterns in the region (MV and FFV) – this will provide operational funds for an AMSA secondment.** | **Article 6 – Pollution from Vessels**<br>**Article 10 – Disposal of wastes**<br>**Article 15 – Co-operation in combating pollution in cases of emergency** | **$60,000** |
| Alternate funds identified | Marine invasive species activity – carry out Risk assessment, National strategy and economic assessment for up to 3 countries for IMS from ballast water and hull bio-fouling. | Article 6 – Pollution from Vessels<br>Article 16 – Environmental Impact Assessments | $15,000 per country (required in 3 PICs) |
| **FUND** | **Marine plastic litter, status and recommendations for Pacific based research and action** | **Article 6 – Pollution from Vessels**<br>**Article 10 – Disposal of wastes** | **$45,000** |
| Alternate funds identified for Solomon Islands | Environmental Policy and legislative review, with guidebook on environmental laws for one Pacific Island Country | Article 17 Scientific and Technical Co-operation<br>Article 18 Technical and other assistance<br>Article 19 Transmission of information | $20,000 |
| | Develop guidelines and training materials on Environmental Impact Assessment for senior fisheries staff, specifically on issues relevant to fisheries and aquaculture. Including impacts of development on fisheries and impacts of fisheries/aquaculture activities. | Article 16 – Environmental Impact Assessments<br>Article 18 Technical and other assistance<br>Article 14: Protection of flora and fauna | $25,000 |
| Alternate funds identified | Review of SPREP guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment | Article 16 – Environmental Impact Assessments | $30,000 |
| An outline will be a primary outcome of DSM workshop | Draft regional environmental guidelines for mining | Article 13: Mining and Coastal Erosion<br>Article 16 – Environmental Impact Assessments | $20,000 |
| **FUND** | **Draft regional environmental guidelines for Coastal Development, particularly tourism developments** | **Article 13: Mining and Coastal Erosion**<br>**Article 7: Pollution from land based sources**<br>**Article 16 – Environmental Impact Assessments** | **$20,000** |

# Justification of Decision on each activity

***Regional Workshop on Environmental perspectives on Deep Sea Mineral activities***

This activity was endorsed at the 2012 COP in Noumea and will aim to move this issue forward, with specific outputs of the workshop being:

- Framework for Draft regional environmental guidelines on DSM activities
- Identification of capacity gaps to implement EISs related to DSM activities
- Guidelines on an approach to address these within country capacity gaps to implement DSM related EIAs

Cost saving for this activity to the Noumea Convention operating budget will be achieved by co-running this workshop with the SOPAC DSM EDF-10 project on a 50%-50% cost share basis.
**Decision: FUND** at a level of $40,000 from Noumea Convention Operating Budget

***Support to workshop to develop a Samoan Archipelago MPA network (Oceanscape)***

This activity was the first priority of Samoa, and considered important under the Convention and the Oceanscape Framework, and as an example of developing a trans-boundary cooperation in marine management, however most potential benefits are only for one party.
**Decision: Alternate funds identified** for this activity

***Seed funding to initiate a Pacific wide Marine Protected Area 'network of networks' (Oceanscape)***

This activity was the first priority of France and moderate priority for all other Parties. This activity will benefit all Parties, can be delivered prior to the next Noumea Convention COP and is considered important under the Convention and the Oceanscape Framework.
**Decision: FUND** at a level of $20,000 from Noumea Convention Operating Budget

***Support to workshop to develop a Samoan Archipelago MPA network (Oceanscape)***

This activity was the first priority of Samoa, and considered important under the Convention and the Oceanscape Framework, and as an example of developing a trans-boundary cooperation in marine management, however most potential benefits are only for one party.
**Decision: Alternate funds identified** for this activity

***Support to workshop to develop a Samoan Archipelago MPA network (Oceanscape)***

This activity was the first priority of Samoa, and considered important under the Convention and the Oceanscape Framework, and as an example of developing a trans-boundary cooperation in marine management, however most potential benefits are only for one party.
**Decision: Alternate funds identified** for this activity

***Seed funding to initiate a Pacific wide Marine Protected Area 'network of networks' (Oceanscape)***

This activity was the first priority of France and moderate priority for all other Parties. This activity will benefit all Parties, can be delivered prior to the next Noumea Convention COP and is considered important under the Convention and the Oceanscape Framework.
**Decision: FUND** at a level of $20,000 from Noumea Convention Operating Budget

***Synthesis report on the current and historic trends in Crown of Thorn outbreaks in Pacific Islands***

This activity was a high priority for Australia and Samoa, and a low priority for other Parties. Some work has been done in this area and it was considered appropriate to look for other opportunities to fund this particular activity.
**Decision:** Do not fund at this time, seek alternate funding

***Update 1993 wetland inventories for up to 11 Pacific Island Countries (Ramsar convention)***

This activity was the first priority of Australia, and developing a wetland inventory for countries currently lacking was a first priority for France. Given current funding constraints and the priority given to wetlands

work, this was seen as the most appropriate way to fund activities under the Convention. While activities will only take place within two countries, this is building to a regional effort supporting the Ramsar Convention actions in the region.
**Decision: FUND** $20,000 from Noumea Convention operation funds to update two countries wetlands inventories

***Develop wetland inventories for up to 2 Pacific Island Countries (Ramsar convention)***
This activity was a high priority for France, and a lesser priority for other Parties. Due to the high individual cost of these activities they are not suggested for current funding, but to seek other avenues to support these activities.
**Decision:** Do not fund at this time, seek alternate funding

***Carry out a Risk assessment for Marine Pollution by reviewing the Shipping patterns in the region (MV and FFV)***
This activity was the first priority for USA, high priority for France and moderate priority for Australia and Cook Islands. With other identified funding, only 50% funding to this activity is required from Noumea Convention to ensure these activities are successfully implemented.
**Decision: FUND** $30,000 from Noumea Convention operation funds

***Marine invasive species Risk assessment, National strategy and economic assessment for up to 3 countries for IMS from ballast water and hull bio-fouling.***
This activity was the high to moderate priority for all Parties and will be funded with alternative funding sources.
**Decision: Alternate funds identified** for this activity

***Marine plastic litter, status and recommendations for Pacific based research and action***
This activity was high priority for Australia, France and the USA, and a moderate priority for the Cook Islands, as well as being identified as a priority by members at the SPREP meeting in 2012. This activity has regional benefits and will be completed prior to the next Noumea Convention COP.
**Decision: FUND** $45,000 from Noumea Convention operation funds

***Environmental Policy and legislative review, with guidebook on environmental laws for one Pacific Island Country***
This activity was high priority for Australia and the Cook Islands. Funds to develop a guidebook for the Solomon Islands have been identified from an alternate source.
**Decision: Alternate funds identified** for this activity

***Develop guidelines and training materials on Environmental Impact Assessment for senior fisheries staff***
This activity was moderate to low priority for all parties.
**Decision:** Do not fund at this time, seek alternate funding

***Review of SPREP guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment***
This activity was a high priority for Cook Islands and USA, alternative funding has been identified.
**Decision: Alternate funds identified** for this activity

***Draft regional environmental guidelines for mining***
This activity was a high priority for Australia, an outline for these guidelines are proposed as a primary output of the regional workshop on environmental aspects of DSM.
**Decision:** Do not fund at this time, take guidance from the outputs of the workshop on DSM.

***Draft regional environmental guidelines for Coastal Development, particularly tourism***
This activity was a high priority for Cook Islands and Samoa. This is a regional output which will build on the updated SPREP environmental guidelines, to be developed with alternate funding sources. These guidelines are considered as important products in supporting Pacific Islands under the Convention.
**Decision: FUND** $20,000 from Noumea Convention operation funds