

SDG 14 Life Below Water and SDG 15 Life on Land – the Role of National and Regional Planning, Reporting and Tracking



Fifth Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and
Capacity Building Workshop for Pacific SIDS
25-26 November 2021, Fiji

*“Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Context of
COVID-19 and the Climate Emergency”*



**SPREP
PROE**

Strategic Priorities towards the 2030 Agenda

SPREP Vision: 2017 -2026 *A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*

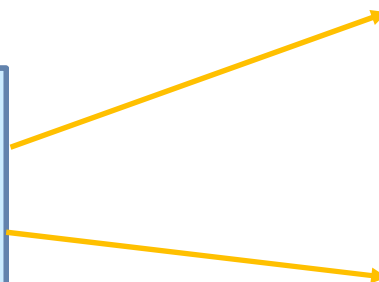


Mandate –To promote co-operation in the Pacific region and provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations



SPREP Strategic Priorities:

1. Climate Change Resilience
2. Ecosystem and Biodiversity Protection
3. Waste Management and Pollution Control
4. Environmental Monitoring and Governance





SPREP's specific programs to address SDG 14 and 15

Environment planning and reporting

Inform data portals

Migratory species - TREDs

PACWaste +

BIOPAMA

PACRES

Invasive species





Pacific Environment Data Portal

SPREP PROE PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT DATA PORTAL
Environmental Information for Decision Making

DATASETS ABOUT TOPICS ▾ GROUPS STORIES DOCS DASHBOARDS ▾ HELP & SUPPORT

Enter search term Q

Atmosphere and Climate Land Biodiversity Built Environment Coastal and Marine
Culture and Heritage Inland Waters Nuclear Legacy

LOG IN

12665
DATASETS

2
DASHBOARDS

About

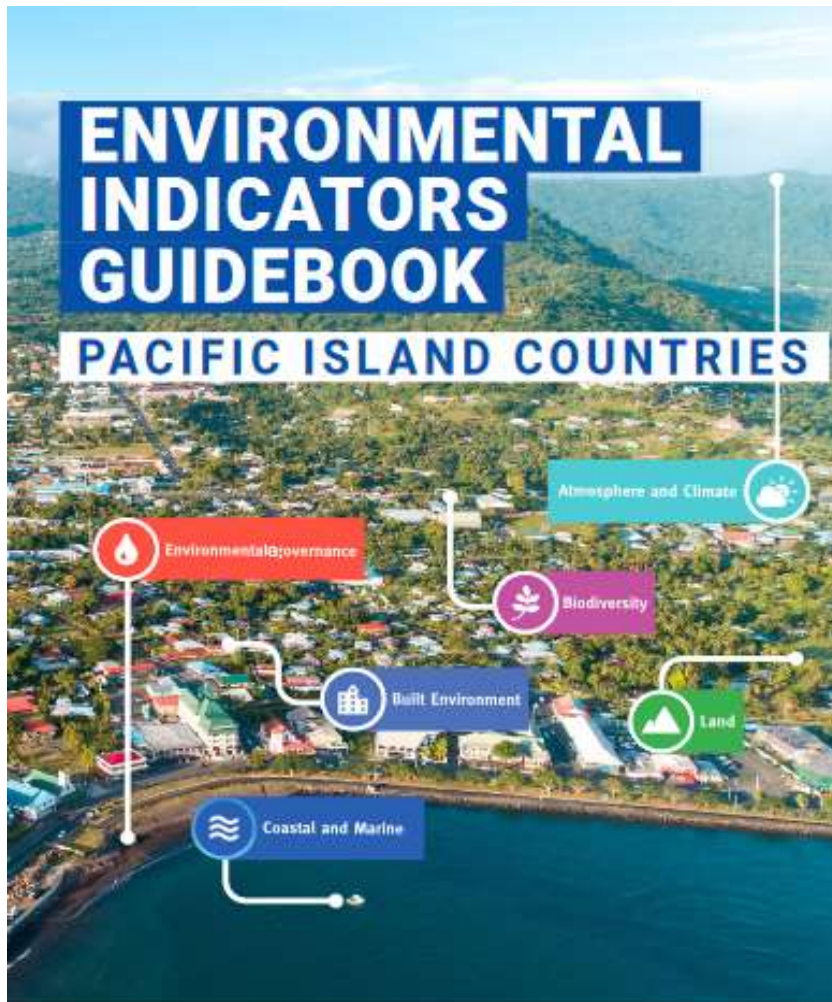
The Pacific Environment Portal provides an easy way to find, access and reuse regional and national data. Our main purpose is to provide easy access and safe storage for environmental datasets to be used for monitoring, evaluating, and analysing environmental conditions and trends to support environmental planning, forecasting, and reporting

13
DATA STORIES

1187
GROUPS

<https://pacific-data.sprep.org>

Environmental Indicators Guidebook



State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report

Assessing the SOEC

Environmental Governance

Land

Coastal and Marine

Conservation and Protection

Biodiversity

Atmosphere and Climate

Built Environment

Data and Knowledge Resources

[State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report \(sprep.org\)](https://sprep.org)



SPREP State of Environment Reporting (SOE)



TONGA STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2019

SUMMARY

The Kingdom of Tonga's State of Environment (SoE) examines major drivers of change to the environment that emerge from global, regional and national factors. It evaluates the main environmental pressures created by these drivers, and examines their environmental impact. The SoE also gives actionable recommendations as a nation to improve the environment for sustainable growth. The SoE Report is a useful reference to guide national development efforts and to improve livelihoods. Information in the SoE Report will help improve decision-making on the environment and in the allocation of resources to better protect the environment and biodiversity.



NIUE STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2019



Environmental Indicator MEAs reporting and SDG14, 15

MARINE CONSERVATION AREAS

INDICATOR DEFINITION

Niue has a long history of protecting different species of marine life from cetaceans, sharks, skates and turtles. Legislation has been in place for many years to protect these marine species. Niueans have on occasion imposed *tapu* and *fono* (traditional bans) in certain areas as a mark of respect, usually to mark the passing of an elder. These temporary bans vary from a few months to several years and can have a profound impact on the same resources. Depending on the length of the ban, it can provide opportunity for fish stocks and other marine life to replenish and flourish. These traditional protocols, together with legislation, provide a counter-measure against overharvesting and overfishing of resources. This indicator assesses the size of the marine areas under conservation or management in Niue and the state of biological resources, with specific focus on fish and live coral cover.

Ten per cent of coastal and marine areas to be conserved by 2020 is a global target that Niue has agreed to, under the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. While the existing marine conservation areas around the island are small, the recent announcement by the Government of a new Marine Protected Area (MPA) to protect 40% of its EEZ will surpass the global target.



Status
Good

Trend
Improving

Data confidence
Medium

SDG



CBD



Finance and Economic Development Pillar (NNSP 2016–2026)

Fisheries and Marine Resources

Environment and Climate Change Pillar (NNSP 2016–2026)

Biodiversity: Protecting biodiversity, maintaining sufficient remaining habitats and ecosystems to support the population of all species and their genetic diversity

FOREST COVER AND CHANGES

INDICATOR DEFINITION

Niue was once covered with an extensive forest of tall trees that formed a relatively dense canopy with the understorey composed of limited shrubs and an herbaceous layer (Sykes 1970). Figure 35 provides a schematic profile of Niue's typical habitat zones. Over generations, human activities and natural events (cyclones, droughts) have contributed to the decline in forest cover. There are many ecological services provided by forests, including soil preservation; maintenance of watershed quality; and nurturing and supporting unique and diverse species through providing habitat, nesting and food resources. Forests also provide medicine, firewood, ornamentals and spiritual uses for Niuean communities (Thaman *et al.* 2004). Forest loss has serious implications for these ecological services and human survival on the island. The change of forest cover indicator aligns with the CBD Aichi Target 5 – whereby by the year 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible, brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.







Status
Good

Trend
Stable

Data confidence
High

Status and Findings

SDG	CBD	NBSAP
15 LIFE ON LAND 		Theme 1 Conservation and sustainable management of terrestrial habitats
		
		
Environment and Climate Change Pillar (NNSP 2016–2026) Natural Resources: Protection and conservation of Niue's natural resources through responsible, sustainable use and management for food and nutrition security that is sufficient, safe, affordable and accessible		

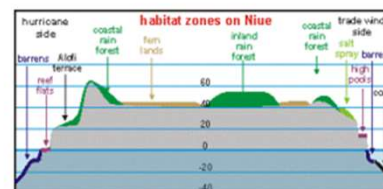
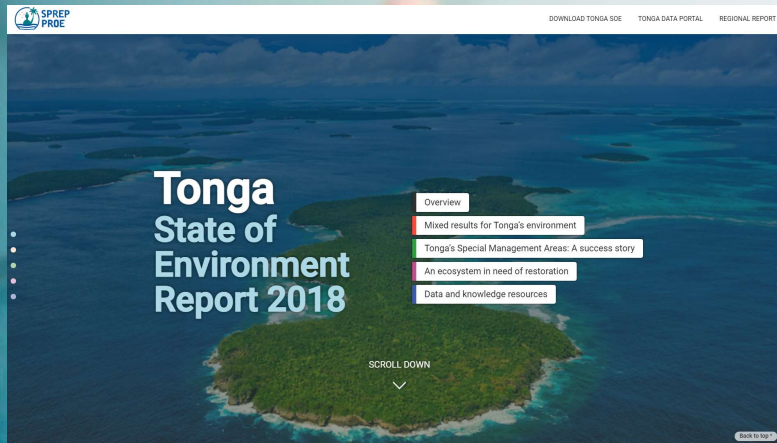
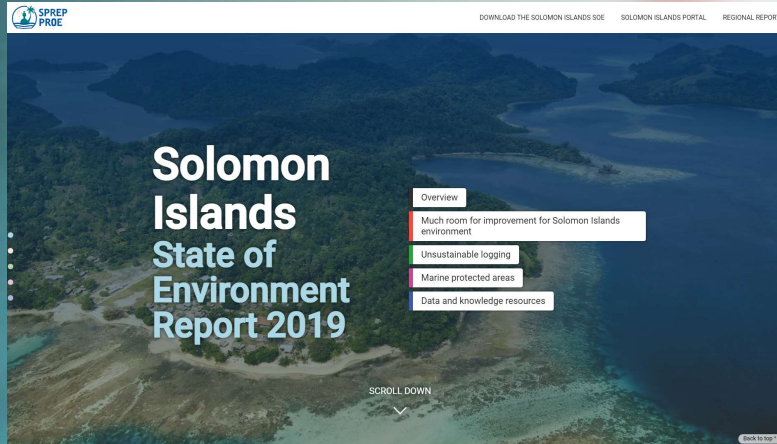


FIGURE 35. Profile of the country showing distribution of habitats. Source: www.seafriends.org.nz.

- [Niue - State of Environment report 2019 \(sprep.org\)](http://sprep.org)



Interactive State of Environment's

Improving SoE accessibility

Wider audience

Reaching decision makers

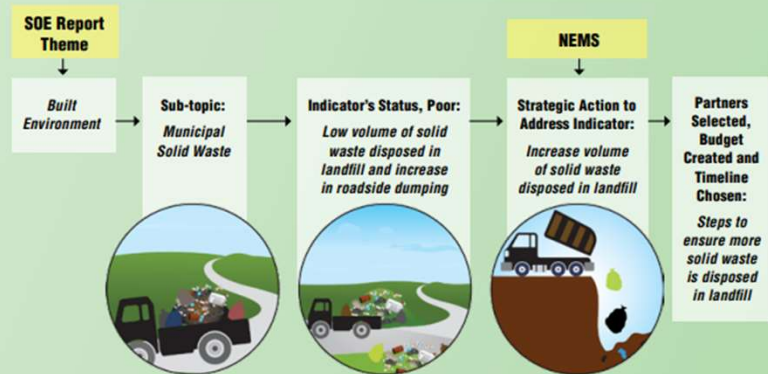
Use in COPs

School education

WHAT IS SPREP'S ROLE IN THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY?

- NEMS is SPREP's Environmental Monitoring and Governance (EMG) Programme provides technical support in collaboration with Member countries' environmental agencies. The NEMS should be developed every five years, or in line with the legislative requirement of the country.
- Assist in facilitating meetings and consultation workshops to build capacity on conducting the NEMS process.
- Facilitate dialogue with relevant partners and organisations that may have a key role in the NEMS process.
- Help in developing monitoring and reporting plans to assess implementation of NEMS priorities.
- Provide policy advice, technical support and information on the NEMS process and content.
- Ensure the SoE Report findings are used to guide the NEMS process.
- Assist in drafting policies and plans from the final NEMS.
- Assist in the development of project concept notes based on the NEMS.

EXAMPLE OF A NEMS ACTION INFORMED BY THE SOE REPORT

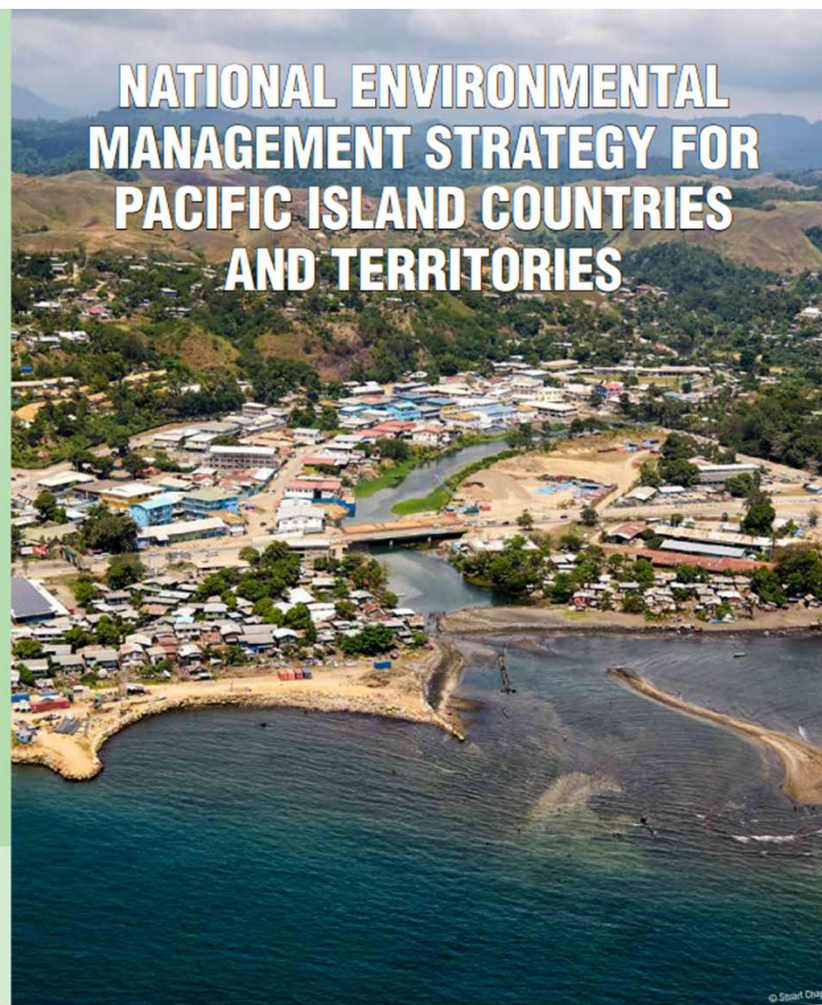


ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

SPREP would like to thank its Member countries for their invaluable input throughout the NEMS development process. SPREP also acknowledges, with appreciation, the funding support from the European Union's ACPMEA Project, implemented by UN Environment and executed by SPREP through the EMG Programme, which supports NEMS development in the Pacific Island region.

For more information on the NEMS, contact emg@sprep.org.

Other information is available on the SPREP website: www.sprep.org/programme/environmental-governance/enabling-frameworks.



Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA)

GUIDELINES FOR PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES



FOREWORD

Director General of SPREP



The SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026 has identified Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as a tool for strengthening national sustainable development planning. Whilst SEA might be a relatively new concept in our region, globally, it has been around since the late 1960s. SEA provides a systematic process by which environmental and climate change considerations are required to be fully integrated into the preparations of development plans, proposed sector policies and strategies, and development programmes prior to their final adoption.

In our region, there have been only a few examples of SEA application that is known. In this regard, the development of the SEA Guidelines is crucial and timely given the increasing interest to effectively address new emerging issues such as seabed mining and multiple development projects in the region and within countries. It also ensures environmental assessment is fully embedded in broader national and sectoral policy, planning and programmes to achieve sustainable development at a much larger scale.

The SEA Guidelines was developed through a highly consultative process which entailed the following:

In September 2018, SPREP under the UNEP EU ACP-MEA Capacity Building project phase 2 initiated the development of the Strategic Environment Assessment guidelines at a regional workshop at SPREP Headquarters which was attended by representatives of twelve Pacific island countries.

The first draft of the SEA guidelines was circulated in April 2019 to Members for comments

The revised draft and completion plan was presented to the 29th SPREP Meeting where the process to gauge further input and feedback from Members was endorsed

In November 2019, a regional consultative workshop was held in Auckland, New Zealand which gathered further input and feedback from Members to revise the draft

The revised draft of the Guidelines was further circulated to Members in May 2020 for comments

In September 2020, the Guidelines was endorsed by the SPREP Executive Board

I am pleased to say that the Guidelines promote inclusiveness and gender equality with respect to working with stakeholders, communities, and partners to integrate environmental, social, and economic objectives and interventions into programs, plans, and policy processes.

Finally, I would like to encourage all those who are responsible for national planning, policy and programmes to make good use of the Guidelines to fully realise the benefits that can be achieved through its targeted use to ensure that environmental considerations are integrated into policies, plans, programmes and projects. The Guidelines can also be used by other Sectors and non-government organisations to guide the development and implementation of new policies, plans and programs.

I look forward to the successful application of the Guidelines by SPREP Members, Partners, and key stakeholders to support sound planning and decision making at all levels.

Soifua.



Mr Kosi Latu
Director General, SPREP

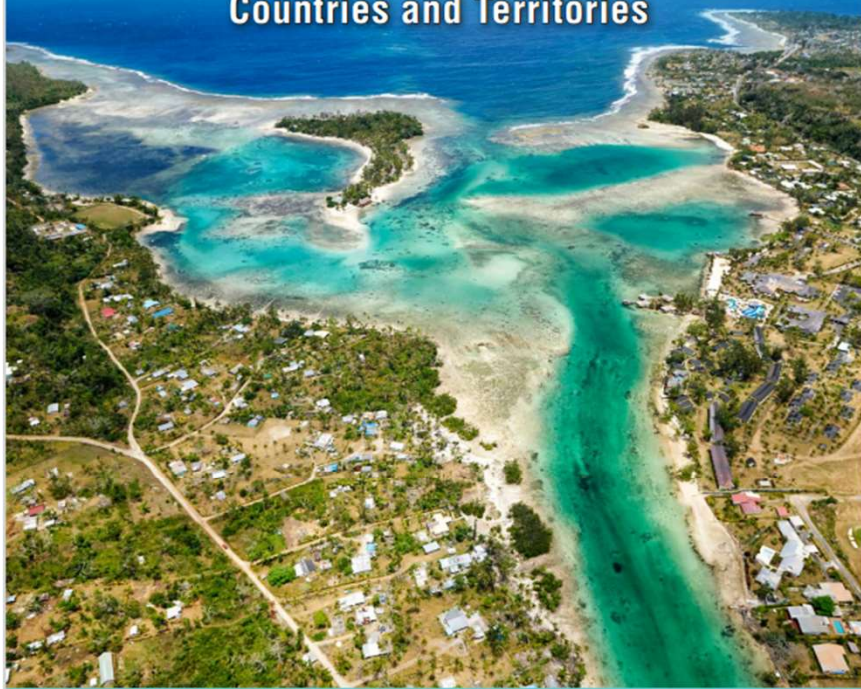


**SPREP
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Regional EIA Guideline

STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Guidelines for Pacific Island
Countries and Territories



Foreword

Environmental impact assessment (EIA) is the primary instrument for planning, assessing and managing development projects, to support sustainable and resilient development goals and green growth outcomes. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has a long history of leading EIA capacity-building across the Pacific region. For more than twenty five years SPREP has supported EIA awareness-raising and training programmes in member countries, and the publication of EIA guidelines and manuals. As the pace of development and urbanisation intensifies in our islands, the need for effective EIA processes becomes more urgent.

These regional EIA Guidelines represent an expanded and updated version of SPREP's original EIA Guidelines published in 1993. They deliver on SPREP Strategic Plan 2011-2015 target, Environmental Monitoring and Governance 1.1: *to develop Pacific-related models for environmental assessment*. The Guidelines aim to assist with the implementation of national EIA legal requirements and to promote best practice in EIA across the full range of projects and development sectors in the Pacific.

The regional EIA Guidelines complement other forms of SPREP EIA assistance such as the development and review of EIA legislation, delivery of in-country EIA training workshops, and provision of technical advice for different stages of EIA. The Guidelines will be subject to further revision as EIA thinking and processes advance.

SPREP gratefully acknowledges financial support from the European Union-funded ACP MEAs project delivered through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and from the Australian and New Zealand governments. SPREP is also thankful for technical input from partners such as the Asian Development Bank, Melanesian Spearhead Group, New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment, Pacific Community, The World Bank and UNEP. In addition, SPREP member countries must be acknowledged, for providing feedback on earlier drafts and sharing local insights during EIA training workshops.

I look forward to stronger EIA practices in Pacific island countries and territories, in line with these Guidelines and through the ongoing capacity-building efforts of SPREP and its partner agencies.



Mr Kosi Latu
Director General,
SPREP



ACP MEAs 2



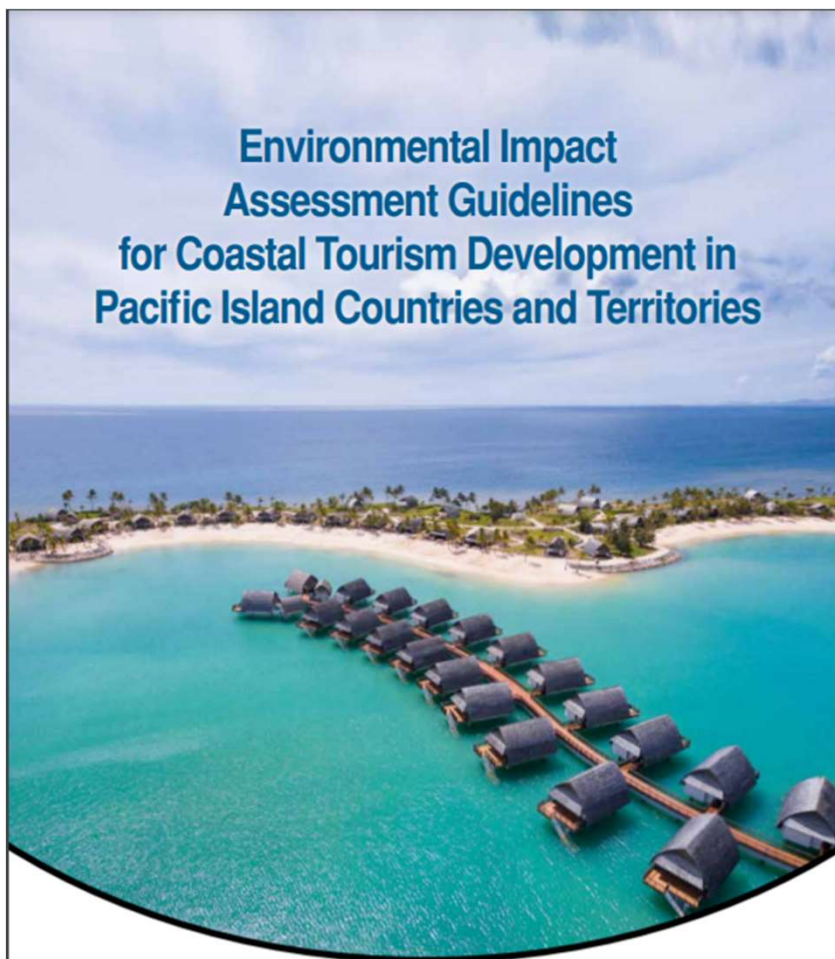
- [regional-eia-guidelines.pdf \(sprep.org\)](http://sprep.org/regional-eia-guidelines.pdf)



**SPREP
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Coastal Tourism EIA Guideline

Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development in Pacific Island Countries and Territories



Message from the South Pacific Tourism Organisation

Warm Pacific Greetings!

Tourism continues to be a key economic driver for the Pacific with potential to bring further growth in employment and income opportunities for our people. Underpinned by a unique product offering that is dependent on natural and cultural resources, the Pacific Tourism Strategy 2015–2019 identifies the need to strengthen sustainable tourism planning and management through the development of environmental guidelines.

This joint-initiative is a step in the right direction, giving a clear indication of the commitment of our Pacific Island countries to ensuring that tourism development takes full account of its current and future economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts. The leadership of SPREP in this initiative is acknowledged and SPTO commits to support the uptake of these EIA Guidelines by tourism stakeholders through its sustainable tourism programmes across its member countries.

I take this opportunity to thank the European Union and the Governments of Australia and New Zealand for their generous support as well as all stakeholders who contributed to the process.

I encourage tourism planners, practitioners, private sector and prospective investors to use this as a practical resource for planning early in the development process and in complying with national EIA processes and regulations.

If these Guidelines are followed closely, there is no doubt that tourism can become a tool for positive change for the development of sustainable destinations across the region.

"Our greatest assets in the Pacific are our environment, people and culture. Let us join together to protect and preserve our unique environment."

Sincerely,



Christopher Cocker
Chief Executive Officer
South Pacific Tourism Organisation



**SOUTH PACIFIC
TOURISM
ORGANISATION**

https://www.sprep.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/eia-guidelines-tourism-development_0.pdf



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Pacific Biodiversity Information Facility

PBIF About Data ▾ Links ▾ How to Downloads ▾ News

English

Pacific Biodiversity Information Facility

Pacific Biodiversity Information Facility presents all of the Pacific biodiversity data available on GBIF.

Get Data



6,815,958

Occurrences



82

Dataset



3

Checklists



20

Invasive Species
Specialist Group
Checklists



20

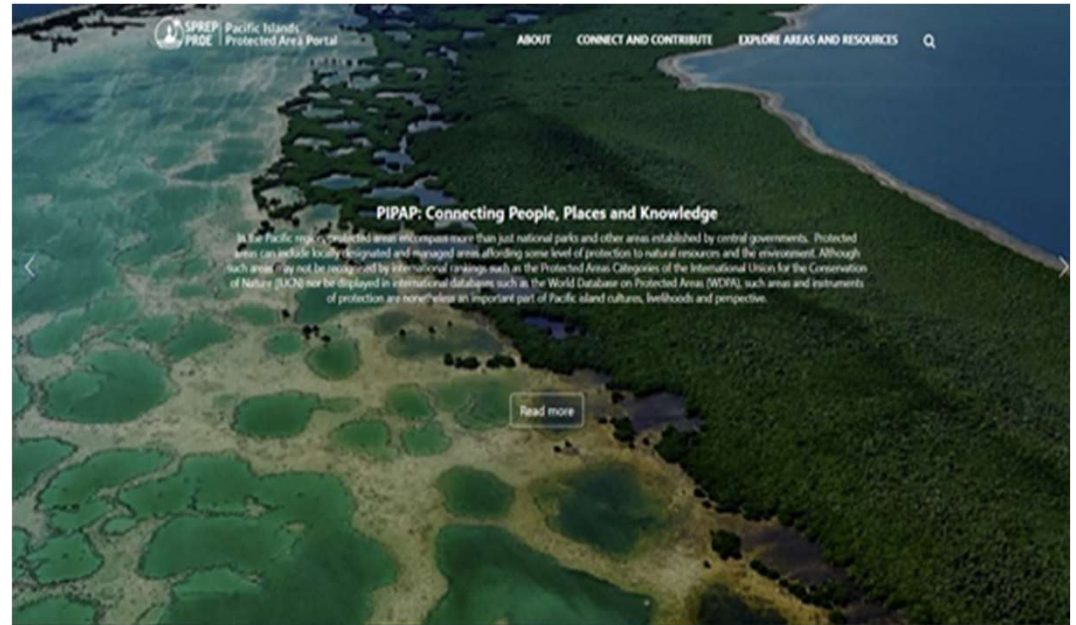
Pacific Publishers

<http://pbif.dprep.org>



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Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal (PIPAP) - Overview



- The effective planning/management of PAs is improved by using the best available scientific and policy information (JRC).
- Enhancing the management of Protected Areas through accessing information and data available in the PIPAP Portal.
- <http://pipap.sprep.org>



Namdrik Atoll (Marshall Islands)

Namdrik Atoll covers a total area of 1,119 hectares and consists of two wooded islands with an extensive reef flat lying between them. The atoll is unique because of its large size and also because, unlike many other coral atolls in the region, there are no navigable passes into the central lagoon. The atoll is also unusual because it supports a rich mangrove forest that is home to some 150 species of fish, including the endangered Napoleon or Humphead Wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*). It also supports breeding populations of the critically endangered Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and the endangered Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*).

[Read more](#)



UNEP-WCMC and IUCN 2021,
Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)/The Global Database on Protected Areas Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME),
Oct 2021, Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC and IUCN.
Available at: www.protectedplanet.net.



In addressing the question on “how COVID-19 has influenced life underwater life on land”.

- Project implementation has slowed down on the ground.
- However, undistracted country attention has resulted some good outcomes- ex. 5 major national reports in 2020.
- More participation in regular on line events that SPREP is hosting
- Good engagement on the digital platforms that SPREP hosts.



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Partnership Engagement

- Pacific Learning Partnership and Environment Social Safeguard Partnership (ADB/WB/USP/SPREP).
- UNSECO Ocean information Hub,
- SPC on Pacific data ecosystem
- ESCAP SPREP collaboration agreement
- UNEP SPREP MOU



Faa'fetai Lava

