



Convention on Migratory Species
11th Conference of the Parties

Post-COP Analysis for the Pacific Islands.
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1. INTRODUCTION.

The eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) met from the 4 - 9 November 2014, in Quito, Ecuador. More than 900 participants attended the meeting including the following from the Oceania region:

- Fiji:
 - Mr. Aisake Batibasaga, Head of delegation
 - Members of delegation: Ms. Saras Sharma-Goundar, Mr. Arthur Sokimi (Pew Trusts), Mr. Ian Campbell (WWF)
- Australia:
 - Mr. Geoffrey Richardson, Ms. Narelle Montgomery
- New Zealand:
 - Ms. Kathryn Howard, Mr. Rod Hay

Fiji was the only Pacific Island Country (PIC) party represented at COP 11 as the Cook Islands and Palau are subject to a COP 10 Resolution which prevents them from accessing Secretariat support to attend meetings, due to their being in arrears for more than 3 years. Samoa was unable to attend due to an enforced 'travel ban' on all Environment staff during Samoa's Environment Week - which in this year, coincided with CMS COP 11.

Mrs. Sharma-Goundar was co-funded to attend the meeting by Pew Charitable Trusts and SPREP. Mrs. Sharma-Goundar is Fiji's Alternate Permanent Representative to the CMS Scientific Council and is also the incumbent Lui Bell Marine Species Conservation Scholarship recipient.

Due to the lack of funding, the CMS Pacific Officer was unable to attend the meeting. Remote support was however provided to Fiji throughout the period of the COP using platforms such as Googlechat, Skype and Facebook chat.

2. PRE-COP PREPARATIONS.

Following on from the 'Joint regional preparatory meeting for CBD COP 12, CMS COP 11 and Ramsar COP 12', held in Nadi (August, 2014), the CMS and SPREP convened another preparatory meeting specifically for CMS Pacific Island Parties, namely, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa and Palau. Represented also were Tonga and Vanuatu as countries the CMS Pacific Officer has been working with in regards to accession.

At this meeting, Parties were introduced to the CMS COP 11 agenda and throughout the week, identified nine priority items through which a Pacific brief was then developed (Annex I) and circulated. These priority items and the proposed interventions are listed in **Table 1** with the associated COP 11 resolution.

Additionally, the Parties submitted to the Secretariat their intention to hold a Pacific Voyage side event, and utilised the pre-COP opportunity to develop key messages. The focal points for these were identified as Mr. Batibasaga and the CMS PO. The TAMSA operating budget funded the catering for the side event.

The TAMSA and CMS PO held a teleconference with Ms. Kathryn Howard of New Zealand, as Oceania's current representative to the Standing Committee to discuss support to the Pacific delegation, in light of SPREP's being unable to send a representative.

The CMS PO then facilitated contacts between the Fiji delegation and key Secretariat staff, the New Zealand delegation as well as UNEP representatives (Makiko Yashiro and Mamadou Kane) who were keen to provide support to the Pacific at COP 11.

3. COP ENGAGEMENT.

a. Oceania Regional Group (ORG) Meetings.

A first meeting of the ORG was convened and chaired by Kathryn Howard on Monday 3rd November. Subsequent ORG meetings were then held from 8.30-9.00am daily.

Following are key highlights of the ORG meetings:

- An update from Standing Committee discussions, provided by NZ as the Oceania representative, noted that a majority of Parties questioned the role and funding of the Washington Officer as it was thought to not be meeting the objective of raising additional funds for CMS.
- Fiji informed the ORG that the CMS PO position would cease at the end of the year primarily due to the unavailability of funds to continue through the next Triennium. The ORG decided that they would support Fiji's intervention to propose consideration for continuity of the CMS PO and request CMS to prioritize the allocation of funds for the position in the Budget.
- Representation at the Standing Committee follows on from practice where the incumbent Alternate member, (i.e.) Australia, assumes this role. The ORG was advised of a previous practice where representation on the Standing Committee revolved and NZ was tasked with developing this roster.
- Other agenda items discussed, in addition to those in the Pacific brief, included:
 - Scientific Council restructure scenarios;
 - Pacific Voyage side event.
- ORG representation on the different working groups were, and additionally provided daily updates at the daily meetings:
 - Credentials Working Group - Philippines;
 - Marine Working Group - NZ, Australia, Fiji (Saras / Ian);
 - Budget Working Group - Fiji (Batibasaga / Arthur);
 - Avian Working Group - Australia

b. Interventions.

- Agenda item 14 (Draft costed programme of work 2015 - 2017 and draft budget for 2015 - 2017).
 - Fiji delivered an intervention seeking continued funding of the CMS position based at SPREP. The full text of the intervention is attached as Annex II.
- Agenda item 24 (Amendment of CMS Appendices).
 - Fiji made positive interventions to support all the sharks and ray species proposals.
- Agenda item 31 (Closure of meeting).
 - Fiji delivered a country statement at the conclusion of the workshop (Annex III).

c. Budget and Finance Sub-Committee.

Mr. Batibasaga participated in the discussions of this sub-committee with one of the key objectives being to lobby for additional support to the Pacific through the CMS PO position at SPREP as a follow up to the intervention made during the Budget discussions.

d. Side events.

The Fiji team participated in the Pew organised side event titled "*Inspiring Action to Save Sharks: Governments Share their Stories*". This reception was organized by the governments of Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, and the EU and supported by The Pew Charitable Trusts. The event showcased work being undertaken to secure additional shark and ray protection, as well as national level efforts to establish stronger domestic shark management policies. Participants heard opening remarks from Achmat Hassiem, a shark attack survivor and shark conservation advocate. Ahmed Esmaeil Ahmed Al Hashmi, Ministry of Water and Environment, UAE, spoke on his country's domestic legislation to protect sharks. In their presentations, Egypt proposed listing silky sharks in Appendix II; Costa Rica and Ecuador proposed listing great hammerhead sharks, and scalloped hammerhead sharks in Appendix II; Fiji proposed listing reef manta rays and all mobula rays in both Appendices; and the EU proposed listing thresher sharks in Appendix II.

On Thursday, 6th November, the Fiji team hosted the "*Pacific voyagers - our islands, our species, our people, our future*" side event. At this event, organized by the Pacific Island delegations in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), participants heard traditional stories and legends of migratory species, both animal and human, which illustrated the connection between human beings and the environment. Panelists including Aisake Batibasaga, Fiji; Saras Sharma-Goundar, Fiji; Ian Campbell, WWF-South Pacific; and Arthur Sokimi, The Pew Charitable Trusts, described initiatives to protect and manage migratory species throughout the Pacific, an area spanning more than 10% of the global ocean.

Panelists shared stories and experiences through videos of the Pacific, our culture (including a kava bowl) and people and the issues we face. The rich culture and diversity of the ocean, resources and people and their interconnectivity were highlighted to the participants. Additionally, the Oceania region theme song was played throughout the event.

Feedback received from the CMS Secretariat was that the event was excellent. It was featured on the ENB (Earth News Bulletin) website.



The Fiji delegation



Aisake Batibasaga, Fiji

(credit: www.iisd.ca/cms/cop11/images)

4. SUMMARY OF COP 11 FINAL RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NINE PRIORITY AREAS:

Table 1: Identified priority areas for the Pacific and resulting COP decisions.

Priority area	Proposed Intervention	COP 11 Resolution
<p>23.2.1: Conservation of migratory sharks and rays.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adopt</i> the draft Resolution. • <i>Acknowledge</i> Samoa for signing the CMS Shark MOU and joining a growing number of countries determined to conserve and manage negative impacts on migratory sharks. • <i>Highlight</i> that the Pacific has been a leading force in the area of shark conservation through the declaration of sanctuaries in countries such as the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau and Samoa. In other countries, there are existing National Plans of Action (e.g PNG, or commitments made to develop NPOAs modeled upon the FAO International Plan of Action (e.g) Solomon Islands. In other countries, national laws exist ban shark finning within their territorial waters (e.g Kiribati, Vanuatu. • <i>Acknowledge</i> the recent sharks listings through CITES which further supports the conservation of sharks and rays. • <i>Note</i> that SPREP has received recent endorsement from its 26 members to move forward and collaborate with relevant partners to develop a shark action plan for the Pacific region and call on interested 	<p>In the resolution (UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.20) the COP:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urges Parties to ensure that all fishing and trade of sharks and rays are ecologically sustainable and that a lack of scientific data does not preclude conservation or fisheries management action towards this objective; 2. Urges Parties to take steps to eliminate shark finning where they have not already done so, including implementing measures, such as prohibiting the removal of shark fins at sea and discarding the carcass at sea, or other measures in line with applicable UN General Assembly resolutions; 3. Urges Parties, where they have not already done so, to develop and implement National Plans of Action for Sharks in accordance with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) International Plan of Action for Sharks; 4. Urges CMS Parties to comply with existing conservation and management measures, in particular those of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), where applicable, including compliance with data collection and submission requirements/obligations to allow for reliable stock assessments by the scientific committees of these bodies; 5. Urges Parties to develop and implement guidelines and procedures for implementing CITES' provisions regulating the trade of shark products; 6. Encourages Parties to identify the needs of training and capacity development in research, species specific data collection and monitoring, and to facilitate initiatives to enhance

	<p>partners to support this initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Urge</i> Parties to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ promote bans on shark finning; ○ prohibit directed fishing of sharks; ○ promote more protected areas for sharks. 	<p>institutional capacities and competencies in shark and ray identification, management and conservation techniques;</p> <p>7. Requests Parties to improve the biological and ecological knowledge of migratory elasmobranch populations and identify ways to make fishing gear more selective to support effective conservation measures through research, monitoring and information exchange and promote population assessments and research;</p> <p>8. Encourages Parties to prioritize programmes to monitor and document directed shark and ray fisheries and those fisheries where sharks and rays are a significant bycatch, which may include vessel monitoring systems, inspections and on-board observer or monitoring programmes;</p> <p>9. Encourages Parties, where appropriate, to promote the establishment of science-based conservation targets for migratory sharks and rays, and indicators to assess progress towards reaching these targets, including within the RFMOs where applicable;</p> <p>10. Requests Parties to identify and conserve critical habitats and life stages, and migration routes, with a view to contributing to the development and implementation of effective conservation and sustainable management measures;</p> <p>11. Encourages Parties, RFMOs and other relevant bodies to minimize the impact of fishing in migratory corridors and other habitats deemed critical to the recovery and sustainability of shark and ray populations, including those that straddle jurisdictional boundaries;</p> <p>12. Urges Parties, range states, and cooperating partners to sign the Sharks MOU and engage in conservation and research measure to prevent the unsustainable use of sharks and rays;</p> <p>14. Encourages Parties to bring to the attention of FAO, RFMOs and other relevant bodies the objectives of CMS and the CMS Sharks MOU with regards to the conservation of sharks and rays with the aim to ensure cooperation, complementarities and</p>
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		improve efficiency of global instruments and bodies sharing similar objectives in relation to elasmobranch conservation and management.
23.2.2: Action plan for the loggerhead turtle in the South Pacific.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adopt</i> the Single Species Action Plan for the conservation of the loggerhead turtle in the South Pacific Ocean. • <i>Acknowledge</i> the recognition of the SPREP Regional marine turtle action plan (2013-2017) which notes the endangered status of marine turtles and the degree to which the action plan strives for cooperative conservation and management of marine turtles with SPREP within the Pacific Region; • <i>Endeavour</i> to raise the profile of this action plan in relevant fora of the Pacific including the upcoming Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (November 27 - December 6, 2014) meeting to be held in Samoa; • <i>SPREP</i> as the coordinating agency for the Regional Marine Turtle Action Plan, commits to communicating this Single Species Action Plan to its 26 members upon its endorsement. 	<p>In the resolution (UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.21), the COP, <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Adopts</i> the Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) in the South Pacific Ocean as submitted to COP 11; 2. <i>Urges</i> South Pacific Parties and other Parties with fishing fleets operating in the South Pacific Ocean, and invites South Pacific Non-Party range states, to implement the Action Plan; 4. <i>Invites</i> other relevant intergovernmental frameworks, such as the Inter-American Turtle Convention, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations operating in the South Pacific Ocean, to take into account the provisions of the Action Plan in the consideration of their activities and to support implementation of relevant Action Plan activities that fall within their mandate, as appropriate;
23.2.3: Live captures of cetaceans from the wild for commercial purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adopt</i> the Resolution at COP11. 	<p>In the resolution (UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.22), the COP, <i>inter alia</i>;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Invites</i> Parties that have not already done so to develop and implement national legislation, as appropriate, prohibiting the live capture of cetaceans from the wild for commercial purposes; 2. <i>Urges</i> Parties to consider taking stricter measures in line with CITES Article XIV with regard to the import and international transit of live cetaceans for commercial purposes that have been captured in the wild;

		<p>4. Calls on Parties to support and, where appropriate and possible, contribute to cooperation and collaboration with CITES and IWC on small cetacean species targeted by live captures from the wild;</p> <p>5. Urges Parties and encourages Parties or signatories to relevant CMS instruments and Non-Party states to actively discourage new live captures from the wild for commercial purposes; and</p> <p>6. Encourages Parties to share data and information on live captures with the IWC and other appropriate fora.</p>
23.2.4: Conservation Implications of Cetacean Culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adopt</i> the Resolution at COP11 focusing on the emerging science related to socially complex species and the need to better protect them. 	<p>In the resolution (UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.23), the COP, <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <p>2. Encourages Parties to consider culturally transmitted behaviors when determining conservation measures;</p> <p>3. Also encourage Parties and other stakeholders to assess anthropogenic threats to socially complex mammalian species on the basis of evidence of interactions of those threats with social structure and culture;</p> <p>4. Urges Parties to apply a precautionary approach to the management of populations for which there is evidence that influence of culture and social complexity may be a conservation issue;</p> <p>5. Encourages Parties and other stakeholders to gather and publish pertinent data for advancing the conservation management of these populations and discrete social groups;</p>
23.4.2: Programme of work on climate change and migratory species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Endorse</i> the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species; • <i>Adopt</i> the Resolution. • <i>Highlight</i> the level of commitment shown by the Pacific in the establishment of large Marine Protected Areas, sanctuaries and Ramsar sites to protect threatened migratory species and their habitats (e.g) Cook Islands (1.1 million sq km) and the Coral Sea MPA of 	<p>In the resolution (UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.26), the COP, <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <p>2. Requests Parties and Signatories to the CMS instruments to assess what steps are necessary to help migratory species cope with climate change and take action to give effect to the POW on Climate Change;</p> <p>5. Calls on Parties and non-Parties and stakeholders, with the support of the Secretariat, to strengthen national and local</p>

	<p>New Caledonia (1.2 million sq km); marine species sanctuary in Palau (630,000 sq km) and to ensure the sustainable use of resources for the benefit of local communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Highlight</i> that the SPREP Regional Species Action Plans for cetaceans, marine turtles and dugongs recognise climate change as a threat and have identified actions to manage its impacts. • <i>Note</i> that ocean acidification (OA) will have a profound long term impact on coral reefs, and as they are a critical habitat for threatened migratory species such as marine turtles, there is a need to develop a long term monitoring system for Pacific Island Countries and Territories, to monitor the impacts of OA on coral reefs, to identify resilient reefs, and to develop networks of resilient MMAs and MPAs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Note</i> the ocean acidification workshop that was held in Samoa prior to the Third UN SIDS conference, which recommended establishing stronger monitoring programmes in the Pacific region. • <i>Inform</i> COP of the need to improve understanding of potential responses to OA for specific coastal habitats and resources including seagrass (which may mitigate the impacts of OA at a local level) and coral reefs and their consequent effect on migratory species such as turtles and dugongs. 	<p>capacity for the implementation of the POW and the protection of species impacted by climate change, including, <i>inter alia</i>, by developing partnerships with key stakeholders and organizing training courses, translating and disseminating examples of best practice, sharing and implementing protocols and regulations, transferring technology, and promoting the use of online and other tool to address specific issues contained in the POW;</p> <p>7. Urges Parties and <i>invites</i> relevant international organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors to support financially the implementation of the POW including through the provision of financial and other assistance to developing countries for relevant capacity building;</p> <p>10. Calls on Parties and the Scientific Council to report progress in implementing the POW, including monitoring and the efficacy of measures taken, to COP12 in 2017, ensuring as far as possible integration into the national reports for CMS.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Call</i> for resources to support research on understanding the impacts of climate change on migratory species in an island context. 	
<p>23.4.4: Invasive alien species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adopt</i> the draft Resolution. • <i>Note</i> actions taken to address IAS in the Pacific Islands region such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The use of “Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific” and the current GEFPAS “Prevention, control and management of invasive species in the Pacific Islands” ○ Some Pacific countries have committed a portion of their GEF 6 allocation to manage invasive species; ○ NISSAP (National Invasive Species Strategic Action Plan) milestones achieved by Tonga, Niue, Cook Is, Vanuatu, Palau; ○ Desktop baseline studies including pathway identification completed for Tonga, Niue, Cook Is, Vanuatu; ○ Pacific Invasive Partnership and Pacific Invasives Learning Network efforts; ○ Examples from Samoa and Cook Islands rapid response efforts to mongoose, fruit fly, and rat eradication; ○ SPREP is willing to share lessons learned. 	<p>In the resolution (UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.28), the COP, <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <p>1. <i>Calls on</i> Parties and Non-Parties to address threats from IAS and particularly to undertake concrete dedicated actions aimed at preventing and mitigating the negative impact of IAS on migratory species, consistent with applicable international obligations and with a focus on CMS-listed species, including the elaboration of national lists of species for which restrictions might apply, development and further implementation of specific and/or thematic action plans and management plans for species and pathways of greater concern, focusing on Best Practices for Addressing Risks to Biodiversity including preventing the introduction of listed species, and where IAS threats have established eradicating priority IAS from priority sites, or controlling priority IAS threats (where eradication isn't feasible) also at priority sites;</p> <p>4. <i>Invites</i> Parties and non-Parties to take into account the risk of migratory species to become invasive themselves if translocated and/or introduced outside their natural range, by undertaking dedicated risk assessments incorporating future climate change scenarios for any movement of animals, including measures related to conservation actions targeting endangered species;</p> <p>5. <i>Further invites</i> Parties and non-Parties to take into account the risk of facilitating the introduction or spread of IAS while implementing any climate change mitigation or adaptation measures;</p> <p>11. <i>Encourages</i> Parties, non-Parties and donors to provide financial support to ensure that adequate resources are provided to the Secretariat to allow partnerships to be developed and strengthened;</p>

		<p>12. Requests Parties, non-Parties and donors to avoid policies and initiatives that either limit the use of effective measures to eradicate or control IAS threatening migratory species or facilitate the introduction and further spread of IAS which represent or might present a threat to migratory species.</p>
<p>23.4.5: Sustainable boat based wildlife watching tourism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adopt</i> the draft Resolution. • <i>Highlight</i> efforts in our region in relation to boat-based wildlife watching such as the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ implementation of the <u>Pacific islands regional guidelines for whale and dolphin watching</u> in places such as New Caledonia and Niue; ○ <u>Tonga's whale watching and swimming regulations 2013</u>; ○ Training of 11 tour operators in Niue (2013) with a recorded growth in tour operators to 4 and an additional 2 preparing to enter the industry. • <i>Support</i> the call for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ governments to monitor compliance with existing wildlife watch guidelines, for example, the Pacific Islands regional guidelines for whale and dolphin watching; ○ the development, where necessary, of appropriate guidelines and/or regulations to govern these activities and to ensure that they promote ecologically sustainable wildlife watching ○ further research and wide communication of findings, to assess the impacts of boat-based wildlife watching operations on marine wildlife; • <i>Acknowledge</i> the NZ ODA project that is 	<p>In the resolution (UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.29), the COP, <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <p>1. Urges Parties, in whose areas of jurisdiction commercial operations involving marine boat-based wildlife watching take place, to adopt appropriate measures, such as national guidelines, codes of conduct, and if necessary, national legislation, binding regulations or other regulatory tools, to promote ecologically sustainable wildlife watching;</p> <p>2. Recommends that Parties in developing such measures take into account the following guiding principles based on which the boat-based wildlife watching activities should be conducted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The activities should not have negative effects on the long-term survival of populations and habitats; b) The activities should have minimal impact on the behaviour of watched and associated animals; <p>3. Further recommends that Parties consider the measures as appropriate and depending on the target species in particular with respect to the need for provisions concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Licensing or permitting of operators, including training, reporting and compliance requirements; b) Level of activity, including the possible setting of daily, seasonal and/or geographical exclusion areas and limitations on the number of vessels; c) Method of approach, including provisions on distance to be maintained and direction and speed of vessels, as well as careful and sensitive navigation in the vicinity of animals; d) Interaction, including prohibition of operators'

	<p>being coordinated by SPREP and implemented in Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Kiribati on engaging communities to create and maintain turtle monitoring networks with the intention of establishing eco-tourism operations for local communities around nesting or feeding populations.</p>	<p>behaviours that disturb animals or provoke interactions, unless there is good scientific evidence that this will not have negative consequences, or negatively impact the habitat;</p> <p>4. Recommends further that, insofar as they are applicable, measures adopted by the Parties also cover opportunistic wildlife watching during other commercial and private boat-based activities;</p> <p>5. Strongly encourages Parties to provide that the measures take into account the size and status of any wildlife watching programme and the specific needs of all affected species;</p> <p>6. Also strongly encourages Parties to review these measures periodically to enable any impacts detected through research and monitoring of the populations to be taken into account as necessary;</p> <p>7. Requests Parties that have adopted measures as described in paragraph 1 for boat-based wildlife watching activities to provide the Secretariat with copies of the relevant documents;</p> <p>8. Encourages Parties to ACCOBAMS, the IWC, SPREP and UNEP/CEP to implement fully the guidelines and principles already adopted or developed in these fora;</p>
<p>23.4.6: Management of marine debris</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adopt</i> the draft Resolution. • <i>Urge</i> Parties to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ improve port facilities for vessels to return fishing gear of no further use; ○ strengthen / enforce restrictions/controls on availability of plastic bags at retail outlets; ○ significantly improve the management of plastic waste. • <i>Highlight</i> efforts in the region such as the SPREP Clean Pacific campaign which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ provided capacity building on issues ranging from best waste management 	<p>In the resolution (UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.30), the COP, inter alia:</p> <p>2. Encourages Parties that have not yet done so to join other relevant conventions, protocols such as MARPOL Annex V, Regional Seas Convention on pollution from land based sources, and the London Protocol, and to include the prevention and management of marine debris in relevant national legislation;</p> <p>3. Further encourages the Parties to engage, as appropriate, with other global marine initiatives such as the UNEP's Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA-Marine), the Regional Seas Programmes, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), the Global Partnership on Waste Management</p>

	<p>practices to responding to 3 tier oil spills;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ established a private sector partnership to support this campaign at the regional level with Westpac Banking Corporation; ○ supported grassroots projects for improved waste management in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fiji: Catholic Women's League conducted a waste management survey and taught 35 women the skills to convert trash into usable items; ▪ Kiribati: Tarawa Adventist Youth Group conducted a one day awareness workshop with 25 young people focusing on promoting lead-acid battery management, composting and the 3Rs; ▪ New Caledonia: 'Clean New Caledonia' activity involving over 2,000 participants in 26 locations resulting in 185 bags of waste, 120 kilos of aluminum cans in just one location; ▪ Palau: Public Education and Enhancement Committee undertook a mission to the Southwest Islands and removed 172 kilos of recyclable materials, 28 large lead batteries and 300 metres of abandoned fishing nets; ▪ Tokelau: The work of the Fakaoko Waste Management Champions was realigned to the Tokelau National Strategic Plan 2011 - 2015 through a one-day training and planning workshop with 20 Waste champions; ▪ Vanuatu: logo and poster competition with 17 primary and secondary schools in 	<p>(GPWM);</p> <p>4. Further encourages Parties to continue working on the issue of management of marine debris in order to reach agreed conclusions on this subject;</p> <p>5. Further encourages Parties to consider within any monitoring programmes established giving particular regard, using standardized methodologies, to the prevalence of all the types of debris that may, or are known to, have impacts on migratory species; sources and pathways of these types of debris; geographic distribution of these types of debris; impacts on migratory species, within and between regions; and population level effects on migratory species as appropriate to national circumstances;</p> <p>6. Invites Parties to consider implementing cost-effective measures for the prevention of debris, such as levies on single-use carrier bags, deposit refund systems for beverage containers and obligations for the use of reusable items at events as appropriate to national circumstances;</p> <p>7. Encourages Parties to establish public awareness campaigns in order to assist in preventing waste from reaching the marine environment and set up management initiatives for the removal of debris, including public beach and underwater clean-ups;</p> <p>8. Calls upon Parties to incorporate marine debris targets when developing marine debris management strategies, including targets relating directly to impacts on migratory species, and to ensure that any marine debris management strategies plan for and carry out evaluation;</p> <p>14. Strongly encourages Parties to address the issue of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), by following the strategies set out under the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;</p> <p>15. Further encourages Parties to promote measures such as the Clean Shipping Index and marine environmental awareness</p>
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	<p>Port Vila.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Note</i> that in the Pacific, there is a move towards the use of bio-degradable plastics e.g. Samoa which has banned the import of non-biodegradable plastics. 	<p>courses among shipping operators;</p> <p>18. Strongly encourages Parties to note the examples of successful campaigns provided in UNEP/CMS/ScC18/10.4.3 when considering campaigns to address the most pressing needs in their area of jurisdiction, and to support or develop national or regional initiatives that respond to these needs;</p> <p>19. Recommends that Parties planning to implement regulatory measures or economic instruments in order to reduce the amount of waste entering the environment to accompany these with behavioural change campaigns aiding their introduction by communicating the rationale for introducing the measure, and therefore increasing the likelihood of support;</p> <p>20. Encourages Parties and the Secretariat to cooperate with organizations currently campaigning on marine debris, and seek to engage organizations dealing with migratory species to promote campaigns and raise awareness of marine debris amongst their members;</p> <p>21. Further encourages Parties, the Secretariat and stakeholders to develop marine debris campaigns of specific relevance to migratory species.</p>
24.1: Proposals for Amendment of Appendices I and II of the Convention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Support</i> the proposals for listing <i>Manta</i> and <i>Mobula</i> rays onto Appendix I and II. • <i>Support</i> the proposal for listing of sharks including the scalloped and great hammerheads, threshers and silky sharks onto Appendix II. • <i>Call for</i> resources to support research and policy developments in the Pacific to ground these international commitments in national policy / priorities. 	Refer to Table 3 for a detailed description of COP resolutions on the Appendix amendments particularly relevant to the Ocean region.

Table 3: Species proposals supported by or relevant to Oceania:

Species / Genus	Proponent	Proposed Appendix	Supported by	Final decision
Great Knot (<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>)	Philippines	I	Australia, New Zealand and Fiji	Endorsed for Appendix I

Sawfish: - narrow (<i>Anoxypristis cuspidate</i>) - dwarf (<i>Pristis clavata</i>) - smalltooth (<i>Pristis pectinata</i>) - green (<i>Pristis zijsron</i>) - largetooth (<i>Pristis pristis</i>)	Kenya	I & II	Australia and Fiji	Endorsed for both.
Reef manta ray (<i>Manta alfredi</i>)	Fiji	I & II	Chile, Ecuador, EU, US	Endorsed for both.
Mobula species (all species)	Fiji	I & II	New Zealand.	Endorsed for both.
Silky shark (<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>)	Egypt	II	Fiji and Australia	Endorsed for Appendix II.
Hammerhead sharks: - Great (<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>) - Scalloped (<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>)	Ecuador	II	EU, Monaco, Egypt	Endorsed for Appendix II.
Thresher sharks: - bigeye (<i>Alopias superciiosus</i>) - common (<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>) - pelagic (<i>Apolias pelagicus</i>)	EU	II	Fiji, New Zealand and Australia	Endorsed for Appendix II.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF RELEVANT COP 11 RESOLUTIONS FOR THE PACIFIC.

COP Resolution	Resolution	Implications for	Next steps
UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.01: Financial and Administrative matters	4. <i>Requests</i> Parties, in particular those that are required to pay small contributions, to consider paying for the whole triennium in one installment.	All PIC Parties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMS PO to advise CMS national focal points.
	5. <i>Urges</i> all Parties to pay their contributions as promptly as possible preferably not later than the end of March in the year to which they relate and, if they so wish, to inform the Secretariat	All PIC Parties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMS PO to advise CMS national focal points.

	whether they would prefer to receive a single invoice covering the whole triennium.		
	7. <i>Urges</i> all Parties with arrears to co-operate with the Secretariat in arranging for the payment of their outstanding contributions without delay.	Cook Islands; Palau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS PO to advise CMS national focal points
	8. <i>Decides</i> to set the threshold of eligibility for funding delegates to attend the Convention's meetings at 0.200 per cent on the United Nations Scale of Assessment (refer Annex IV), and as a general rule furthermore to exclude from such eligibility countries ...that have payments in arrears of more than three years.	Cook Islands; Palau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS PO to advise CMS national focal points.
	9. <i>Decides</i> that representatives from countries with contributions in arrears three years or more should be excluded from holding office in Convention bodies and denied the right to vote; and <i>requests</i> the Executive Secretary to explore with these Parties innovative approaches for the identification of possible funding to resolve their arrears prior to the next meeting.	Cook Islands; Palau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS PO to advise CMS national focal points.
UNEP/CMS/COP11/CRP20: Conservation of migratory sharks and rays.	All.	All PIC Parties and range states.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS PO to advise CMS national focal points.

UNEP/CMS/COP11/CRP16: Action plan for the loggerhead turtle in the South Pacific.	2	All PIC Parties and range states.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS PO to advise CMS national focal points.
	4	SPREP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS PO to advise TAMSA, BEM - possibly MSWG and WCPFC.
UNEP/CMS/COP11/CRP15: Live captures of cetaceans from the wild for commercial purposes.	1; 2; 4 and 6	ALL PIC Parties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS PO to advise CMS national focal points.
	5	Palau and the Solomon Islands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS PO to advise Palau NFP and SI Min of Environment / Fisheries.
UNEP/CMS/COP11/CRP13: Conservation implications of cetacean culture.	All.	All PIC Parties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS PO to advise CMS national focal points and scientific council representatives.
UNEP/CMS/COP11/CRP2: Programme of Work on climate change and migratory species.	All.	All PIC Parties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS PO to advise CMS national focal points and CC division at SPREP.
UNEP/CMS/COP11/CRP5: Invasive alien species.	All.	All PIC Parties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS PO to advise CMS national focal points and IASA at SPREP.
UNEP/CMS/COP11/CRP9: Sustainable boat based wildlife watching tourism.	All.	All PIC Parties, and specifically for 7, all SPREP members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS PO to advise CMS national focal points and TAMSA.
UNEP/CMS/COP11/CRP14: Management of marine debris.	All.	All PIC Parties and SPREP members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS PO to advise CMS national focal points and WMPC division at SPREP.



Brief for Pacific Island Countries

Convention on Migratory Species 11th Conference of the Parties

Quito, Ecuador
4 - 9 November, 2014



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About the Brief

The **Pacific Brief** is prepared by SPREP to support Pacific Island countries at the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) to be held in Quito, Ecuador from the 4 - 9 November, 2014.

The Brief reflects the key outcomes from the Joint Preparatory Meeting which was held in Nadi, Fiji from the 11 - 15th August and the consecutive CMS pre-COP meeting for the Pacific Islands region (PIR) held on the 18 - 20 August, 2014. At both meetings, all four Pacific Island Parties (i.e. Cook Islands, Fiji, Palau and Samoa) were present, and at the latter, so too were representatives from the CITES Secretariat, UNEP Regional Office for Asia Pacific, BirdLife International, Pew Charitable Trust, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, SPREP, the New Zealand government and two non-Parties, Tonga and Vanuatu.

In addition to providing guidance to Pacific Island Parties for effective engagement at CMS COP 11, this brief should be used as a guide for Pacific Island country delegates to strategize and formulate possible positions on COP 11 issues of relevance and importance to the Pacific, with opportunities for presenting a common voice.

The following is a list of COP 11 priority issues for the PIR that were discussed at the Nadi meeting:

- Amendment of CMS Appendices.
- Conservation issues:
 - programme of work on climate change and migratory species
 - invasive alien species
 - sustainable boat based wildlife watching tourism
 - management of marine debris
 - conservation of migratory sharks and rays
 - action plan for the loggerhead turtle in the South Pacific Ocean
 - live captures of cetaceans from the wild for commercial purposes
- Synergies and partnerships.

It is important to note that although the above issues were identified as overall key issues for the region as a whole, each party is however expected to identify national priority issues that they would like to pursue at COP11. The proposed recommendations in the Brief are for consideration by Pacific Island Country delegates and any decision on whether to accept, modify or reject these recommendations is solely the prerogative of the Pacific Island Country delegations. Countries may also wish to consult briefs and positions of other organizations to assist with their deliberations and discussions.

Strategy for effective participation at COP11

Effective participation if delivered in a coordinated and cohesive manner will ensure a strong Pacific voice at COP11. SPREP together with other collaborating regional partners will be part of the Pacific Group to provide advice and support as required.

Oceania Group Meetings

Daily briefing and coordination meetings for the Oceania group will be held each morning and led by Kathryn Howard who is also the Oceania representative on the CMS Standing Committee. The main objectives of the Oceania meetings are to provide updates on progress of the meeting and to discuss and agree on strategies and processes for raising priority issues at the main plenary and other related COP meetings.

Pacific Voyage Campaign: Our islands, our biodiversity, our people, our future.

SPREP will provide advice on the coordination of the Pacific Voyage Campaign side event to promote our success stories, challenges and opportunities and will be delivered through key messages, displays of promotional information materials. The details for this side event are:

Contact person: Mr. Aisake Batibasaga
Date: Thursday 6th November, 2014
Time: 1845 - 1945
Room: Landaburo A.

Pacific Group communication.

In addition to the already established email and Facebook pages, a Skype group will be set up to facilitate electronic communication and discussions among members of the Pacific group, including those who will not be in Quito. This has been a useful practice adopted at other MEA COPS because of the way the COP meeting is structured and where the number of Pacific delegates is quite small to cover a range of issues all at once.

Pacific Group interventions

Pacific interventions are usually made to respond to issues that are common and shared across members of the Pacific Group. Draft statements should be prepared, discussed and agreed before they are presented in plenary. The Group should also discuss and agree on who will make the intervention on behalf of the Group including individual Parties to make interventions to support the issues by the Pacific Group. A draft statement template is attached as Annex 2, which could be used as a guide for preparing interventions.

List of SPREP negotiating tools

SPREP, as part of its usual support to Pacific Island Countries at COP meetings, will prepare and provide the following tools for use at COP meetings:

- 1) Pacific Brief
- 2) Joint Preparatory Meeting Outcomes
- 3) Taking the Floor Handbook
- 4) Compass to navigate way around the meeting
- 5) MEA Negotiating Book
- 6) Template for preparing interventions and statements

Pacific Islands Regional Preparatory Meeting Outcomes

The participants to the Pacific Regional Joint Preparatory Meeting for the 12th CBD COP, 11th CMS COP and 12th Ramsar COP held in Nadi, Fiji from the 11 - 15 August, 2014, concluded with the following key outcomes:

1. *Noted* that this joint preparatory meeting for the CBD, CMS and Ramsar COPs is a historical event where all sister conventions came together, including CITES in an observer capacity, as part of preparations for the COPs to strengthen synergies between each other and the possible harmonization of each other's work program.
2. *Noted* the importance of synergies between the biodiversity related MEAs and strongly supported the need for effective coordination amongst the MEAs. The work of each MEA complements each other, especially in helping countries meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
3. *Recognized* existing efforts to strengthen synergies across MEA Secretariats at the global and regional level, including institutional and programmatic cooperation.
4. *Noted* the close alignment between the new Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Island region 2014-2020, NBSAPs and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and called for commitment from Governments, development partners, donors, NGOs, local communities and all those involved in conservation action to support the implementation of these key biodiversity policy frameworks at all levels.
5. *Recognized* the importance of strengthening coordination and cooperation with the new Framework for Pacific Regionalism.
6. *Requested* the Secretariats of the biodiversity MEAs to further explore options for harmonized reporting against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
7. *Recognized* the importance of values for biodiversity and ecosystem services and the need for Parties to ensure that NBSAPs are costed and their implementation factored into national accounting and budgetary processes through development of resource mobilisation plans.
8. *Noted* that the NBSAP is an overarching policy document and should engage focal points and other relevant stakeholders in its development, implementation, monitoring and reporting. The NBSAP should integrate and reflect key objectives of key biodiversity MEAs, have measurable targets and indicators to enhance its successful implementation.
9. *Strongly emphasized* the greater need and importance of involving the private sector, NGOs, communities and civil societies in the implementation of NBSAPs.
10. *Emphasized* the importance of developing private sector partnership and local community members.
11. *Highlighted* the level of commitment shown by the region through declaration of large sanctuaries and Ramsar sites to protect threatened migratory species and habitats and to ensure the sustainable use of resources for the benefit of local communities.
12. *Recognized* the abundance of internationally significant wetlands and the potential to establish more Ramsar sites.
13. *Strongly called* for mainstreaming of NBSAP objectives and priorities into sectoral and national sustainable development plans by Pacific Island Countries. Also stressed the importance of developing national

targets that are relevant, achievable and implementable together with national and sectoral plans.

14. *Stressed* the need to address threats to biodiversity in the Pacific from invasive species, linear barriers, marine debris, underwater noise, habitat loss and degradation, wildlife diseases, pollution and poisoning, illegal fishing, and climate change.
15. *Recognised* that there is a wealth of technical capacity and initiatives available through the various Conventions (e.g.) CMS MoU Technical Advisory Groups; InforMEA which enables access to MEA information and Species Plus which allows users to access and search for species by common and scientific names in relation to CITES, CMS and EU annexes.
16. *Highlighted* the urgent need for dedicated support to national focal points for simplifying administration, implementation and reporting on multiple biodiversity MEAs.
17. *Recognized* the value of partnership with and the role of relevant NGOs, academic institutions and other regional organisations with implementation at the grassroots levels in terms of sharing data and expertise.
18. *Recognized* the need for better cooperation across range states and countries including private sector and continued community engagement in migratory species conservation and Ramsar site management.
19. *Recognized* that high level interest can result in getting political will and/or advocating to ministerial level to gauge their support to promote species work at the national level.
20. *Noted* the value of the Pacific Voyage Campaign and encouraged effective participation by countries in highlighting key messages such as traditional stories about migratory species, community initiatives, Pacific legends, and the importance of island and ocean biodiversity.
21. *Recognized* the key role of SPREP as a conduit for strengthening communication between National Focal Points and MEA Secretariats, thus increasing access to information to assist with implementation.
22. *Noted* the value of having CMS and Ramsar positions at SPREP and expressed the desire to create similar positions for other biodiversity related MEAs such as CITES.
23. *Noted* that the economic valuation of biodiversity is important as a tool to provide information for decision making and stressed the need for these to be conducted properly to include social and cultural values.
24. *Encouraged* Pacific island delegates to learn and understand COP processes and dynamics and to ensure our Pacific voices are heard and have an impact on COP decisions.
25. *Noted* that invasive species and living modified organisms (LMOs) could be integrated under one legislation as in New Zealand.

Marine and coastal biodiversity

26. *Noted* the need to incorporate socio-cultural and local communities (Traditional Knowledge) inputs into Ecological and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs); and to review and update Pacific EBSAs.
27. In the context of underwater noise, it was important to note:
 - seabed mining as an emerging issue in terms of how it impacts on biodiversity related conventions, such as CMS with respect to cetaceans and the tourism industry, e.g. the socio-economic impact on whale watching;

- a need to consider the precautionary principle in light of limited information on seabed mining and deep sea biodiversity data.
28. Ocean acidification (OA) has a long term impact on coral reefs, therefore a need to develop a long term monitoring system for Pacific Island Countries and Territories to monitor the impacts of OA on coral reefs to identify resilient reefs and develop networks of resilient MMAs and MPAs.
- Note the ocean acidification workshop that will be held before the UN SIDS conference which hopes to establish stronger monitoring programs in the Pacific region.
 - Inform COP of the need to improve understanding of potential responses to OA for specific coastal habitats and resources including seagrass and coral reefs.
29. *Noted* that since Aichi Target 10 (By 2015, minimise anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification) will not be achieved in the current timeframe, strongly recommend the timeline for this target be extended. Efforts are ongoing to reduce anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs in an attempt to have the best possible chance of achieving the target. Additionally, to create incentives and an enabling environment to encourage private sector support to ensure sustainable fisheries, forestry and agriculture.
30. On Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), highlighted the Pacific Ocean Alliance under the Oceanscape Vision and Framework as a tool which brings together PICTs to encourage the wider global ocean community in ocean governance.
- Request the Secretariat of the CBD to facilitate financial and technical support to PICTs to conduct capacity building and training on MSP .
 - Urge Parties to use the outcomes of the MSP exercise to help inform conservation and development policies and plans.

Invasive Species (IS)

31. *Noted* actions taken to address IAS in the Pacific Islands region such as:
- a. Use IS guidelines and also note that some countries have committed their GEF 6 allocation;
 - b. NISSAP milestones by Tonga, Niue, Cook Is, Vanuatu, Palau, Samoa and Kiribati;
 - c. Pacific Invasive Partnership and Pacific Invasives Learning Network efforts;
 - d. Examples from Samoa and Cook Islands rapid response efforts to mongoose, fruit fly, and rat eradication;
 - e. Desktop studies completed to identify pathways.

Cooperation across MEAs

32. The Pacific Island Countries appreciate the effort of the biodiversity MEAs and regional organisations (including SPREP, UNDP, and UNEP) in implementing greater cooperation and synergies which in turn help with implementation and reporting.
33. *Requested* the biodiversity Convention Secretariats to assist Pacific Island Countries to:
- a. Facilitate funding support to Parties to strengthen reporting and implementation at the national level;
 - b. Investigate opportunities for a common reporting mechanism to the different Conventions;
 - c. Investigate joint mechanisms toward the achievement of the Aichi Targets;
 - d. Ensure that when drafting Decisions or Resolutions for presentation to the respective MEA COPs that references are made to Decisions or Resolutions on the same topic from other Conventions.

Resource mobilization and the Financial Mechanism

34. *Noted* the importance of resource mobilization and the Financial Mechanism (GEF) to the Pacific and urge Pacific island Parties to review carefully relevant documents and seek appropriate technical expertise and advice to assist in preparation for the COP meetings.
35. *Stressed* the need to provide training support in the development of alternative resource mobilization for biodiversity projects and programmes.

CMS COP 11 Agenda at a glance

Date	Time	Agenda item.	Relevant documents.
Monday 3rd November	0900 - 1200	Regional coordination meetings	
	1600 - 1800		
	1830 - 2100	Migratory species champions ceremony.	
Tuesday 4th November	1000 - 1200	1 - 3: Opening ceremony.	
	1200 - 1300	4: Rules of procedure.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.4
		5: Election of Officers.	
		6: Adoption of the Agenda and Meeting Schedule.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.6.1/Rev.2 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.6.2
		7: Establishment of Credentials Committee and Other Sessional Committees.	
		8: Admission of Observers.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.8
		10: Reports of the Conventions Subsidiary Bodies. - Standing Committee - Scientific Council	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.6.2
		12: Report of the Secretariat.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.12.2
	1415 - 1515	Meeting of the Committees and Working Groups	
	1530 - 1830	15: CMS Strategic Plan.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.15.1 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.15.2
		16: Future shape and strategies of CMS and the CMS family.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.16.1 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.16.2
		17: Other strategic and institutional matters.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.17.1 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.17.2 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.17.3
		16 cont.:	
		14: Budget and administration.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.14.1 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.14.2 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.14.3 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.14.4
	17 cont.:		
Wednesday 5th November	1000 - 1300	25: Interim and final report of the credentials committee.	
		4 cont.	
		18: Procedural issues.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.18.1 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.18.2 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.18.3/Rev.1
		22: CMS Instruments	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.22.1 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.22.2 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.22.3 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.22.4
		24: Amendment of CMS Appendices.	

		24.2: Criteria for amendment.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.24.2/Rev.1
		MOU signing ceremony.	Samoa to sign Shark MOU.
	1530 - 1830	23: Conservation issues.	
		23.4: Cross-cutting conservation issues.	
		23.4.1: Ecological networks.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.1.1 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.1.2
		23.4.2: Climate change.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.2
		23.4.3: Renewable energy.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.3.1 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.3.2
		23.4.4: Invasive alien species.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.4
		23.4.5: Boat based wildlife watching.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.5
		23.4.6: Marine debris.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.6
		23.4.7: Wildlife crime.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.7/Rev.1
Thursday 6 November.	1000 - 1300	24: Amendment of CMS Appendices.	
		24.1: Proposals for amendment of App I and II.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.24.1. UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.24.1/Addendum
		23 cont.:	
		23.2: Aquatic species	
		23.2.1: Migratory sharks and rays.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.2.1
		23.2.2: Loggerhead turtle action plan.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.2.2
		23.2.3: Live capture of cetaceans from the wild.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.2.3
		23.2.4: Cetacean culture.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.2.4
	1530 - 1830	23.1: Avian species.	
		23.1.1: Migratory birds and flyways.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.1
		23.1.2: Guidelines to prevent poisoning of migratory birds.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2
		23.1.3: Illegal killing, take and trade of migratory birds.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.3
		23.1.4: Landbirds in Africa Eurasia	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.4
		23.1.5: Saker falcon.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.5.1 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.5.2
		23.1.6: Bird taxonomy.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.6
Friday 7th November.	1000 - 1300	23 cont.:	
		23.3: Terrestrial species	
		23.3.1: Central Asian Mammals Initiative.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.3.1
		23.3.2: Guidelines for wildlife friendly infrastructure development in Asia.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.3.2
		23.3.3: Argali conservation plan.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.3.3
		19: Communication, Information and Outreach	
		19.1: Communication plan implementation.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.19.1
		19.2: 2015 - 2017 Communication plan.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.19.2/Rev.1
		19.3: Analysis and synthesis of national reports.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.19.3
		19.4: World Migratory Bird Day.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.19.4
	1530 - 1830	20: Capacity building	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.20.1 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.20.2

			21: Synergies and partnerships.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.21.1 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.21.2 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.21.3/Rev.1
			13: Statements on cooperation.	
Sunday 9th November	1000 1300	-	9: Report of the UNEP.	
			11: Statements from States.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.11.1
			25 cont.:	
		26: Sessional committees reports.		
	1500 1800	-	27: Adoption of resolutions and appendices amendments.	
			28: 12th COP date and venue.	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.28
			29: Adoption of Report.	
			30: Any other business.	
		31: Closure of the meeting.		

Key

	Priority Agenda Items covered in the Brief
	Other Agenda Items which may be of interest to the PICs

AGENDA in DETAIL

The CMS COP 11 Provisional annotated agenda and meeting schedule (Doc.6.2) provides a good summary of what can be expected against each agenda item, including expected outcomes. It would therefore be beneficial to refer to this document in preparing for participation at COP.

Agenda items that the Pacific has identified as being of priority will be covered in more detail in the following section.

In relation to Agenda Items 1 - 3, the Pacific, as appropriate, may wish to deliver a Statement at the Opening of the Conference highlighting the following points:

- Congratulate the Chair and thank the host country and the CMS Secretariat for all the preparations and organizations in the lead up to the Conference;
- Recall that the Pacific Islands region covers over 10% of the global ocean, and is home to a number of Appendix I species of cetaceans, turtles and sharks;
- Welcome the recent announcement of the global GEF/CMS programme to conserve dugong and seagrass, and in particular the commitment to the programme by the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu;
- Draw attention to the unique Pacific Islands' circumstances in terms of its biodiversity, people, culture and challenges as small islands developing states.
 - Note that the Pacific is the world's largest ocean covering nearly a third of the Earth's surface.
 - 3000 islands of varied shape and size lie like stepping stones and support diverse cultures and languages
- Note challenges facing the Pacific such as threats from impacts of climate change, invasive species etc.;
- Highlight key successes and achievements made since COP10 which demonstrates commitment to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention for example, commitments made by Pacific island countries and territories to expand marine protected areas such as in Cook Islands (1.1 million sq km) and the Coral Sea MPA of New Caledonia (1.2 million sq km); establish sanctuaries for conservation of marine species as in Palau (630,000 sq km);
- Reiterate on commitments through the Ten Key Actions made by Leaders at the Ninth Nature Conference for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas; Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Communiqué on the protection, sustainable use and management of our Ocean which is a central and essential part of the life and livelihoods of Pacific island people;
- Call on the global community to support efforts of the Pacific to sustainably conserve our unique but fragile biodiversity - especially through 2016/17 Year of the Whale in the Pacific Islands and the GEF/CMS dugong/seagrass programme.

PRIORITY AGENDA ITEMS for the PACIFIC.

During the CMS pre-COP meeting for the Pacific (18 - 20 August, 2014) held in Fiji, the CMS COP 11 agenda was discussed and identified nine (9) areas of priority for the Pacific. Considering that the Pacific

currently has just four Parties,¹ only two of whom may be represented in Quito, it was also agreed that these issues would have a focal person to lead the development of interventions, if any, to be made at COP.

Following is a summary of the priority items, including relevance to our region, and identified possible interventions or actions.

<p>Agenda Item and Issue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 24.1: Proposals for Amendment of Appendices I and II of the Convention. 	<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with the provisions of Article XI of the Convention, several governments including Fiji, submitted proposals for amendments to Appendices I and II for consideration by COP 11. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiji has submitted for listing in both Appendices I and II 5 species of Manta rays and 9 species of <i>Mobula</i> rays. As per Resolution 3.1, submissions need to be made at the species or lower taxa level. The <i>Mobula</i> ray submission, while intending to cover the individual species belonging to that taxon, will need to have COP 11 make a decision on the listing of each of the 9 individual species. In accordance with Article XI, paragraph 3, Parties were invited to comment on the proposals, and by the deadline of 4 September, 2014, the Secretariat received submissions from Fiji and Palau in relation to Fiji's submission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiji's submission was to provide complementary information for their submissions in response to comments raised at the 18th Scientific Council meeting. This was completed and is captured in Doc.24.1.9/Addendum and Doc.24.1.10. Palau's submission was an expression of support for the manta and mobula ray listings. At a recent IUCN Shark Specialist Group convened workshop on <i>Manta</i> and Devil Ray global conservation, it was determined that it would be beneficial to develop conservation strategies for these species given their high vulnerability to overexploitation and their still being inadequately understood.
<p>Relevant Papers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.24.1. UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.24.1/Addendum UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.8 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.24.1.9 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.24.1.9/Addendum

¹ CMS Parties from the Pacific: Cook Islands; Fiji; Palau; Samoa.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.24.1.10 • UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.24.1.10/Addendum • UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.24.1.14 • UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.24.1.15 • UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.24.1.16 • UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.24.1.17
Action requested	<p>The Conference of the Parties is invited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review the proposals for amendments to the Appendices. Make decisions as regards the approval or rejection of proposals.
Relevance to the Pacific Islands Region.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reef Manta ray (<i>Manta alfredi</i>):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Reef Manta Ray exists in the Pacific Ocean and has a broad range although actual populations appear to be sparsely distributed and highly fragmented. According to CMS, the Cook Islands, Fiji and Palau are recognized range states for this species. ○ The rate of population reduction appears to be high in several regions, up to as much as 80% over the last three generations (approx. 75 years) and globally a decline of 30% is strongly suspected. Populations may however be stable in locations where they receive some level of protection - for the Pacific, that is mainly around Australia and Yap based on records. This is due primarily to the international trade of their high value gill-rakers, some directed fisheries, entanglement, ingestion of marine debris and bycatch. ○ Opportunistic hunting has been reported in Tonga and Micronesia and due to their isolation and low numbers, these subpopulations may be extremely vulnerable to fishing pressure. ○ Dive tourism around this species is growing (US\$ 140 million annually)² and in some cases sustained economic benefits have been demonstrated in comparison to the short term gain made through their sale. In Yap, dive tourism focused almost exclusive on <i>Manta</i> ray encounters and has recorded an annual value estimated at US\$ 4 million. Critical to note though that any tourism venture needs to be done with great consideration of the welfare of the animal. ○ Fiji does not have a targeted or subsistence fishery for <i>M. alfredi</i> but provides protection under the Endangered and Protected Species Act as well as the CITES Appendix II listing. ○ Yap's Manta Ray Sanctuary and Protection Act (2008) covers an area of 8,234 square miles, taking in 16 islands and 145 islets and atolls out to 12 miles offshore. • <u>Mobula rays (Devil rays)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Mobula</i> species also have considerable existing and potential value through sustainable tourism activities, as an example of non-consumptive use. • 	
Possible interventions/action	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Support</i> the proposals for listing <i>Manta</i> and <i>Mobula</i> rays onto Appendix I and II. • <i>Support</i> the proposal for listing of sharks including the scalloped and great hammerheads, threshers and silky sharks onto Appendix II. • Call for resources to support research and policy developments in the Pacific to ground these international commitments in national policy / priorities. 	
Lead Country/ Focal Point for issue	Partner Focal Points:
<p>Fiji</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aisake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPREP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Michael Donoghue: michaeld@sprep.org

² O'Malley M.P., Lee-Brooks K., Medd H.B., 2013. The global economic impact of manta ray watching tourism. PLoS ONE 8 (5): e65051.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Batibasaga:abatibasaga@gmail.com • Saras Sharma: saras.sharma0205@gmail.com 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Penina Solomona: peninas@sprep.org • Pew: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Arthur Sokimi: arthur@sharkdefenders.com ○ Luke Warwick: lwarwick@pewtrusts.org • WWF: Ian Campbell: icampbell@wwf.panda.org
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Agenda Item and Issue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 23.4.2: Programme of work on climate change and migratory species 	Background <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution 10.19 established the position of a COP appointed Councilor for CC. A key expectation was the preparation of a 'Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species.' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An international workshop held in Costa Rica (April, 2014) titled 'Towards a CMS Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species' resulted in the programme of work which was endorsed by the Scientific Council at its 18th Meeting (July, 2014). ○ This programme of work and a draft resolution are annexed to Doc.23.4.2.
Action requested	The Conference of the Parties is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider and endorse the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species. • Adopt the draft Resolution.
Relevant Papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.2
Relevance to the Pacific Islands Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pacific Islands are at the forefront of climate change impacts and this issue resonates with particular force for PI delegations; • While we understand the general impacts that climate change will have on species (e.g) altered sex ratio for turtles due to rising beach temperatures; inundation or loss of nesting beaches due to sea level rise / encroachment or higher wave action; prey / food abundance; ocean acidification etc., there has been insufficient research undertaken at the regional and national levels to determine actual impacts in our region and possible mitigation measures. 	
Possible Interventions/actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Endorse</i> the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species; • <i>Adopt</i> the Resolution. • <i>Highlight</i> the level of commitment shown by the Pacific in the establishment of large Marine Protected Areas, sanctuaries and Ramsar sites to protect threatened migratory species and their habitats (e.g) Cook Islands (1.1 million sq km) and the Coral Sea MPA of New Caledonia (1.2 million sq km); marine species sanctuary in Palau (630,000 sq km) and to ensure the sustainable use of resources for the benefit of local communities. • <i>Highlight</i> that the SPREP Regional Species Action Plans for cetaceans, marine turtles and dugongs recognise climate change as a threat and have identified actions to manage its impacts. • <i>Note</i> that ocean acidification (OA) will have a profound long term impact on coral reefs, and as they are a critical habitat for threatened migratory species such as marine turtles, there is a need to develop a long term monitoring system for Pacific Island Countries and Territories, to monitor the impacts of OA on coral reefs, to 	

<p>identify resilient reefs, and to develop networks of resilient MMAs and MPAs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Note</i> the ocean acidification workshop that was held in Samoa prior to the Third UN SIDS conference, which recommended establishing stronger monitoring programmes in the Pacific region. • <i>Inform</i> COP of the need to improve understanding of potential responses to OA for specific coastal habitats and resources including seagrass (which may mitigate the impacts of OA at a local level) and coral reefs and their consequent effect on migratory species such as turtles and dugongs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Call</i> for resources to support research on understanding the impacts of climate change on migratory species in an island context. 	
<p>Lead Country/ Focal Point for issue</p> <p>Samoa</p>	<p>Partner Focal Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPREP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Michael Donoghue: michaeld@sprep.org ○ Penina Solomona: peninas@sprep.org ○ Diane McFadzien: dianem@sprep.org ○ Tommy Moore: tommym@sprep.org

<p>Agenda Item and Issue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 23.4.4: Invasive alien species 	<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 17th meeting of the Scientific Council (2011) requested a review of the impact of invasive aliens species on migratory species and measures to mitigate their impact. • The resulting assessment was undertaken by the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group through the University of Auckland. This was circulated to the CMS Family secretariats and posted on the Scientific Council Workspace for consultation. • The 18th meeting of the Scientific Council (2014) recommended that both the review (Inf.32) and draft resolution be submitted to COP. • The review identified that just over one third of CMS protected species are under some level of threat from IAS, with seabirds and marine turtle populations in their breeding / nesting grounds on island ecosystems being the most under threat from IAS.
<p>Action requested</p>	<p>The Conference of the Parties is invited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Take note of the "<i>Review of the impact of invasive alien species on species protected under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)</i>"; Review and adopt the draft Resolution on invasive alien species annexed. Provide relevant information on IAS that may pose a threat to migratory species, taking into account the potential changes to ecosystems from the effects of global climate change. Provide relevant information on cases of good practice in mitigating the impact of IAS and the efficiency of the measures taken.

Relevant Papers	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.4 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.32
Relevance to the Pacific Islands Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are a serious threat to island biodiversity. In an economic impact assessment of IAS by CBD in 2009 (under the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment) islands were considered of highest impact than any biodiversity biomes. • Islands have suffered the highest number of terrestrial species extinctions in the world (70-95 %), – the major proportion of which (55-67%) have been caused by invasive alien species. Additionally, assessments show that only 16% of the world's marine ecoregions for which there is available data, are invasive-free, the major pathways for invasive species introduction being ballast water, hull fouling and aquaculture introductions. • IAS not only threaten endemic island species, but they also include threats to food security, health, economic development and ecosystem functions. The loss of taro in Samoa, for example, due to the leaf-blight resulted in loss of revenue and also forced a change in diet for local people. • Introduction of IAS in the Pacific – whether intentional or unintentional - is a serious threat to the integrity of our ecosystems. • Climate change may also increase the vulnerability of migratory species to IAS as they alter habitats and provide more opportunity for IAS establishment and impacts. In island contexts such as ours, these impacts may even result in the extirpation of some species. 	
Possible Interventions/actions (taken from Joint Preparatory Meeting outcomes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adopt</i> the draft Resolution. • <i>Note</i> actions taken to address IAS in the Pacific Islands region such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The use of “Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific” and the current GEFPAS “Prevention, control and management of invasive species in the Pacific Islands” ○ Some Pacific countries have committed a portion of their GEF 6 allocation to manage invasive species; ○ NISSAP (National Invasive Species Strategic Action Plan) milestones by Tonga, Niue, Cook Is, Vanuatu, Palau; ○ Desktop baseline studies including pathway identification completed for Tonga, Niue, Cook Is, Vanuatu; ○ Pacific Invasive Partnership and Pacific Invasives Learning Network efforts; ○ Examples from Samoa and Cook Islands rapid response efforts to mongoose, fruit fly, and rat eradication; ○ SPREP is willing to share lessons learned. <p><u>Referencing UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.4:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>Draft Resolution Paragraph 6:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Note</i> that the Pacific Islands have existing mechanisms to coordinate invasive species management actions at the regional and national levels. Acknowledge the leadership of the Pacific Island Forum Leaders at their 45th Meeting held in Palau, in establishing the Invasive Species Advisory Group under the auspices of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific. Urge the CBD Secretariat and international bodies, such as the Invasive Species Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership to work with these existing regional and national mechanisms to streamline information gathering, sharing and management. ii. <u>Draft Resolution Paragraph 11:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Note</i> that the Pacific Islands have already started discussions with other MEA's, in particular with CITES and Ramsar to explore ways to address the risks associated with wildlife trade and wetlands. Welcomes the 	

- contributions of the secretariats of other MEAs towards addressing invasive species and protecting island biodiversity.
- *Further notes* that the Pacific Islands are not a major importer of wildlife, but some Pacific Islands do export wildlife for the aquarium trade.
 - Review of work on IAS and considerations for future work
 - *Further notes* the inter-linkages between invasive alien species and infectious diseases - noting that recent cases of infectious disease, especially mosquito-borne diseases (malaria, dengue, zika and chikungunya), were especially numerous this year in the Pacific Islands. Encourage the health sector to work in collaboration with invasive species managers, and other sectors to ensure that management of invasive alien species will contribute to healthy communities.
 - *Further notes the* risk associated with the introduction of alien species through activities related to development aid. The Pacific is rife with the impacts of aid that are well-intended but with negative environmental consequences. The Pacific is fully cognizant of the fact that new improved varieties of species are being developed for food security purposes but the environmental considerations are often overlooked in these developments. The Pacific urges proper risk assessments be done and that perhaps a user-pays system could be considered.

Lead Country/ Focal Point for issue	Partner focal point.
tbd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SPREP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ David Moverley (davidm@sprep.org) ○ Posa Skelton (posas@sprep.org)

Agenda Item and Issue	Background
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Item 23.4.5: Sustainable boat based wildlife watching tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wildlife watching tourism has increased significantly in the last decades and provides an opportunity to encounter animals in their natural habitat, contribute to local and national economies with significant benefits for conservation through awareness raising. ● CMS has been interested in the subject of boat based wildlife watching and in 2006 published the brochure 'Wildlife watching and tourism - a study on the benefits and risks of a fast-growing tourism activity and its impacts on species.' ● While acknowledging the often significant economic benefit to local communities from such ventures, it is also noted that concerns have been raised about possible impacts on animal behaviour from poorly-managed operations. ● While in certain places and for certain species, guidelines exist for the management of boat based wildlife operations, the Secretariat continues to receive requests to provide guidance. Thus in response, the CMS Scientific Council (ScC) developed in consultation with international experts, a draft resolution on boat-based wildlife watching which provides guidance on elements that could be taken up in national policies / regulations in order to protect migratory marine species affected by such operations. ● Boat-based wildlife watching can present risks, as well as important conservation, education and research opportunities. A significant portion of this tourism is focused

	<p>on whales and dolphins that are especially sensitive to underwater noise and other disturbance and we believe that careful management is especially important for them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft Resolution was endorsed by ScC18 and as per the process, the Secretariat received comments from three Parties and one observer organisation. These comments have been incorporated in the draft Resolution.
Action requested	<p>The Conference of the Parties is invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt the draft Resolution contained in the Annex to Doc. 23.4.5.
Relevant Papers	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.5
Relevance to the Pacific islands Region.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boat based wildlife watching is a growing industry in the Pacific with examples such as whale watching ventures in Tonga, New Caledonia, French Polynesia, and smaller operations such as those in Dawasamu (Fiji) and Moorea, focused on spinner dolphins. In a 2005 review commissioned by SPREP, the South Pacific Tourism Organisation, the South Pacific Whale Research Consortium and undertaken by IFAW, it was estimated that the direct economic value of whale watching was estimated to be US\$ 7.5 million and a total value of US\$ 21 million. The Pacific Islands regional guidelines for whale and dolphin watching was developed in 2008 with five overarching principles. In addition to theme 8 of the SPREP Whale and Dolphin Action Plan, these two documents attempt to ensure that whale and dolphin based tourism is conducted responsibly with minimum impact and maximum education and economic values. 	
Possible interventions/actions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Adopt</i> the draft Resolution. <i>Highlight</i> efforts in our region in relation to boat-based wildlife watching such as the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> implementation of the Pacific islands regional guidelines for whale and dolphin watching in places such as New Caledonia and Niue; Tonga's whale watching and swimming regulations 2013; Training of 11 tour operators in Niue (2013) with a recorded growth in tour operators to 4 and an additional 2 preparing to enter the industry. <i>Support</i> the call for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> governments to monitor compliance with existing wildlife watch guidelines, for example, the Pacific Islands regional guidelines for whale and dolphin watching; the development, where necessary, of appropriate guidelines and/or regulations to govern these activities and to ensure that they promote ecologically sustainable wildlife watching further research and wide communication of findings, to assess the impacts of boat-based wildlife watching operations on marine wildlife; <i>Acknowledge</i> the NZ ODA project that is being coordinated by SPREP and implemented in Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Kiribati on engaging communities to create and maintain turtle monitoring networks with the intention of establishing eco-tourism operations for local communities around nesting or feeding populations. 	
Lead Country/ Focal Point for issue	Partner Focal Point
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPREP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mike Donoghue: michaeld@sprep.org Penina Solomona: peninas@sprep.org Whales Alive: Olive Andrews: whaleology@gmail.com

<p>Agenda Item and Issue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 23.4.6: management of marine debris. 	<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per UNEP/CMS/Resolution 10.4, the Scientific Council endorsed the comprehensive reviews undertaken by Eunomia Research and the Secretariat at their 18th meeting. Subject to the post-session commenting period, upon which one Party and two observer organisations provided feedback which has been incorporated, a draft resolution has been prepared for consideration at COP. The four key areas directed by COP 10 for review included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identification of knowledge gaps in marine debris management and their impact on migratory species; identification of best practice strategies for waste management used on board commercial marine vessels; facilitating an analysis of the effectiveness of current public awareness and education campaigns. These findings are all available in the related Inf. docs.
<p>Action requested</p>	<p>The Conference of the Parties is invited to:</p> <p>(a) Take note of the key findings of the reviews as presented in Annexes 2, 3 and 4 to Doc 23.4.6.</p> <p>(b) Adopt the draft Resolution contained in Annex 1 of Doc 23.4.6.</p>
<p>Relevant papers</p>	<p>UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.6 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.27 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.28 UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.29</p>
<p>Relevance to the Pacific islands Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whales entangled in discarded netting or longline gear are being more frequently reported in Pacific Islands waters - disentangling such animals is risky, and requires both specialist equipment and training; Ingestion of plastic bags by turtles is regularly reported from the region, and in many Pacific Island countries, management of plastic waste is poor, and plastic bags often escape into the marine environment; Marine debris is increasingly recognized as a significant threat to marine wildlife, especially cetaceans, pinnipeds and turtles; Observer coverage of fishing operations in the Pacific Islands is generally very low, except for purse seine vessels, and port facilities are generally inadequate for the reception of discarded fishing gear, so there is currently little incentive for vessels to retain potentially hazardous materials, such as netting that may entangle marine megafauna, for safe disposal onshore; Other forms of debris, including household goods and plastic bags, also present a potential ingestion hazard for marine turtles and cetaceans; Micro plastics, which have become a major component of many cosmetics and other household goods, have recently been identified as a new hazard for marine wildlife. 	
<p>Possible Interventions/actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Adopt</i> the draft Resolution. <i>Urge</i> Parties to: 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ improve port facilities for vessels to return fishing gear of no further use; ○ strengthen / enforce restrictions/controls on availability of plastic bags at retail outlets; ○ significantly improve the management of plastic waste. ● <i>Highlight</i> efforts in the region such as the SPREP Clean Pacific campaign which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ provided capacity building on issues ranging from best waste management practices to responding to 3 tier oil spills; ○ established a private sector partnership to support this campaign at the regional level with Westpac Banking Corporation; ○ supported grassroots projects for improved waste management in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fiji: Catholic Women's League conducted a waste management survey and taught 35 women the skills to convert trash into usable items; ▪ Kiribati: Tarawa Adventist Youth Group conducted a one day awareness workshop with 25 young people focusing on promoting lead-acid battery management, composting and the 3Rs; ▪ New Caledonia: 'Clean New Caledonia' activity involving over 2,000 participants in 26 locations resulting in 185 bags of waste, 120 kilos of aluminum cans in just one location; ▪ Palau: Public Education and Enhancement Committee undertook a mission to the Southwest Islands and removed 172 kilos of recyclable materials, 28 large lead batteries and 300 metres of abandoned fishing nets; ▪ Tokelau: The work of the Fakaoko Waste Management Champions was realigned to the Tokelau National Strategic Plan 2011 - 2015 through a one-day training and planning workshop with 20 Waste champions; ▪ Vanuatu: logo and poster competition with 17 primary and secondary schools in Port Vila. ● <i>Note</i> that in the Pacific, there is a move towards the use of bio-degradable plastics e.g. Samoa which has banned the import of non-biodegradable plastics. 	
Lead Country/ Focal Point for issue	Partner Focal Point
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SPREP: Michael Donoghue - michael.d@sprep.org

Agenda Item and Issue	Background
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Item 23.2.1: Conservation of migratory sharks and rays. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The draft Resolution has been prepared in order to draw attention to shark and ray species that would benefit from a global approach to their conservation and immediate action. ● It does not duplicate the work of the Shark MoU, but rather is designed to complement it and as such, contains key elements of the MOU and its conservation plan. ● A recent IUCN assessment (Dulvy et. al 2014)³, concluded that "one quarter of the 1,041 examined species of sharks, rays and chimera are threatened due to overfishing and that the overall Chondrichthyan extinction risk was substantially higher than for most other vertebrates. Rays were particularly affected, making up five out of seven most threatened Families of cartilaginous fish." Additionally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a separate study by Worm⁴ et al. (2013) suggests that between 63 - 273 million sharks per annum are killed globally; ○ 26 - 73 million sharks are killed annually to supply the fin trade (Clarke et al., 2006)⁵.

³ Dulvy et al. (2014) "Extinction risk and conservation of the world's sharks and rays." eLife.

⁴ Worm B, Davis B, Kettermer L, Ward-Paige CA, Chapman D, Heithaus MR, Kessel ST, Gruber SH. 2013. Global catches, exploitation rates, and rebuilding options for sharks Marine Policy 40, 194–204.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shark fin value has increased significantly due to the rising demand in places like Asia where the fins fetch higher prices than the meat - which creates an incentive to land fins only while discarding the body at sea. Consequently, this leads to unreliable data. In some places, there exist shark finning prohibitions (ref. Pacific relevance below) through mechanisms such as the 5% fin to carcass ration or through national plans of action or sanctuary provisions.
Action requested	The Conference of the Parties is invited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt the draft Resolution contained in Annex 1 of Doc.23.2.1
Relevant Papers	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.2.1
Relevance to the Pacific Region	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migratory sharks have been heavily impacted by fishing (targeted and non-targeted) in the PI region over the past 20 years. Some species are estimated to have declined in abundance by up to 90%; Coastal sharks and rays in the PI may also have been severely impacted by both fishing and habitat loss; Sharks are iconic species and central to many Pacific Islands cultures; Sharks are becoming an important tourist attraction in many PICTs (e.g. Fiji, Palau); Removal of sharks from coral reef and pelagic ecosystems may have profound and long-lasting effects on trophic relationships and community structures. 	
Possible interventions/actions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Adopt</i> the draft Resolution. <i>Acknowledge</i> Samoa for signing the CMS Shark MOU and joining a growing number of countries determined to conserve and manage negative impacts on migratory sharks. <i>Highlight</i> that the Pacific has been a leading force in the area of shark conservation through the declaration of sanctuaries in countries such as the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau and Samoa. In other countries, there are existing National Plans of Action (e.g PNG, or commitments made to develop NPOAs modeled upon the FAO International Plan of Action (e.g Solomon Islands. In other countries, national laws exist ban shark finning within their territorial waters (e.g Kiribati, Vanuatu. <i>Acknowledge</i> the recent sharks listings through CITES which further supports the conservation of sharks and rays. <i>Note</i> that SPREP has received recent endorsement from her 26 members to move forward and collaborate with relevant partners to develop a shark action plan for the Pacific region and call on interested partners to support this initiative. <i>Urge</i> Parties to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> promote bans on shark finning; prohibit directed fishing of sharks; promote more protected areas for sharks. 	
Lead Country/ Focal Point for issue	Partner Focal Point
Fiji	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPREP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael Donoghue: michaeld@sprep.org Penina Solomona: peninas@sprep.org

⁵ Clarke, S. C., McAllister, M. K., Milner-Gulland, E. J., Kirkwood, G. P., Michielsens, C. G. J., Agnew, D. J., Pikitch, E. K., Nakano, H. and Shivji, M. S. (2006), Global estimates of shark catches using trade records from commercial markets. Ecology Letters, 9: 1115–1126. doi: 10.1111/j.1461-0248.2006.00968.x

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pew: Luke Warwick • WWF: Ian Campbell
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Agenda Item and Issue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 23.2.2: Action plan for the loggerhead turtle in the South Pacific Ocean 	Background <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Loggerhead Turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) was listed on CMS Appendix II in 1979 and Appendix I in 1985. There are currently no international instruments that address the conservation of loggerheads across the Pacific Ocean (eg: CMS MOUs). • In late 2013, the COP-Appointed councilor for Turtles in conjunction with the government of Australia, proposed that a Single Species Action Plan be developed under CMS for the South Pacific Ocean population of loggerhead turtles, as the issues facing the population are discrete and well suited to the development of targeted conservation actions. • The Secretariat, in cooperation with, and funding from, the Australian Government convened a meeting of Range States and experts in Brisbane, Australia, 25-27 March 2014 to draft the plan. • After the meeting, a revised draft was sent in English and Spanish to all participants and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of sea turtles (IAC) Secretariat for further comments. The draft loggerhead plan was endorsed by the Scientific Council at its 18th Meeting in July 2014 and have been circulated to all Range states and interested Stakeholders for comment.
Action requested	The Conference of the Parties is invited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt the draft resolution annexed to Doc.23.2.2, which refers to the draft Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Loggerhead turtles in the South Pacific Ocean.
Relevant Papers	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.2.2
Relevance to the Pacific Islands Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is one genetic stock (management unit) for <i>C. caretta</i> in the South Pacific Ocean (Hatase et al 2002, Dutton, 2007). Nesting for loggerhead turtles occurs entirely on beaches of the east coast of Australia and in New Caledonia. Hatchlings from the eastern Australia beaches disperse south and pass New Zealand, leading to large numbers of small turtles in the waters of Peru and Chile, and to lesser extent off Ecuador. At around 16 years of age, large immature loggerhead turtles return to the Coral Sea - Tasman Sea region of the southwest Pacific. • Local reports indicated that there was an abundance of small immature loggerhead turtles within the phase of their life when they dispersed into pelagic waters in the south-east Pacific off Peru. In response to these reports, a study funded by CMS provided the first evidence that they originate from the nesting beaches in Australian region through Peruvian waters in the south east Pacific Ocean. • The eastern Australian nesting population suffered from a significant decline from 1970s to 2000, which was associated with by-catch mortality in Australian trawl fisheries. Following the introduction of mandatory turtle 	

<p>excluder devices in the fisheries, the decline ceased and some recovery was observed. However, there now appears to be a reduction in the return of large immature Loggerhead Turtles, which is associated with by-catch mortality in longline fisheries, and possibly the ingestion of plastic. If this continues, it is expected that additional declines will occur in an already depleted southwest Pacific population.</p>	
<p>Possible interventions / actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adopt</i> the Single Species Action Plan for the conservation of the loggerhead turtle in the South Pacific Ocean. • <i>Acknowledge</i> the recognition of the SPREP Regional marine turtle action plan (2013-2017) which notes the endangered status of Marine turtles to which the action plan strives for cooperative conservation and management of marine turtles with SPREP within the Pacific Region; • <i>Endeavour</i> to raise the profile of this action plan in relevant fora of the Pacific including the upcoming Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (November 27 - December 6, 2014) meeting to be held in Samoa; • <i>SPREP</i> as the coordinating agency for the Regional Marine Turtle Action Plan, commits to communicating this Single Species Action Plan to her 26 members upon it's endorsement. 	
<p>Lead Country/ Focal Point</p> <p>Fiji</p>	<p>Partner Focal Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPREP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Catherine Siota: catherines@sprep.org ○ Penina Solomona: peninas@sprep.org

<p>Agenda Item and Issue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 23.2.3: Live captures of cetaceans from the wild for commercial purposes. 	<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This resolution seeks to address the continued threat posed to wild cetacean populations through the removal of individuals for public display in commercial aquaria and travelling shows. • Wild cetacean populations targeted by live captures are typically small and vulnerable to other threats in their environment. In addition to this, their population structures are often not fully understood and we often lack the data necessary to assess the sustainability of captures. • This resolution mirrors the attention live captures are given as a threat to wild cetacean populations in the CMS daughter agreements, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS and would thus harmonize the rest of the CMS family in addressing this threat to cetacean conservation.
<p>Action requested</p>	<p>The Conference of the Parties is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt the draft Resolution contained in Annex 2.
<p>Relevant Papers</p>	<p>UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.2.3</p>
<p>Relevance to the Pacific Islands Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin, <i>Tursiops aduncus</i>, was the target of a directed take in the coastal waters of Guadalcanal for several years; • Recent research has shown that the level of take was unsustainable and that the local population is now severely depleted; • A Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) under CITES was therefore clearly inappropriate and the Solomon Islands Government rescinded the export permits; • No other proposals for live capture of cetaceans from the wild are currently active in the PI region. 	
<p>Possible interventions / action</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adopt</i> the Resolution at COP11. 	
Lead Country/ Focal Point for issue	Partner Focal Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPREP: Michael Donoghue: michaeld@sprep.org • WDC: Dr. Cara Miller: cara.miller@whales.org

Agenda Item and Issue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 23.2.4: Conservation Implications of Cetacean Culture. 	Background <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As instructed in Resolution 10.15 (COP10), the Aquatic Mammals Working Group (AMWG) hosted an expert workshop to ‘review and provide advice on the impact of the emergent science on cetacean social complexity and culture, as it relates to regional populations and to inform forward decisions about CMS conservation priorities’. • This workshop took place in London in April 2014 and concluded that there is strong evidence for the importance of taking culture and social complexity into account for the conservation management of socially complex mammals. • This was unanimously supported by the Scientific Council during their meeting (ScC18) in July 2014 and resulted in the drafting of this Resolution by the CMS Secretariat for consideration by the Parties at COP11.
Action requested	The Conference of the Parties is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt the draft Resolution contained in Annex 2.
Relevant Papers	UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.2.3
Relevance to the Pacific Islands Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin, <i>Tursiops aduncus</i>, was the target of a directed take in the coastal waters of Guadalcanal for several years; • Recent research has shown that the level of take was unsustainable and that the local population is now severely depleted; • A Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) under CITES was therefore clearly inappropriate and the Solomon Islands Government rescinded the export permits; • No other proposals for live capture of cetaceans from the wild are currently active in the PI region. 	
Possible interventions / action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adopt</i> the Resolution at COP11 focusing on the emerging science related to socially complex species and the need to better protect them. 	
Lead Country/ Focal Point for issue	Partner Focal Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPREP: Michael Donoghue: michaeld@sprep.org • WDC: Dr. Cara Miller: cara.miller@whales.org

Annex 1: Tips for Making Interventions

There are accepted practices for oral statements (interventions) that all delegates are expected to follow. In order to speak, permission must be granted to you by the President or Chairman of the negotiating session. To do this, you press the button on the microphone to indicate to the Chair that you wish to make an intervention. You are then placed on a speaking list and will be called to speak when it's your turn, so be careful not to miss your opportunity to speak!

Once you have been granted permission to speak, you may take one of three actions. You may (i) put forward your country position; (ii) raise a point of order; or (iii) make a motion. Most interventions consist of the presentation of country positions.

A sample intervention in a plenary:

Notice that the Structure of the intervention usually follows a pattern as outlined below:

1. *Salutation to the Chair*, briefly acknowledging his/her role in making the meeting a success and, if appropriate, acknowledging the Secretariat.
2. *Associate yourself* (if applicable) with negotiating bloc/regional grouping on whose behalf you are speaking
3. *Explanation* of why the issue under discussion is important to your country or regional grouping/negotiating bloc
4. *Note any progress* made on the issue and acknowledge assistance given by relevant organisations
5. *Sum up the issue* which is the subject of your intervention in a clear manner- note the repetition of 'Mr Chairman' which gives emphasis to the point you are making
6. *Emphasize* that your position is reasonable, perhaps by emphasizing the cooperation necessary to reach agreements.
7. *Briefly thank* the Chair for listening.

Consult the *Taking the Floor Booklet* for more information and guidance.

Annex 2: Examples of past Pacific Statements.

Example from CBD COP-10 Plenary Statement delivered by Vanuatu on behalf of Pacific Island Countries

Thank you Chairman,

Vanuatu as the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, is making this statement on behalf of all Pacific Island Parties.

The Pacific Island Parties, **wish** to congratulate you, on your appointment as the chair of this 10th Conference of the Parties.

The Pacific Island Parties, **wish** to extend our heartfelt appreciation, and gratitude to the Government of Japan, and the people of Nagoya, for hosting the 10th Conference of the Parties. Thank you for your hospitality, and **thank you** for the warm welcome.

The Pacific Island Parties, also wish to extend our sincere appreciation, to the Secretariat, for the excellent preparations and organization of the meeting. We **look forward** to the continued partnership, and collaborations with the CBD Secretariat.

Mr Chairman, the Pacific Island communities inhabit the islands scattered throughout our Pacific Ocean, which some of the most **inspiring** migrations in human history, have taken place, over many thousands of years. Our Pacific Ocean covers over 30% of the world's oceans.

Our Ocean, coastal and island ecosystems, contain high biological diversity that sustains the lives of Pacific Island communities. It contains the most extensive coral reefs in the world, globally important fisheries, significant seabed mineral resources and high number of threatened species. These ecosystems may contain many undiscovered resources of potential use to humankind.

Chair, the Pacific Island Parties reaffirm, our commitment to implement the three objectives of the Convention.

This was further underscored by the Pacific Environment Ministers, in their communiqué from the recent 21 SPREP Meeting held in September 2010 in Papua New Guinea.

The Pacific Island Parties, wish to highlight the achievements and initiatives of the Pacific toward meeting the CBD objectives through community-based and co-management approaches as well as national and regional commitments. Examples include the establishment of Locally Managed Protected Areas, the Micronesia Challenge, the Coral Triangle Initiative, the Phoenix Islands Protected Area and the inscription of some sites to the World Heritage list.

Our achievements would not be possible without the commitment of our leaders, the Pacific Islands Forum and the continued support of our development partners – the donors, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, other members of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific, non-governmental organisations and our own Pacific communities.

To take these efforts and significant successes further, we would like to stress the inevitable need for adequate resources and the delivery of timely support to complement our Pacific actions and fully implement the objectives of the CBD, in particular, the new Strategic Plan.

Chair, we cannot underscore enough, the vulnerability of Pacific Small Island Developing States in particular our biodiversity to the impacts of climate change, and wish to emphasise the critical role of biodiversity in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

We further highlight the urgent need to address the rapidly growing problem of invasive species and their impacts on our fragile island ecosystems, economies and livelihoods.

Chair, the Pacific Island Parties invite and encourage all Parties to join us at our Pacific Voyage side event on Friday 22 October 2010 to share our experiences and lessons in conservation

In closing, the Pacific Island Parties are committed to working closely with you, and the Secretariat, and all Parties to ensure a successful outcome of these negotiations.

Thank-you Chair.

Example of a Statement delivered in Working Group 2 Plenary by Kiribati at COP 10 Agenda Item 6.1 *Invasive Alien Species*-

Madam Chair, this is the first time Kiribati is taking the floor and I wish to congratulate you for a fantastic job done so far, as well as the Secretariat for the excellent meeting documents.

Kiribati, is making this statement on behalf of the 14 Pacific Island Parties from Oceania to highlight the vulnerability of our islands to Invasive Alien Species.

The Pacific Island Parties are pleased to announce considerable progress made through regional partnerships in addressing invasive species at island and community levels. Kiribati has benefited from some of these partnerships through eradication of introduced rodents in the Phoenix Islands such as rats eradicated from Mckean island and rabbits from Rawaki and the Phoenix Islands.

Madam Chair, the challenges and impacts of invasive species that we face in small island developing countries have prompted us to respond with innovative solutions to try and deal with the increasing challenges posed by invasive alien species.

Madam Chair, the Pacific Island Parties recognise the serious threat of Invasive Alien Species to island biodiversity and our own survival, which is exacerbated by climate change. The Pacific Island Parties urge Governments and partners to give due considerations to Invasive Alien Species as a significant driver of biodiversity loss in the new CBD Strategic Plan with adequate and timely provision of financial resources to accelerate efforts to prevent, control and manage Invasive Alien Species.

Madam Chair, with regards to the Draft Decision – we welcome the establishment of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group in Part A to identify gaps and to prevent the risks associated with the introduction of Invasive Alien Species introduced as pets,

aquarium and terrarium species, as live bait and live food. We therefore support the removal of the brackets on Paragraph 3b referring to convening of meetings with full participations of developing countries.

Madam Chair, we request that vulnerable small island developing countries are represented on this AHTEG group and meetings. We would also like to stress the need to start considering other gaps and inconsistencies identified in Decision VIII/27 that are of critical importance to Pacific Island Parties.

Madam Chair, the management of both threats is also critical for the successful implementation of the CBD's island biodiversity program of work and we call for increased financial and technical support to take our work on invasive further.

Thank you Madam Chair

Annex 3: Key Lessons from past COP Meetings

These are some of the key lessons from past COP meetings of CMS and other biodiversity related MEAs which will be useful to guide preparations for COP11. Part 1 focuses on the preparations for COP11 and Part 2 focuses on the actual participation and engagement at the COP meeting.

1. Preparations for COP Meetings

National level preparations:

- Familiarize with the Meeting Agenda and relevant Documents.
- Hold national consultations to discuss national priorities for COP Meetings.
- Invite and engage local experts and key stakeholders in the discussions.
- Prepare country briefs and statements and seek endorsement prior to the COP Meeting.
- Familiarize with the CMS [Information Note for Participants](#) and make sure all key requirements are met and complied with (registration, visa, travel, accommodation etc) and note key deadlines.
- Seek support from external and regional partners as appropriate.
- Network and connect with the Pacific Voyage team through SPREP.

Regional level preparations:

- Hold a regional preparatory meeting to discuss priorities for the region for COP Meetings.
- Conduct negotiations training for PICs.
- Engage key regional organizations and partners.
- Prepare a Regional brief to facilitate engagement at COP Meetings.
- Coordinate Pacific side events including media and advocacy campaign at COP Meetings.
- Mobilize technical support from experts to assist PICs delegation to COP Meetings.

2. Engagement and Participation at COP Meetings

Coordination

- Assign an overall coordinator for the Pacific team.
- Assign leads for each priority topic.
- Pacific Brief useful as a key guiding document.
- Pacific Voyage Campaign was useful to raise the profile of the Pacific.

- One Pacific Voice approach was instrumental in coordinating Pacific engagement.
- Hold Pacific daily group meetings and briefings either in the morning or in the evening.
- Secure a place for Pacific group meetings.
- Finalize and agree on Pacific Statements and arrangements for delivering the statements.
- Participate in the Pacific Side Event.
- Support from regional partners and organizations was very effective.

Communication

- Install Skype and create Skype name for communications with the group.
- Set ground rules for communication.
- Circulate phone numbers, emails and other means for contact purposes.
- Keep the communication lines open.

Commitment

- Participate in the daily meetings of the group.
- Follow up on issues and report back to the group.
- Provide moral support to the team.
- Actively participate in the negotiations.
- Consult and seek help from colleagues and experts.

Negotiations

- Prepare your country positions well in advance.
- Familiarize with the regional brief.
- Ensure back up support is provided to assist the lead person.
- Find out views of other Parties – through corridor talks and other means.
- Read the ENB daily bulletin for updates.
- Get one of the regional experts to assist.
- Consult with your national team as well as with the wider Pacific team on any contentious issues.

Annex 4: Pacific delegation to COP11.

Country	Name	Email contact
Fiji	Mr. Aisake Batibasaga Head of delegation	abatibasaga@gmail.com
	<i>Ms. Saras Sharma</i> <i>Member of delegation</i>	saras.sharm0205@gmail.com
	Mr. Arthur Sokimi Member of delegation	arthur@sharkdefenders.com
	Mr. Ian Campbell Member of delegation	icampbell@wwf.panda.org
Palau	Ms. Nannette Malsol Head of delegation	dillymalsol@gmail.com

Annex 5: Key contacts at COP 11.

Country / Organisation	Name	Email contact
Australia	Mr. Geoffrey Richardson <i>Head of delegation</i>	geoff.richardson@environment.gov.au
	Ms. Narelle Montgomery <i>Member of delegation</i>	narelle.montgomery@environment.gov.au
New Zealand	Ms. Kathryn Howard <i>Head of delegation</i>	kahoward@doc.govt.nz
	Mr. Rod Hay <i>Member of delegation</i>	rhay@doc.govt.nz
CMS Secretariat	Ms. Melanie Virtue	mvirtue@cms.int
	Ms. Andrea Pauly	apauly@cms.int
	Mr. Francisco Rilla-Manta	frillamanta@cms.int
	Ms. Heidrun Frisch	hfrisch@cms.int
Pew Charitable Trust	Mr. Luke Warwick <i>Observer, International NGO</i>	lwarwick@pewtrusts.org
	Mr. James Gray	jgray@pewtrusts.org

	<i>Observer, International NGO</i>	
UNEP Regional Office Asia Pacific	Ms. Makiko Yashiro <i>Observer, International NGO</i>	makiko.yashiro@unep.org
UNEP DELC	Mr. Mamdou Kane <i>Observer, International NGO</i>	mamadou.kane@unep.org

Annex II: Intervention for continued support to the Pacific Islands region through the CMS position at SPREP.

Distinguished delegates to CMS COP 11,

The Pacific Islands region covers an area larger than the moon and is home to approximately 160 CMS Appendix listed species at some point during their migrations. Our success in the conservation of some of these animals lies in our collaborative approach. While the Pacific is not a major economic power, we are Large Ocean States with jurisdictional responsibilities over an enormous maritime realm, covering more than 10% of the global ocean.

Coordinating our regional efforts is the mandate of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). SPREP is unable to provide a representative to this meeting and has asked the Fiji delegation to convey its regret and to wish you all a successful meeting. As an example of its regional leadership, SPREP, in collaboration with the Secretariats of the CBD, CMS and Ramsar, successfully hosted the first joint preparatory meeting for these biodiversity MEAs in Fiji in August, at which 14 Pacific Island countries were represented.

In relation to our intervention, the key outcomes of this joint meeting specifically stated that the Pacific Island Countries represented at the Nadi meeting:

Recognized the key role of SPREP as a conduit for strengthening communication between National Focal Points and MEA Secretariats, thus increasing access to information to assist with implementation.

Noted the value of having CMS and Ramsar positions at SPREP and **expressed the desire** to create similar positions for other biodiversity related MEAs such as CITES.

In that vein, we would like to express our appreciation to the CMS Secretariat for its assistance and hard work to achieve a successful meeting, and for having the vision to establish the CMS Pacific Officer post at SPREP, which has been operative since 2012.

We **strongly express** our desire to see that this key position is not lost, particularly at a time when CMS and its work in the Pacific is clearly gaining momentum. We therefore would like to submit for consideration by the COP, ongoing support towards the Pacific Islands region through the presence and funding support for a continued CMS position at SPREP.

Annex III: Fiji's Country Statement.

Thank you Madam Chair,

Fiji, as one of the newest Parties to this CMS COP 11 Meeting from the Oceania region, would like to thank the CMS Secretariat for the excellent organization of this COP 11 Meeting. We would once again take this opportunity to thank the Ecuadorian government for the warm hospitalities extended to delegates, and the CSO's and NGO's that have supported the listing proposals over the last few days. We also acknowledge the support from the Scientific Council and the COP Appointed Scientific Councillors. We believe that Fiji has taken on board the CMS COP 11 Theme message – that it is “time for action”, as demonstrated by the proposal that Fiji has put up for listing the manta and mobula ray species on the CMS Appendices in this COP Meeting.

Fiji would also like to acknowledge the immense continuous support given by our CMS Regional officer (based with the SPREP Office in Apia, Samoa) who has worked tirelessly to give more voice, and consolidate the marine migratory species management and protection work from the Pacific Islands, and cement the South Pacific regions effort to protect our migratory species, and sincerely hope that the continuity of this regional Position is maintained for the next 3 years. This CMS Pacific regional officer's position is being terminated from the 31st December,2014; but we are encouraged and immensely grateful for the Budget Working Group for approving the recommendation to continue this position (along with the Washington position, for another 6 months after 31 December,2014). This is to ensure that alternative arrangements could be sought as in regards to the continuity of this two particular CMS regional officer positions within that extended 6 month time line.

Fiji also envisage more concrete cooperation and collaboration would be incorporated between CMS, UNEP and SPREP in the next triennium.

Before ending this statement, we would like to once again thank the CMS Secretariat, the Government of the Republic of Ecuador, PEW, and every Non-Government organization that has been involved in this COP Meeting- notably for providing technical and funding support, and thus making this 11th COP meeting a resounding success.

Annex IV: Contributions of Parties to Fund the 2015 - 2017 BUDGET (Euros).

Party	UN Scale	Adjusted Scale	2015	2016	2017	Total
Cook Islands		0.0022	52	52	60	164
Fiji	0.003	0.0066	157	155	179	491
Palau	0.001	0.0022	52	52	60	164
Samoa	0.001	0.0022	52	52	60	164