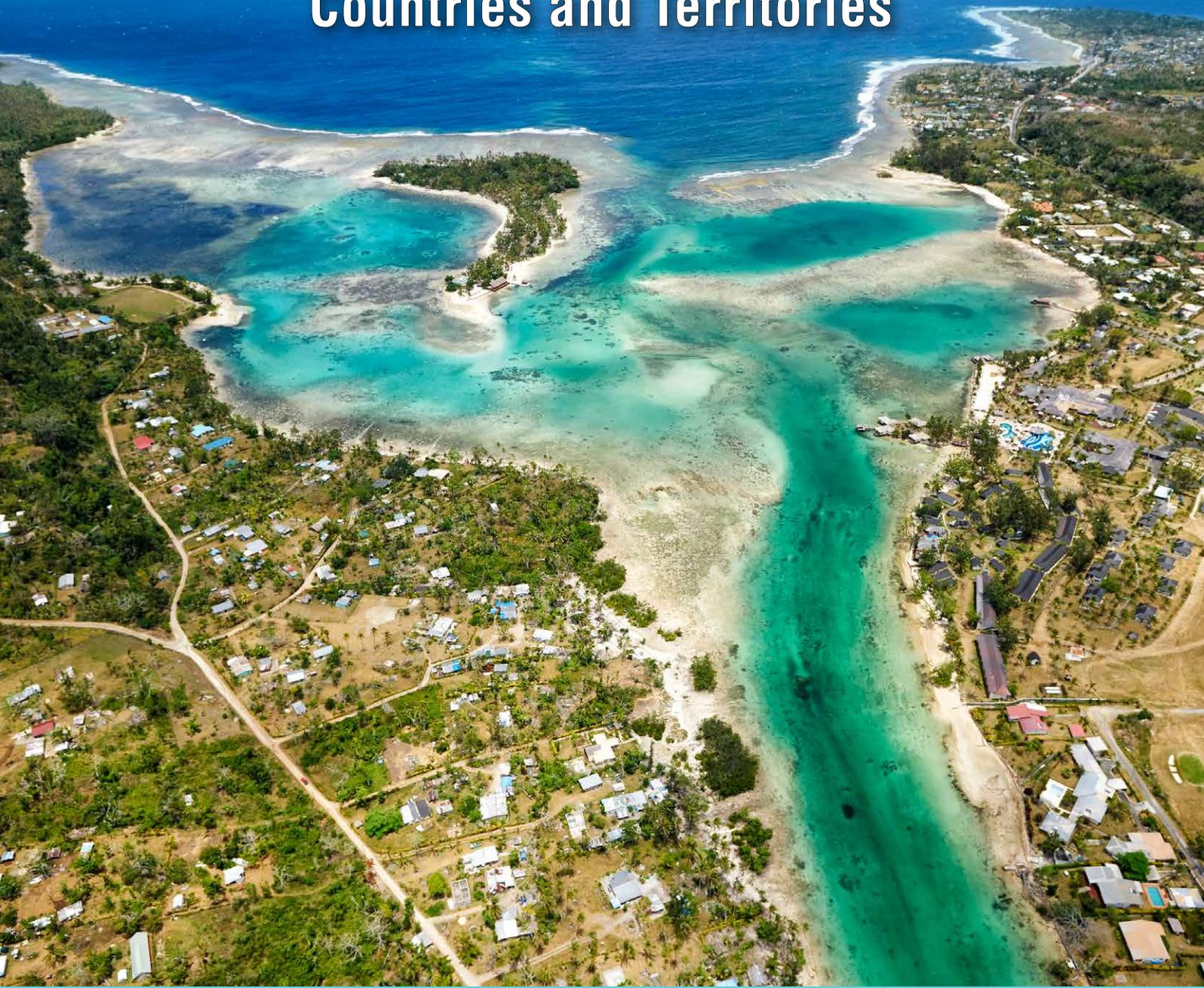


STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Guidelines for Pacific Island Countries and Territories



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



ACP MEAs 2

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This publication provides general guidance on the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process. It is designed to be tested and revised over time based on experiences in Pacific island countries and territories, and the development and progression of EIA in the Pacific region. For specific direction and guidance SPREP member countries should refer to their national legislation or consult with an EIA specialist.



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



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Foreword

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

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

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

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



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kosi Latu', written in a fluid, cursive style.

Mr Kosi Latu
Director General,
SPREP

Abbreviations

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
EIA	Environmental impact assessment
EIS	Environmental impact statement
EMP	Environmental management plan
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution From Ships
MEA	Multilateral environmental agreement
NGO	Non-government organisation
SEA	Strategic environmental assessment
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
ToR	Terms of reference
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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