

No. 33912

MULTILATERAL

Agreement establishing the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) (with final act). Concluded at Apia, Samoa, on 16 June 1993

Authentic texts: English and French.

Registered by Samoa on 1 July 1997.

MULTILATÉRAL

Convention portant création du Programme régional océanien de l'environnement (PROE) [avec acte final]. Conclue à Apia (Samoa) le 16 juin 1993

Textes authentiques : anglais et français.

Enregistrée par le Samoa le 1^{er} juillet 1997.

AGREEMENT¹ ESTABLISHING THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SPREP)

THE PARTIES,

Recognising the importance of protecting the environment and conserving the natural resources of the South Pacific region;

Conscious of their responsibility to preserve their natural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations and their role as custodians of natural resources of global importance;

Recognising the special hydrological, geological, atmospheric and ecological characteristics of the region which require special care and responsible management;

Seeking to ensure that resource development takes proper account of the need to protect and preserve the unique environmental values of the region and of the principles of sustainable development;

Recognising the need for co-operation within the region and with competent international, regional and sub-regional organisations in order to ensure coordination and co-operation in efforts to protect the environment and use the natural resources of the region on a sustainable basis;

¹ Came into force on 31 August 1995, in accordance with article 10:

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification</i>
Australia	17 October 1994
Fiji	12 October 1993
Kiribati	16 August 1994
Micronesia (Federated States of)	19 January 1995
Nauru	16 March 1994
New Zealand	16 December 1993
Niue	31 July 1995
Papua New Guinea	7 November 1994
Samoa	16 September 1993
Tuvalu	17 November 1994

Wishing to establish a comprehensive Programme to assist the region in maintaining and improving its environment and to act as the central coordinating point for environmental protection measures within the region;

Recalling the decision taken at the Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific, held at Rarotonga, Cook Islands, on 8-11 March 1982, to establish the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme as a separate entity within the South Pacific Commission;

Recalling with appreciation the role of UNEP, ESCAP, the South Pacific Forum and the South Pacific Conference in supporting the establishment and encouraging the development of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme as a regional programme and as part of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme;

Noting with satisfaction that the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region, done at Noumea on 24 November 1986, and its related Protocols, and the Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific, done at Apia on 12 June 1976, entered into force in 1990;

Appreciative of the valuable efforts that have been undertaken by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme to promote environmental protection within the region and the support given to the Programme by the South Pacific Commission;

Taking into account the decisions of the Third and Fourth Intergovernmental Meetings of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, held in Noumea in September 1990 and July 1991, and the endorsement of the Thirtieth South Pacific Conference, held in Noumea in October 1990; and

Desiring to accord the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme the full and formal legal status necessary to operate as an autonomous body, to manage fully its own affairs and to provide the basis for the continued operation of SPREP in accordance with the traditions of cooperation in the region;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Establishment of SPREP

1. The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (hereinafter referred to as SPREP) is hereby established as an intergovernmental organisation.
2. The organs of SPREP are the SPREP Meeting and the Secretariat.
3. The Secretariat shall be located in Apia, Western Samoa, unless the SPREP Meeting decides otherwise.

Article 2

Purposes

1. The purposes of SPREP are to promote co-operation in the South Pacific region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations. SPREP shall achieve these purposes through the Action Plan adopted from time to time by the SPREP Meeting, setting the strategies and objectives of SPREP.
2. The Action Plan shall include:
 - (a) co-ordinating regional activities addressing the environment;
 - (b) monitoring and assessing the state of the environment in the region including the impacts of human activities on the ecosystems of the region and encouraging development undertaken to be directed towards maintaining or enhancing environmental qualities;

- (c) promoting and developing programmes, including research programmes, to protect the atmosphere and terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems and species, while ensuring ecologically sustainable utilisation of resources;
- (d) reducing, through prevention and management, atmospheric, land based, freshwater and marine pollution;
- (e) strengthening national and regional capabilities and institutional arrangements;
- (f) increasing and improving training, educational and public awareness activities; and
- (g) promoting integrated legal, planning and management mechanisms.

Article 3

SPREP Meetings

1. The SPREP Meeting shall be open to the Membership of the Parties to this Agreement and, with the appropriate authorisation of the Party having responsibility for its international affairs, of each of the following:

American Samoa
French Polynesia
Guam
New Caledonia
Northern Mariana Islands
Palau
Tokelau
Wallis and Futuna.

2. The SPREP Meeting shall be held at such times as the SPREP Meeting may determine. A special SPREP Meeting may be held at any time as provided in the Rules of Procedure.