



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
E: sprep@sprep.org
T: +685 21929
F: +685 20231
W: www.sprep.org



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

Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and the Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention)

Apia, Samoa
15th September 2017

Agenda Item 7: Evaluation of the Waigani Convention

Purpose:

1. To present for consideration by the Meeting a proposal to undertake an evaluation of the Waigani Convention in order to measure its effectiveness at both the national and regional levels.

Background:

2. Since its adoption on 16 September 1995 at Waigani, Papua New Guinea and its entry into force on the 21 October 2001, the Waigani Convention has progressed without any major incident in as far as its implementation at the national and regional levels are concerned. It has been managed and administered at the regional level through the Conference of the Parties (COP).
3. During that period, the Waigani Convention, through its COP, has taken some major steps to improve its implementation including the establishment of its only subsidiary body, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), which it formally established after the first meeting in 2001 that meets every two years; approved the national reporting forms to be used by parties to submit their annual reports; approved the notification and movement forms to help facilitate the trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste covered by this convention. The Convention has established formal working relationships with the Basel Convention by the establishment of the Pacific Regional Centre for the joint implementation of the two conventions in the Pacific Islands region—this Centre whose work is guided by a biennial Business Plan administered by a Steering Committee that meets once every two years.
4. At the national level, parties designated or established competent authorities and focal points to help facilitate the implementation of this Convention which they have done quite well. In addition, a number of the parties have put in place convention specific measures such as strategies/plans, legislation and trained border control officers to help with the implementation.
5. However, the effectiveness of how well the convention is doing in terms of meeting its objective at the national level is not very clear and has never been measured because parties to the convention have not been reporting regularly.
6. In an attempt to improve the administration and management of the convention at the regional level, the Conference of the Parties at its Sixth Meeting in one of its decisions under the agenda

item on *"Future Arrangements for the SCPRC and the STAC"*, directed SPREP to seek and act on advice from Member countries on how best to maximise their involvement in the Technical and Steering Committees associated with the Waigani Convention and Basel Regional Centre. This approach has moderately improved the regional administration as officials at the national level have also become more engaging in the administration of the STAC and the SCPRC. However, this also needs to be properly evaluated.

7. This working paper is presented to seek the meeting's approval for a comprehensive evaluation of how the Waigani Convention is being implemented at all levels, whether its objectives are being met by the actions of the parties, the effectiveness of the Secretariat and to come up with recommendations on ways in which these can be improved

Recommendation:

8. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **discuss** the proposal for a comprehensive evaluation of the Waigani Convention to be undertaken, including what the expected outcomes of these evaluation are;
 - **explore** ways in which the evaluation is to be undertaken, including how it will be funded; and
 - **direct** the Secretariat on what needs to be done to progress this matter.
-