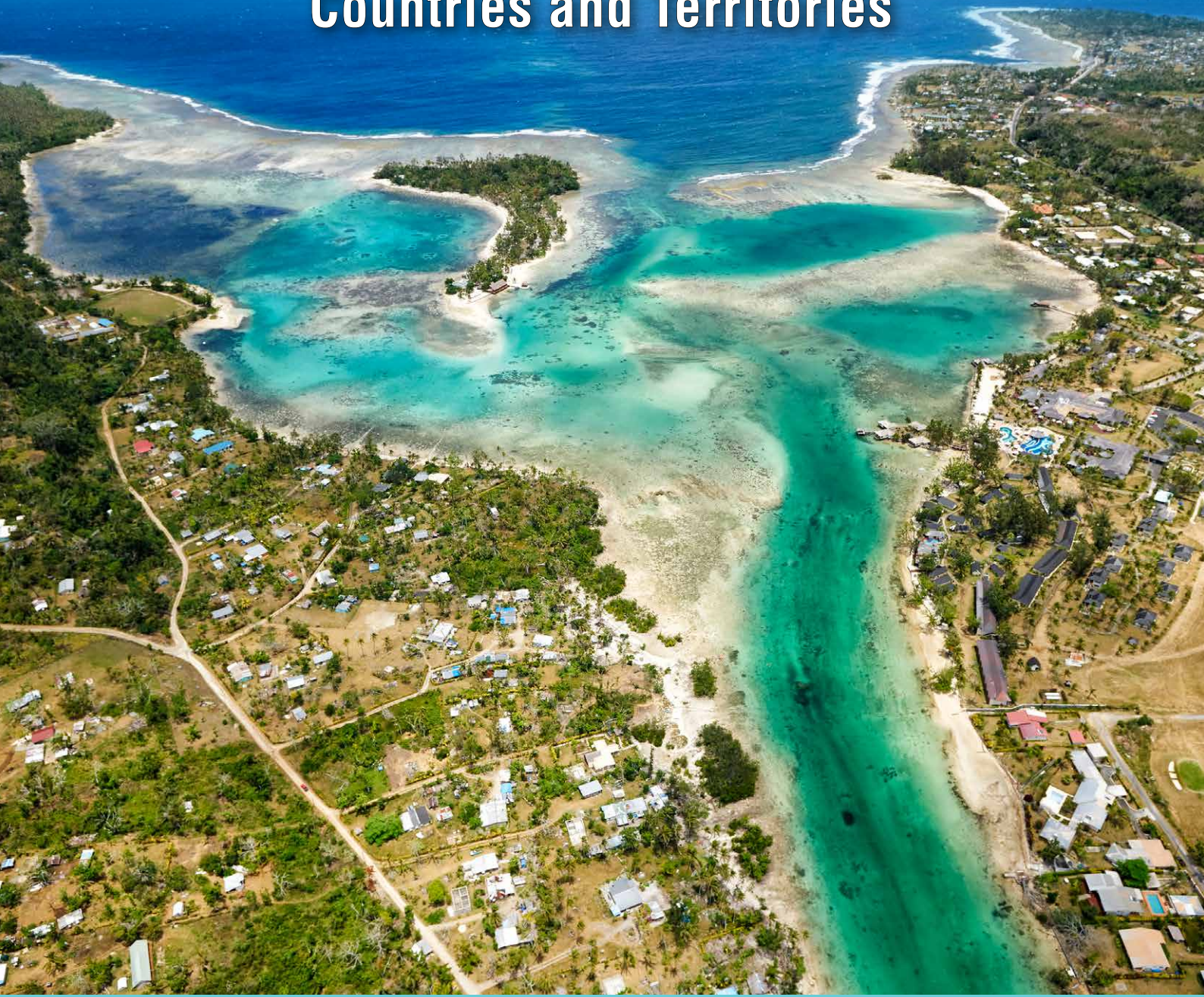


# STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## Guidelines for Pacific Island Countries and Territories



**SPREP**  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
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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.



PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa

+685 21929

[sprep@sprep.org](mailto:sprep@sprep.org)

[www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)

*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.

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

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



A stylized handwritten signature in black ink.

**Mr Kosi Latu**  
Director General,  
SPREP

## Abbreviations

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

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