

SPREP Regional Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDS) Data Sharing and Exchange Policy (DSEP)

1. Purpose

1.1. The purpose of this Data Sharing and Exchange Policy (DSEP) is to provide a framework for accessing, exchanging and sharing of data between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), its member countries and territories¹ and other relevant individuals, institutions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that collate information collected under the Regional Turtle Tagging Programme² and hosted in the Regional Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (hereafter referred to as TREDS).

2. The Turtle Research Database System

2.1. TREDS is part of SPREP's Regional Pacific Islands Marine Species Programme. Its development is a collaborative effort among SPREP, the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council (WPRFMC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Marine Research Foundation (MRF) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC).

2.2. TREDS aims to be the overarching regional database system for marine turtle research and monitoring carried out by SPREP member countries and territories, and brings together and manages data from various governments, NGOs and community groups who undertake turtle research, monitoring and tagging.

3. Responsibilities

3.1. The following provisions provide procedures and conditions for effective operations and management of TREDS. All data and information provided by parties to SPREP will be stored in TREDS.

A. SPREP

A.1 SPREP will compile data received and report annually to its member countries and territories on their respective information (i.e. turtle tag inventories, including recovered tags, results of mapping and other activities) held in the regional TREDS (refer to reporting schedule);

A.2 SPREP will provide updates on any new developments of TREDS and provide technical support relating to TREDS and turtle tagging;

¹ American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna

² Started in the early 1990s, whereby SPREP began providing flipper tags and tagging equipment, and technical assistance to its member for national turtle tagging programmes, these programmes were in turn initiated to assist in gaining information on marine turtle nesting, foraging and migration patterns in order to formulate strategies at the regional level for their conservation, recovery where necessary, and their management.

- A.3 SPREP will provide turtle tags and tagging equipment to its member Pacific Island countries and territories for national turtle tagging programmes;
- A.4 SPREP will provide updates on any tagged turtle's history that is reported to SPREP by any individual or relevant parties;
- A.5 SPREP will utilise information collated by TREDS to assist its members in addressing key areas³ for turtle conservation, recovery (where necessary), and management at the national and regional level as specified under the themes of the Regional Marine Turtle Action Plan⁴ ;
- A.6 SPREP will process requests from the Pacific region on information in Regional TREDS once approval has been obtained from the data source/owner(s).

B. Data owners/source⁵

- B.1 All SPREP members and relevant partners working in the Pacific region are encouraged to use TREDS as their main national turtle research database system;
- B.2 Each party providing data to SPREP for inclusion in TREDS will be responsible for managing the data quality of information and the provision of datasheets to their respective national tagging programmes
- B.3 Each party providing data to SPREP for inclusion in the Regional TREDS will be responsible for handling data requests on data held in their respective national TREDS or other database;
- B.4 Each party providing data to SPREP will be required to classify their data based on the data classification in Annex 1;
- B.5 Each party that recovers or receives a recovered tag locally is responsible for reporting this tag recovery to SPREP to be included in the TREDS;
- B.6 Each party that utilises the TREDS and turtle tags provided by SPREP is responsible for providing SPREP with an annual report on their respective turtle tagging records, including tag inventory and recovered tags⁶, and other activities (refer to reporting schedule), noting that the re-issue of tags and tag applicators is dependent on this reporting, and an updated TREDS file containing all new data;
- B.7 Each party whose projects have been assisted either financially or through the provision of technical expertise from SPREP is responsible for providing SPREP with detailed tagging data (as part of reporting) for inclusion into the regional TREDS; and
- B.8 All SPREP members are free to request technical and management advice and training from SPREP on turtle research and the TREDS at any time.

³Some of the outputs include the production of public awareness activities and materials such as posters, updating webpage information and the production of reports and maps for management

⁴ The Regional Marine Turtle Action Plan is one of the action plans of the SPREP Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme and is accessible online at http://www.sprep.org/publication/pub_detail.asp?id=597 or email sprep@sprep.org.

⁵ Controls access to information; carry the primary responsibility for corporate information requirements; controls release of unpublished data. Data owners work with data managers or custodians to actually deliver data to the user

⁶ Recovered turtle tags should be forwarded to SPREP as they are collected.

C. Data Users⁷

- C.1 Any information obtained through TREDIS and data sources will be publicly and duly acknowledged, with copies of any publications, products and other outputs derived (including in part) from the data source to be made available for free to SPREP and the member country or territory where that data originated;
- C.2 Each party utilising information obtained through this policy must seek approval prior to use of data (based on data classification in Annex 1) for any other purpose other than that for which the data was initially given;
- C.3 Release of data from the Regional TREDIS will be based on the data classification detailed in Annex 1.
- C.4 Each party utilising the data held in TREDIS must respect any restrictions on the use of data;
- C.5 Any information obtained from TREDIS will not be used for profit generation unless authorisation is specifically given by the data source/owner. If a party is found in contravention of this clause, they shall be subject to the national information policies of and/or copyright laws of the countries or territories that own the information; and
- C.6 There is no guarantee that all information requested from the TREDIS will be available⁸

4. Recommended Citation

- 4.1 Data obtained from TREDIS should be cited in the following format
Data source, country/territory. Year Accessed. Project Name. (Accessed through the Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDIS), DD-MMM-YYYY).
- 4.2 For example; Wan Smolbag Theatre, Vanuatu. 2008. WSB Vanua-Tai Marine Turtle Monitoring Project (Accessed through the Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDIS), 22-Dec-2008)

5. Data Reporting/Exchange Schedule for SPREP member countries and territories

- 5.1 All parties utilising TREDIS are requested provide their datasets preferably as a TREDIS_data_@@.mdb file. In the event this is not possible, other formats would be accepted and converted for inclusion in TREDIS.

⁷ Anyone who wants to utilise the data held in TREDIS

⁸ Release of information is based how data is classified by data owners/sources (refer to Annex 1)

5.2 Schedule for the delivery of annual data sets is set out in the table below:

Countries and territories	Data to be sent to SPREP	SPREP to send report to TREDs focal point
American Samoa Australia ⁹ Cooks Islands Fiji French Polynesia Kiribati New Caledonia New Zealand Niue Papua New Guinea Samoa Solomon Islands Tokelau Tuvalu Vanuatu Wallis et Futuna	By 30 th April	By 31 st May
Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands Federated States of Micronesia Guam Palau Republic of Marshall Islands United States of America ¹⁰	By 31 st October	By 30 th November

Annex 1

- 1) Data classification
 - a) Published data
 - i) Public Domain
 - b) Unpublished data
 - i) Restricted (authorisation required from owner)
 - ii) Case-by-case basis (owner to authorise SPREP to decide on a case- by-case basis)
 - c) Raw data
 - i) Restricted

^{9,10} Australia and the United States have their own tagging programmes but both are members of SPREP and regularly exchange recovery data with the SPREP Secretariat.