



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Twentieth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa

17 – 20 November 2009



## **Agenda Item 9.1.2: Regional Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDS) Data Sharing and Exchange Policy**

### **Purpose of paper**

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek endorsement from the Meeting of the Regional Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDS) Data Sharing and Exchange Policy (DSEP) and appended as Attachment 1 (refer to WP.9.1.2/Att.1).

### **Background**

2. TREDS is part of the Regional Marine Species Programme and it aims to be the overarching database system for turtle research and monitoring carried out by SPREP member countries and territories. It is a tool that can be used to bring together and manage data from various governments, NGO's and community groups who undertake turtle research, monitoring and tagging.

3. More specifically, TREDS can be used at the country level to collate and perform simple analysis on data collected from turtle surveys and generate reports to assist in informed decision-making for turtle conservation and management. At the regional level TREDS can be used to collate data, provide backup services to SPREP members and identify trends in turtle populations and migration patterns in the Pacific region.

4. In the 2003-2007 Marine Turtle Action Plan (MTAP), SPREP member countries and territories tasked the SPREP secretariat to coordinate the upgrade and update of the regional marine turtle database and assist members with database operational service. Furthermore, Theme 8 of the current 2008-2012 MTAP identifies various actions to be carried out by both the SPREP members and the secretariat to ensure implementation of TREDS in the region.

5. Action 8.1 of the 2008-2011 MTAP identifies the need for a TREDS Data Sharing and Exchange Policy and Protocol to ensure its effective operations and management. The SPREP Secretariat was tasked to lead in the development of such a policy to be reviewed by SPREP members and the submission of the policy for endorsement by the SPREP meeting. The draft policy was circulated to all member countries and territories in December 2008 for review before finalization.

6. The purpose of the policy is to provide a framework for accessing data exchange between the SPREP secretariat, SPREP members and other relevant individuals, institutions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that collate information under the SPREP regional turtle tagging programme and hosted in TREDIS.

7. TREDIS 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) – Malaysia and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC). The development of TREDIS and its implementation through the SPREP Secretariat is fully funded by the WPRFMC.

8. TREDIS is currently available for download from the SPREP website <http://www.sprep.org/treds/TREDSnews.aspx>. SPREP member countries and territories are encouraged to use TREDIS for turtle monitoring activities and to contact the secretariat for more information on TREDIS.

### **Recommendation**

9. The Meeting is invited to:

- **endorse** the Regional Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDIS) Data Sharing and Exchange Policy.