



# Linking Land, Coasts and Oceans

## Integrated coastal and watershed management in the Pacific Islands

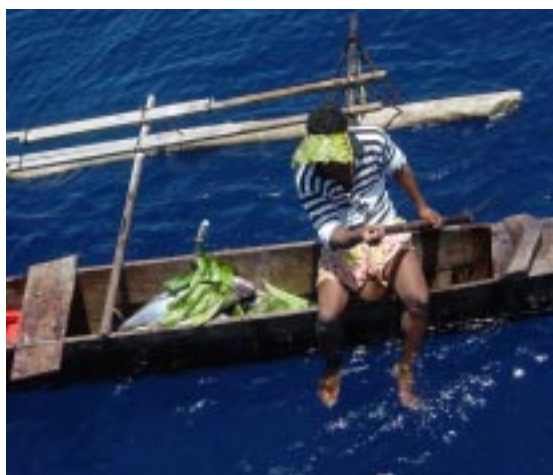
### Factsheet

# Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Integrated coastal and watershed management (ICWM) in Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) seeks to strengthen policy, science, methods and information for decision-making that respects the links between catchment and coastal processes.

*ICWM is a strategic approach to integrated environment and development, and natural resource planning, that fosters and supports:*

- sustainable use of coastal and watershed ecosystems
- collaboration between Government departments
- transparent and accountable decision-making
- broad engagement of all stakeholders
- empowerment of coastal and watershed communities
- valuing traditional knowledge and customary practice
- accessibility to quality information



### Why strengthen ICWM initiatives in Pacific SIDS?

Past approaches to managing coastal and watershed processes have not been successful in terms of ensuring sustainability or minimising threats to the environment. The quality and functions of Pacific Island coastal and watershed environments continue to decline. ICWM connects these ecosystems and offers potential to address these risks. Integration of coastal and watershed considerations is essential to secure sustainable development in Pacific SIDS.

### International and regional arrangements

Pacific Island countries draw on a large number of international arrangements to guide ICWM work in the region. These include:

- Chapter 17 of Agenda 21
- Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly the 1995 Jakarta Mandate
- 1994 Barbados Programme of Action
- 1995 Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
- 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
- 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development



The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is an intergovernmental organisation that works to protect and improve the Pacific islands' environment, and promote sustainable development and cooperation.

SPREP is based in Apia, Samoa.

### **Regional initiatives include:**

- 1986 Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the Pacific Islands Region
- SPREP Agreement of 1993
- 2002 Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy and its associated Framework for Integrated Action (finalised in 2004)

### **Current regional ICWM initiatives**

SPREP's 'Pacific Futures' Programme component, *Environmental Policy and Planning*, aims to build institutional capacity among SIDS to establish integrated planning systems to accommodate ecosystems approaches such as ICWM.

At the policy and practice level the International Waters Project (IWP), based at SPREP, has engaged 14 Pacific SIDS in ICWM initiatives since 2002. IWP is working with communities to address the root cause for threats posed by poor waste management, threats to the quality of freshwater and unsustainable use of coastal resources. IWP is also working with other stakeholders at the national level to strengthen policy, institutional arrangements and legislation in support of ICWM.

### **Looking to the future**

SPREP, SOPAC and SPC under the auspices of the Marine Sector Working Group, are actively exploring options to promote ICWM both nationally and regionally. The following

Guiding Principles for ICWM in Pacific SIDs provide the basis for these initiatives:

- Ecosystem based management
- Inspired leadership supporting integrated and coordinated legislation, policy, planning and implementation
- Transparent and accountable decision making
- Informed adaptive management based on continuous learning
- Traditional knowledge and customary practices valued and applied in coastal management approaches
- Participatory and equitable approaches to coastal management
- Optimal benefit sharing among all stakeholders
- Stewardship of coastal resources providing for future generations
- Effective communications for sharing information and fostering partnerships
- On-going capacity development at all levels

### **SPREP Agreement of 1993**

The SPREP Agreement of 1993 requires the generation of an Action Plan as the principal reference for the preparation of SPREP's work programme. This Action Plan was first formulated for Pacific SIDs in 1972 under the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.

Other Pacific Island inter-governmental organisations working on ICWM processes include the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the South Pacific Applied Geosciences Commission (SOPAC). The Ocean Policy's Framework for Action urges more attention to ICWM particularly to renew efforts to establish activities under the 1995 GPA.



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