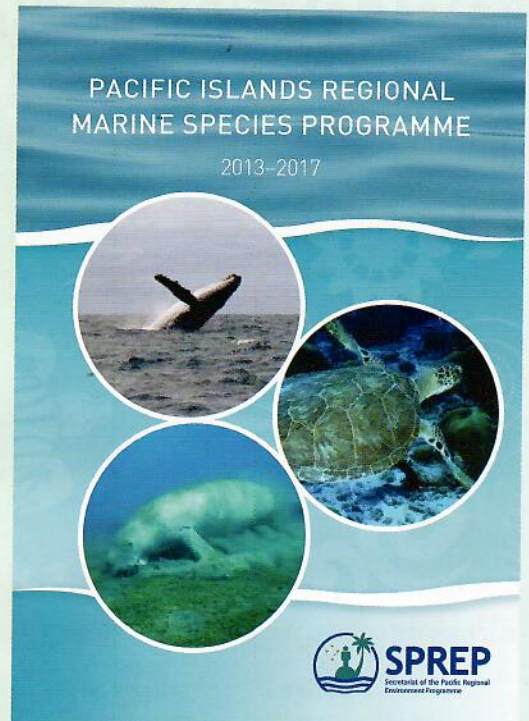


SPREP'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CMS

SPREP has had a long and close relationship with CMS, including the location of a CMS Pacific Officer at SPREP for several years until 2016. Over the past three years, SPREP has been collaborating with the CMS Dugong Secretariat on a dugong/seagrass conservation programme in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

SPREP provides technical support to its Members who are CMS Parties – for example, assistance was given to Fiji in preparing the proposal to list nine species of mobula rays on Appendix II and for their inclusion in the MoU on Migratory Sharks. Support has also been provided to Samoa to prepare their proposal at COP 12 to list blue sharks on Appendix II.

SPREP's Marine Species Programme contains Action Plans to guide its members in the development and implementation of strategies for the conservation of threatened migratory species. These plans are developed for a 5-year period and have traditionally covered Whales and Dolphins, Dugong and Turtles. For the period 2018–2022, a new Action Plan will be added for Sharks and Rays.



ALIGNMENT WITH THE CMS MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

SPREP's Marine Species Programme is closely aligned with various CMS MoUs, namely:

Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region

Signed by 14 SPREP Members

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs (Dugong dugon) and their Habitats throughout their Range

Signed by all 6 SPREP Range States

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks

Signed by 10 SPREP Members

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia

Signed by 5 SPREP Members

SPREP and the CMS Secretariat attempt to align the Action Plans of the SPREP Marine Species Programme with the Action Plans of these MoUs wherever possible. Because many species listed on these plans migrate thousands of kilometres across the jurisdictions of several countries as well as through international waters, for conservation measures to be successful it is vital that all Range States adopt a similar approach and share conservation strategies.



SPREP PRIORITIES FOR CMS COP 12

SPREP's priorities for COP 12 have been shaped by the interests of our Members and recent events, including the UN Ocean Conference and the events around the Year of the Whale in the Pacific islands. SPREP will take a particular interest in discussions and resolutions that involve the iconic species in our marine species programme 2018-2022, namely cetaceans, dugong, turtles, sharks and rays. We will also seek to collaborate with the CMS Secretariat, stakeholders and supporters who may wish to work with us to enhance the conservation of these species in the Pacific islands region.

SPREP will engage positively and present a Pacific perspective in discussions, especially on the following agenda items:

- the management of marine debris
- underwater noise and its impact on cetaceans and other marine wildlife
- boat-based wildlife-watching and in-water interaction with aquatic mammals
- the role of ecological networks in the conservation of migratory species
- conservation of critical coastal habitat for migratory species
- proposal for the inclusion of species on Appendix I and/or II
- bycatch
- aquatic wild meat
- live captures of cetaceans
- climate change and migratory species
- sustainable tourism and migratory species
- community participation and livelihoods

Several of these issues were incorporated in the Voluntary Commitments made by SPREP and various Members to the UN Ocean Conference in June 2017.

SPREP will also host two side events on the evening of Tuesday 24 October in Room 4, to celebrate the **Year of the Whale in the Pacific islands** and the evening of Thursday 26 October in Room 5 on **Our Ocean, Our Sharks, Our Future** – please join us!

For more information please contact sprep@sprep.org

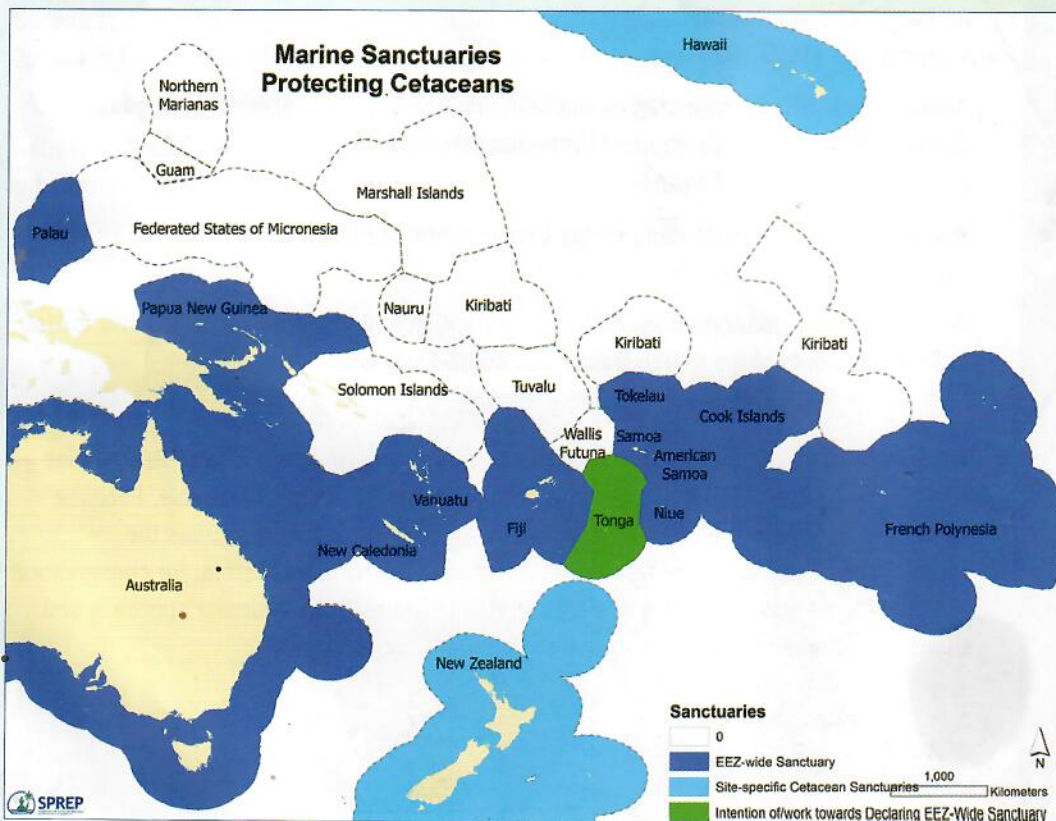


Figure 3: Whale sanctuaries in the Pacific region.