



Sustainable, transformative and resilient for a **Blue Pacific**

STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT Guidelines for Pacific Island Countries and Territories





Who Is SPREP?



- **SPREP is the regional organisation- protecting and managing the environment and natural resources of the Pacific. The Headquarters is based in Apia, Samoa. SPREP offices in Fiji, the Republic of the Marshalls Islands and Vanuatu**

SPREP Vision: A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Principal concern: Climate Change

Cross cutting theme: The Ocean

SPREP Strategic Priorities:

1. Climate Change Resilience
2. Ecosystem and Biodiversity Protection
3. Waste Management and Pollution Control
4. Environmental Monitoring and Governance

- 2017-2026 SPREP Strategic Plan.

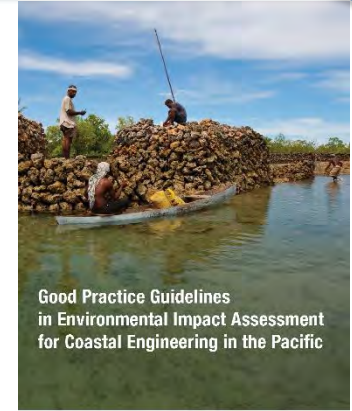
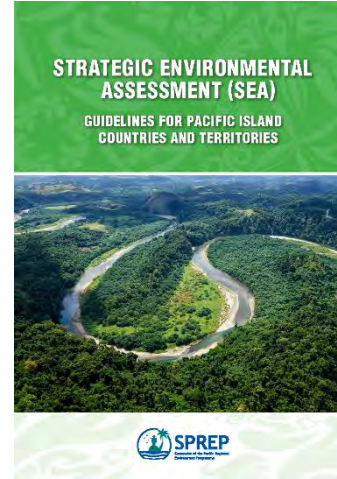
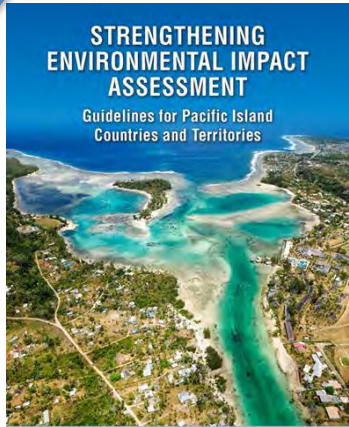


- Services to 21 Pacific Islands SPREP Member countries and territories. Five metropolitan countries (Australia, France, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States of America)

30 SPREP PROE

Sustainable, transformative and resilient for a Blue Pacific

Environmental Assessment Guidelines in the Pacific and SDGs

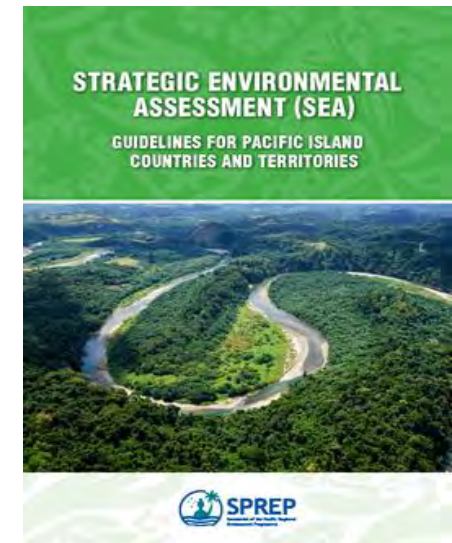




Sustainable, transformative and resilient for a Blue Pacific

The Regional SEA Guidelines in the Pacific

- The Pacific region faces complex environmental challenges, including those related to climate change, land use change, management of waste, and the conservation of biodiversity, governance and monitoring of these issues.
- The SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026 has identified Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as a tool for strengthening national sustainable development planning to assist SPREP and its members.
- SEA provides a systematic process required to be fully integrated into the preparations of development plans, proposed sector policies and strategies, and development programmes prior to their final adoption.
- Ensures environmental assessment is fully embedded in broader national and sectoral policy, planning and programmes to achieve sustainable development at a much larger scale.
- The SEA Guidelines was endorsed by the SPREP Council in 2020





Sustainable, transformative and resilient for a Blue Pacific

History of SEA in the Pacific

- Recognized in developed countries but not widely recognized or used in the Pacific.
- Whilst SEA might be a relatively new concept in our region, it has been around since the late 1960s.

Some examples in our region:

- ❑ In 1996, SPREP conducted an SEA for development projects proposed for the town of Neiafu, on the island of Vava'u, Tonga, as part of the Vava'u Development Programme;
- ❑ In 2001, SPREP, Asia Pacific and Sea Australia conducted an SEA and evaluated potential future shoreline impacts of oil spills from the WWII shipwreck Hoyo Maru on Chuuk Lagoon in the Federated States of Micronesia;
- ❑ In 2003, the World-Wide Fund for Nature conducted an; and SEA for Fiji's Tourism Development Plan in collaboration with the Ministry for Tourism
- ❑ Recently in 2018, the Federated States of Micronesia initiated an SEA process to support integrated land and sea planning and management

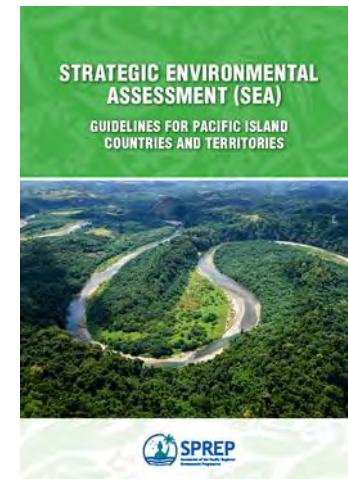




Sustainable, transformative and resilient for a Blue Pacific

The Structure of the Guidelines

- Introduction, Purpose and Target audience
- Overview of Strategic Environmental Assessment
- What is Strategic Environmental Assessment?
- How Can SEA be Used and examples of SEA in the Pacific
- The Benefits of SEA?
- Who should do SEA, Stakeholder and Public Engagement
- SEA Process Screening and Scoping
- Decisions/Adoption of the Policy, Plan or Program
- Strategic Environmental Assessment Toolkit



The purpose of the SEA Guidelines in the Region

- **Guidelines for Pacific Island Countries and Territories’** has been prepared to provide guidance on the application of SEA as a tool to support environmental planning, policy and informed decision making.
- It provides background on the use and benefits of SEA as well as providing tips and guiding steps on the process, including case studies, toolkits and checklists for conducting an SEA in the Appendices.
- The guidelines are intended to assist the national and local authorities such as Environment Agencies and National Planning Offices, development control agencies, municipal authorities, provincial administrations and Strategic Development Offices in Pacific Island Countries and Territories



What is SEA and how it can be used?

1. SEA is a means of systematically evaluating the environmental and socio-economic impacts of Policies, Plans and Programmes (PPP).
2. SEA is a process that can be used in three main ways:
 - To prepare a strategic development or resource use plan for a defined land and/or ocean area;
 - To examine the potential environmental impacts upon the implementation of government PPP; and
 - To assess different classes or types of development projects, so as to produce general environmental management policies or design guidelines for the development classes/types.



SEA helps decision makers:

- **informed decisions that are strategically sound;**
- **achieve environmentally sound and sustainable development through improved planning and programming;**
- **save time and money by avoiding costly mistakes and severe environmental effects;**
- **to identify new opportunities for development;**
- **to ensure efficiency and transparency of decision-making;**
- **to strengthen governance and build public trust and confidence in decision making**

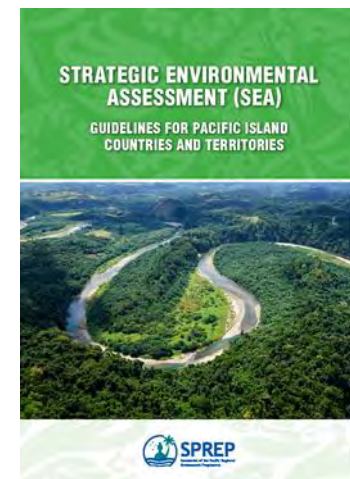




Sustainable, transformative and resilient for a Blue Pacific

Regional Perspective and Challenges

- The SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026 has identified SEA as a tool for strengthening national sustainable development planning.
- In the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Preparatory Meeting and negotiations, SEA and EIA are identified as key elements of the International Legally Binding Instrument that will govern activities beyond our exclusive economic zones (Support to member countries).
- Environment and Social Safeguard Systems of SPREP Projects and programmes with other partners.
- Emerging Uses
- SPREP member countries capacity building – Training etc
- National Adoption into decision making process (Political, Budgetary, Policies, Support from development Partners and Environmental Agencies-eg SPREP.
- Partnership in strengthening and developing national guidelines and polices, awareness and training on its application (IAIA, NZAIA, World Bank, ADB, University of the South Pacific, ACP/MEA, Member Countries)



**Vinaka
Fa'afetai
Thank you
Merci**

