

FORMAT FOR NATIONAL REPORTS BY THE PARTIES TO THE NOUMEA CONVENTION

*For the Period covering the last two years: **July 2021 to June 2023***

1. What are the main issues and priorities concerning marine pollution for your country?
You can attach relevant sections of annual reports, policy documents etc.
The main issues encountered regarding marine pollution is the capacity to conduct researches for appropriate solutions in plastic/marine litter. There is a need to map out hotspots of plastic pollution around Samoa's ocean to indicate the level of pollution to determine appropriate mitigation measures to minimize plastic leakage into the marine environment.
We have conducted numerous coastal and river clean-ups in various communities and main rivers in Samoa.
2. What measures generally have you initiated to implement this Convention and Protocols?
Samoa has endorsed its Waste Management (Plastic Bag) Regulations 2018 to ban certain single use plastics (SUP) mainly plastic shopping bags, plastic packing bags, plastic straws and Styrofoam take away food containers. The Regulations will be reviewed and amended to include more plastic items in the future.
3. Give details of new or amended legislation that covers marine pollution beyond internal waters including any definition of 'pollution' and the institutions responsible.
Waste Management (Plastic Bag) Regulations 2018 was endorsed and came into effect in 1 January 2019 to ban plastic shopping bags, plastic packing bags and straws. The Regulations was amended in 2020 to include the ban on Styrofoam take away food containers. The Regulations prohibits the importation, manufacturing, exportation, selling and distribution in Samoa of the banned single use plastics.
4. What is the estimated volume/type of marine pollution per year in the Convention area from the following sources; the number of permits/licenses issued; and any other measures taken to *prevent, reduce and control* such pollution:

- a. vessels (**art. 6**)
- b. land based sources (**art. 7**)
- c. mining and coastal erosion, ie, dredging, land reclamation (**art. 14**)
- d. sea-bed and sub-soil activities (**art. 8**)
- e. discharges into atmosphere (**art. 9**)
- f. dumping and disposal from vessels, aircraft, man-made structures of waste including radioactive waste or matter (**art. 10**)
- g. the storage of toxic and hazardous wastes, including radioactive wastes or matter (**art. 11**)
- h. testing of nuclear devices (**art. 12**).

Samoa generates 2,370 tonnes of plastics per year. The distribution by sector/sources are as follows:

Commercial waste	1,161.3 tonnes
Household waste	948 tonnes
Tourism land waste	165.9 tonnes
Tourism cruise ships	4.74 tonnes
Tourism airline	94.8 tonnes
Fisheries	1.185 tonnes

5. Have you prohibited the storage and disposal of radioactive waste in the Convention area and the continental shelf beyond the Convention area? If so, what is the legislative provision and what is the penalty? (**art. 10**)

Yes.

Part V-DUMPING AND INCINERATION OF WASTES AT SEA, of the National Waste Management Act 2010 in Section 38 & 39 states that;

- 1) No waste may be dumped or incinerated at sea within the jurisdictional limits of Samoa:
 - a) In breach of the requirements of any Convention referred to in Section 15, or any Convention applying as part of the laws of Samoa by reason of any Act, and which relates to the dumping and incineration of wastes at sea or any other aspect of the regulation of waste disposal; and
 - b) Unless a permit for the dumping or incineration of wastes has been first obtained from the Ministry.
- 2) An application for a permit under subsection (1) shall be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer before any dumping or incineration of wastes is undertaken, and all such applications shall be in the form approved for the purpose by the Chief Executive Officer

6. What technical guidelines and legislation do you have concerning EIA of development activities likely to impact on the marine environment (**art. 16**)? How many assessments occurred, what were the measures adopted to prevent pollution and what was the extent of public involvement.

EIAs are mandated under PUMA Act 2004

EIAs assessed within 2022-2023 time period = approximately 60 EIAs assessed and approved

7. Outline the cooperation/coordination with the other Contracting Parties in implementing the Convention and Protocols (such as agreements for protection, development or management of the marine environment, information sharing, research, monitoring and technical assistance, protection against the threat and effects of 'pollution incidents' (**arts. 4, 17, and 18**)).

MNRE is responsible for the technical implementation of the convention in relation to the environmental impacts from pollution incidents.

8. How many 'pollution incidents' have there been and what were the laws, regulations, institutions and operational procedures used in each? (**Protocol on Pollution Emergencies**)

No Pollution incidents happened in this reporting period.

9. What are the reporting requirements regarding 'pollution incidents' of:

- a. Government officials;
 - b. Masters of vessels flying your flag; and
 - c. Masters of all vessels and pilots of all aircraft in the vicinity of your coasts (**art. 5**).
- Reporting requirements is through government officials with the support of SPREP and other relevant regional / donor partners.**

Endorsed by the Fourth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Apia and Noumea Conventions, 1998, paragraph 43 of the Report. National Reports to be lodged biennially and deposited with SPREP no less than three months prior to the Ordinary Meeting of the Parties.