

PERMANENT COMMISSION FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Marine environment and marine resources

The Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) has developed a comprehensive and multidisciplinary training program for building regional capacities on Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) and governance issues on pilot sites (Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile), each of one representing a different ecosystem and a variety of interests from the economic and social sectors involved. Through a participatory process, in which multitasking groups and crosscut stakeholders were involved, it has been paved the way for the region to create its own EBM.

Municipal Action Plans on marine litter in the Southeast Pacific

Within the framework of the Regional Programme for the Integrated Management of Marine Litter in the Southeast Pacific, CPPS, with the support of GPA-UNEP, promoted the design of municipal action plans on marine litter in coastal communities of the South-East Pacific (Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile), aimed at involving town authorities and local stakeholders in finding solutions to the problems caused by marine debris in their communities. In planning workshops participants evaluated local problems, analyzed potential solutions and defined responsibilities. On that basis, tailor-made Action Plans were designed which were later adopted by local authorities through letters of endorsement or municipal resolutions. It is expected that this pilot phase will encourage countries upscaling the approach at national level. This approach is in line with targets A and B of the Honolulu Strategy to reduced amount and impact of land and sea-based sources of marine debris and solid waste in the marine environment.

Marine science – Tsunamis warning systems

To strengthen regional coordination mechanisms on early tsunamis warning systems, CPPS agreed a Regional Communication Protocol and built a virtual Platform (SRAT-PS) between the National Tsunami Warning Centers of the Southeast Pacific. The Platform is fully operational on line with PTWS for product enhancement and tested periodically through regional exercises.

ENSO

CPPS continued strengthening the understanding of the ocean-atmospheric interactions and their variability, consolidating the regional study of “El Niño South Oscillation” (ENSO). The 17th Joint Regional Cruise (Sep.-Oct. 2014) collected relevant oceanographic and atmospheric data that enables forecasting the occurrence of an ENSO event.