

Convention on Biological Diversity

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Sub-Regional Workshop for the Pacific Countries on Strengthening National Contributions to Global Environmental Commitments Through the Synergistic Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements

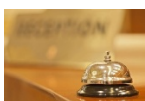
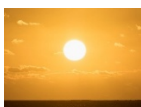
Apia, Samoa, 26-28 May 2025

Sub-Regional Dialogue for the Pacific Small Island Developing States on Biodiversity Monitoring and Reporting

Apia, Samoa, 29 and 30 May 2025

Information Note for Participants


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1. Opening and registration

The Sub-regional workshop for the Pacific countries on strengthening national contributions to global environmental commitments through the synergistic implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and the Subregional dialogue for the Pacific small island developing States on biodiversity monitoring and reporting, jointly organized by UNEP, SCBD and SPREP will be held in Apia, Samoa from Monday, 26 May to Friday, 30 May 2025.

The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, 26 May, and registration will take place at the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) Conference Room at 8:30 a.m. the same day.

2. Venue

The workshop and dialogue will be held at:

Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC)

SPREP Headquarters

Conference room

Vailima, Apia

Samoa

Tel: +685 21929

E-mail: sprep@sprep.org

Website: <https://www.sprep.org>

3. Working language of the meeting

The meeting will be held in English.

4. Documents

Participants are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the documents for the workshop and the dialogue as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the workshop and the dialogue. Documents will be made available on the Secretariat's web site at the following links:

Sub-regional workshop for the Pacific countries on strengthening national contributions to global environmental commitments through the synergistic implementation of multilateral environmental agreements: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SYN-WS-2025-01>

Subregional dialogue for the Pacific small island developing States on biodiversity monitoring and reporting: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/NBSAP-OM-2025-02>

5. General information on access to Apia, Samoa



Apia is serviced by Faleolo International Airport (approximately 28 km from Apia). Taxis are available at the airport at a cost of approximately WS \$80- 100 (approx. US \$25) depending on the location and distance of your hotel from the airport.

Apia is serviced by Faleolo International Airport (approximately 28 km from Apia). Taxis are available at the airport at a cost of approximately WS \$65 (approx. US \$26) and takes about 45 minutes. The specialized airport bus serves major hotels in Apia and costs WS \$12 each way and takes about 40-45 minutes. Some hotels offer airport pick-up services for a fixed fee. When booking your accommodation, we recommend checking with the hotel to see if airport transfers are available.

6. Visa information & Entry Requirements



Participants from all nationalities traveling to Samoa are not required to obtain an entry permit/visa for stays less than 60 days. Information is available on the website of the, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Government of Samoa: <https://www.mfat.gov.ws/visas/>. However, all visitors must:

- hold a passport valid for 6 months or more at the time of entry into Samoa.
- have a return or onward ticket,
- copy of a bank statement,
- no record of deportation from other countries,
- no health problems that would pose a risk to Samoa.

A list of relevant Samoan diplomatic/consular missions abroad can be found on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade at: <http://www.mfat.gov.ws/embassies/overseas-missions/>.

7. Health Requirements

A yellow fever vaccination is only required from travellers coming from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission.

For more information on vaccination requirements for Samoa, please consult a medical professional prior to your travel. It is recommended to secure international medical, accident and travel insurance for the period of participation.

8. Hotel information

A list of hotels near the venue are listed in the annex below, participants are requested to make their own reservations either using the annex or any other hotel of their choice in Apia, Samoa as soon as possible.

Further information on hotels in and around Apia is available at the website of the Samoa Tourism Authority as follows: <http://www.samoa.travel/>

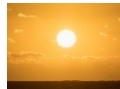
9. Mobile Connection

Upon arrival at the airport, you will find mobile network providers Vodafone and Digicel in the arrivals area. Both offer SIM cards and prepaid credit for purchase. Mobile network providers are also available in Apia town area.

10. Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)

Participants eligible to receive daily subsistence allowances (DSAs) from UNEP will be paid in accordance with the United Nations financial rules. To facilitate the payment process, eligible participants are kindly requested to bring their passport and boarding passes to the workshop venue. DSA will be distributed on site during the workshop. It is advisable that participants have some cash at hand to cover expenses that may occur between their arrival and receiving their DSA.

11. Official languages in Samoa



There are two official languages in Samoa: Samoan and English.

12. Weather and time zone information

In May average temperatures in Apia range between +30°C in the daytime and +23°C at night. The current weather conditions may be found at <https://worldweather.wmo.int/en/city.html?cityId=1230>.

The standard time zone in Apia in May will be WST (West Samoa Time) which is GMT/UTC +13 hours.

13. Electricity

The electrical currents are 230 volts, 50 Hertz and the plug type (I) is shown below.



14. Banking & Currency



The currency in Samoa is the Samoan Tala (WST). The current exchange rate as at 16 April is US \$1 = WST \$3.17 and (Euro) € 1 = WST \$2.79 (source: www.xe.com, rates fluctuate regularly).

There are several foreign and currency exchange services at the arrivals terminal, such as counters for Western Union – Number 1 Currency, and the Bank of South Pacific along with several ATMs located within the arrival terminal. It is advisable to convert some funds before leaving the airport to cover expenses until DSA is received.

Please note the most used currency in Samoa is the Samoan Tala. Credit cards are widely accepted at major hotels and large supermarkets but are rarely accepted in small stores. Banking hours are typically from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

15. Disclaimer

The co-organizers of the workshop and the dialogue disclaim all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, for compensation for death or disability compensation, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended to secure international medical, accident and travel insurance for the period of participation prior to departure.

Annex - Hotel listing

Hotel/Accommodation	Distance (venue)	Contact Details
<u>Le Manumea Hotel</u>	<i>3 minutes' drive to SPREP Headquarters.</i>	E-mail: lemanumeahotel@gmail.com https://www.lemanumeahotel.com
<u>Lynn's Getaway</u>	<i>5 minutes' drive to SPREP Headquarters.</i>	Contact: lynnsgetaway.com / visit their Facebook page
<u>Samoan Outrigger Hotel</u>	<i>5 minutes' drive to SPREP Headquarters.</i>	Tel: +685 20042 E-mail: outrigger@samoa.ws
<u>Insel Fehmarn Hotel</u>	<i>5 minutes' drive to SPREP Headquarters.</i>	Tel: +685 23301 E-mail: reservations@inselfehmarn.ws inselfehmarn.com
<u>Vaea Hotel</u>	<i>5 minutes' drive to SPREP Headquarters.</i>	Tel: +685 33001 or +685 33002 E-mail: stay@travellerspointhotel.com Website: www.travellerspointhotel.com
<u>Travellers Point Hotel</u>	<i>5 minutes to SPREP Headquarters by taxi.</i>	Tel: +685 33001 or +685 33002 E-mail: stay@travellerspointhotel.com Website: www.travellerspointhotel.com
<u>Lava Hotel</u>	<i>15 minutes' drive to SPREP Headquarters.</i>	Tel: +685 844 5282 E-mail: reservations@lavahotel.ws Website: https://www.lavahotel.ws
<u>Amanaki Hotel</u>	<i>15 minutes' drive to SPREP Headquarters.</i>	Tel: +685 27889 E-mail: contact@amanakihotel.com Website: http://www.amanakihotel.com
<u>Tanoa Tusitala Hotel</u>	<i>15 minutes' drive to SPREP Headquarters.</i>	Tel: +685 21122 E-mail: tusitala@tanoahotels.com Website: https://www.tanoahotels.com/tanoa-tusitala-hotel/
<u>Taumeasina Hotel</u>	<i>20 minutes' drive to SPREP Headquarters.</i>	Tel: +685 61000 E-mail: Info@taumeasinaislandresortsamoa.com Website: https://www.taumeasinaislandresortsamoa.com
