

**Mr. Lelei Peau**  
**Deputy Director**  
**Department of Commerce, American Samoa**

**Hawaii and Pacific Islands Regional Meeting**  
**Follow-Up Questions**

Question

During the question and answer session following your testimony, you noted that there is both a domestic and an international agenda regarding coral reef protection and conservation-one represented by the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and the other by the South Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP). You also noted that the lessons learned from the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force are being passed on to SPREP by shared membership. The Commission would greatly appreciate if you would submit more detailed information on these two models.

Answer

The reference was made at this forum that existing models are currently in operation. I was referring to our network within the Pacific region under the auspices of the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP). The cooperation within this regional framework offers a unique opportunity to engage on wider issues that affect the common use of the Pacific Oceanic region. As a member country to the organization it offers the territories such as American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and Guam to cooperate on common issues, share approaches and management resources. Additionally, the American Samoa Government always extends invitations to the SPREP director and member countries to attend environmental workshops and conferences in the territory. In reference to the US Coral Reef Task Force, the All Island's Coral Reef Coordinating Group is similar in it's functions in that each island has an appointed Governor's Point of Contact who serve as a advisory body to the governments of AS, CNMI, Guam, PR, US Virgin Islands etc. There are extensive write ups on both of these regional models that I can forward. Should you want more information on SPREP, you can go to the website and search under [www.SPREP.org](http://www.SPREP.org).