

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS ON THE
GUIDANCE TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS [\(ISBA/29/C/10\)](#)**

Please fill out one form for each textual proposal which your delegation(s) wish(es) to amend, add or delete and send to: uemmr-secretariat@isa.org.im

1. Name(s) of Delegation(s) making the proposal:

Apete Soro

2. Please provide general comments where applicable here:

The delegation from Fiji acknowledges and appreciates the work by the LTC in revising the draft standardized procedure for the development, establishment and review of regional environmental management plans. Also, the template with the minimum requirements, and the recommendations on technical guidance to support the practical implementation of the standardized procedure and template. Fiji supports the work of the LTC and commended the outcome statements in ISBA/29/C/24 report. Due to the importance of the report and the draft revised standardized procedure for development, establishment and review of REMP (ISBA/29/C/10), Fiji seeks clarifications on some of the paragraphs as noted below.

3. Kindly provide specific textual in the text box below, using the “track changes” function in Microsoft Word. Please only reproduce the parts of the text that are being amended or deleted.

As a member of the council Fiji would like to submit its comments as per the draft REMP under ISBA/29/C/10.

6. The Council is responsible for the adoption and review of regional environmental management plans for all mineral provinces in the Area where exploration is taking place. The Council ~~may~~ request the Commission to develop such plans.

Commented [AS1]: Clarification if the Council can request other body/organization to develop such plans.

7. ~~A regional environmental management plan~~ shall be adopted for the particular area concerned before the Commission considers an application for a plan of work for exploitation.

Commented [AS2]: Clarification if this meant that more than one REMP may be considered on the same area.

9. The Commission, with assistance from the secretariat, should ensure that it has access to all available data. These data include:

(a) Contractor data and information submitted to the Authority that pertain to the region and are not deemed confidential, in accordance with the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority;

(b) Data and information, in particular from scientific projects, initiatives in the region, peer-reviewed articles and publicly accessible databases;

(c) Traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities;

Commented [AS3]: To consider including UCH

11. Experts should be brought together, including through workshops, and selected by the Commission on the basis of an expert and stakeholder mapping exercise, in accordance with the regional environmental management plan guidance document. The convening of experts should be focused on data synthesis and the development of scientific tools and approaches as guided by the Commission. The following objectives will be addressed:

(a) Define the appropriate regional environmental management plan area, drawing upon information on the geology, biogeography and oceanography of the region;

Commented [AS4]: Consider adding "cultural and traditional knowledge, UCH"

15. The Commission, with assistance from the secretariat, will prepare a draft regional environmental management plan on the basis of available data and the results of the deliberations. The content of the regional environmental management plan should follow the template and structure in the annex to the present document.

Commented [AS5]: Consider adding after the word data, "anticipated issues likely to arise"

19. The Commission may recommend that the Council adopt the regional environmental management plan. The draft regional environmental management plan and the recommendation should be made publicly accessible on the website of the Authority for a minimum of 90 days in advance of the Council meeting during which the plan will be put forward for adoption.

Commented [AS6]: What then happens to REMP is not adopted, can it be re-worked, improved and reconsidered.

23. Events that may lead the Commission to conduct, or the Council to request, an earlier review may include:

- (a) Submission of substantial new environmental knowledge or data for the region;
- (b) A major environmental change in or affecting the region (e.g. a natural or anthropogenic disaster);

Commented [AS7]: Consider including pandemic e.g., COVID19

4. Please indicate the rationale for the proposal. [150-word limit]

The proposal basically seeks clarification on the listed paragraphs above for more clarity with regards to the REMP for the council's consideration.

Fulfilled