

Argo-Float Deployment Agreement (Draft)

The SPREP Meeting,

Considering that:

- i. the Argo Project is a significant contributor to our understanding of global ocean processes and climate change,
- ii. the data from the Argo profiling floats is freely available in real-time and delayed mode through IOC and WMO data exchange systems,
- iii. those profiling floats routinely monitor salinity and temperature within the upper 2,000 meters of the ocean, conducting a profile every 10 days,

Considering further that the Argo project is fully consistent with UNCLOS and is supported by IOC-UNESCO, WMO, UNEP, and ICSU,

Noting that the EEZ's of the Pacific Island Countries encompasses a significant portion of the Pacific Ocean,

Recognizing that:

- i. some of the Argo floats may drift into waters under national jurisdiction,
- ii. the Argo project is fully operational, with more than 3,000 floats deployed globally,

Noting that the Argo Project has significantly improved ocean and climate forecasting, with direct benefits for the protection of life and property and effective planning for the effects of seasonal to inter-annual climate variability,

Acknowledging:

- i. paragraph 3.4.4.26 of the general summary of the Thirteenth World Meteorological Congress, which specifically addresses and endorses the Argo Project
- ii. IOC Resolution XX-6 on the Argo Project, which defines IOC-UNESCOs support for the Argo Project

Further acknowledging:

- i. Paragraph 186 of the 23rd SPREP Meeting (2012), in which the SPREP Member Countries and Territories agreed to support the Argo float deployment and operation in the Pacific
- ii. The existing Argo float deployment agreement, established by the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) on 20 March 2002, and agreed to by representatives from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshal Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu

Noting that the PI-GOOS Coordinator position, who acts as the focal point for Argo Project engagement in the region, was transferred to SPREP in 2008,

Accepts the Argo project as an important contribution to the operational ocean observing system of GOOS and GCOS, as well as a major contributor to scientific research programmes,

Noting the Argo Projects obligation to inform concerned coastal states in advance, through appropriate channels, of all deployments of floats which might drift into waters under their jurisdiction,

Recognizing the need to ensure that Pacific Islands Countries gain maximum benefit from the data of the Argo Project in real-time and at longer time scales, and that they have the possibility to participate in and contribute to the project,

The Meeting is invited to:

adopt the Guidelines for the Deployment of Profiling Floats within Pacific Island Countries Exclusive Economic Zones, given in annex to the present Resolution, which updates the 20 March 2002 agreement and defines the nature of support to the Argo project from paragraph 186 of the 23rd SPREP Meeting.

[Annex to Resolution XX](#)

Guidelines for the Implementation of Paragraph 186 of the 23rd SPREP Meeting Regarding the Deployment of Profiling Floats in the High Seas within the Framework of the Argo Project

The Pacific Island Countries recall and confirm the validity of Resolution XX, in particular the following elements of the Resolution:

- The Argo Project is a significant contributor to our understanding of global ocean processes, global meteorological models, and climate change,
- There is a need to ensure that Pacific Island Countries gain maximum benefit from the data of the Argo project in real-time and at longer time-scales, and that they have the possibility to participate in and contribute to the project,
- Concerned Pacific Island Countries must be informed in advance, through appropriate channels, of all deployment of profiling floats within waters under their jurisdiction or that might drift into waters under their jurisdiction.

For the purposes of implementing Resolution XX regarding the deployment of Argo floats within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of a country, the Argo Programme will follow these Guidelines and promote awareness of them among interested institutions:

- 1.) In accordance with Resolution XX, a Pacific Island Country must be informed in advance, through appropriate channels, of the deployment of in their EEZ of any float within the framework of the Argo Programme (hereinafter Argo Programme float) that will be deployed within their EEZ or may drift into their EEZ from a neighbouring countries EEZ or the high seas. In implementing this provision, the

Argo Programme, through the PI-GOOS Coordinator at SPREP, invite all Pacific Island Countries to state, at any time, if they so desire and by written note addressed to him, that they wish to be notified of the deployment in their EEZ, neighbouring EEZs, or the high seas of all Argo Programme floats that may enter their respective EEZ.

- 2.) A governmental, non-governmental or private entity designated as responsible for Argo Programme floats deployed in a countries EEZ or the high seas (hereinafter, the implementer) will transmit through the Argo Information Centre to the Argo Focal Points designated by the Pacific Island Countries the following information:
 - a. Type and number of floats planned to be deployed
 - b. Dates and geo-coordinates of locations where floats are to be deployed
 - c. Contact information of the implementer
 - d. Parameters and variables to be collected by the sensors
 - e. Other information that implementer might consider of interest
- 3.) Whenever an Argo Programme float is deployed in a countries EEZ or drifts into their EEZ of a Pacific Island Country that has requested the notifications referred to in paragraph 1, the implementer of the said Argo Programme float will notify the Argo Focal Point of the Pacific Island Country, by transmitting to it, reasonably in advance of the expected deployment or entry of the float into their EEZ, the following information:
 - a. Type of float deployed
 - b. Date and geo-coordinates of location where the float was deployed
 - c. Date and geo-coordinates of latest location of the float (if drifting into their EEZ)
 - d. Contact information of the implementer
 - e. Parameters and variables being collected by the sensors
 - f. Other information that might be of interest
 - g. Other Argo Programme float information that he Pacific Island Country might consider of interest, as specified in the original notification.

Upon the request of the implementer, and with the express agreement of the Pacific Island Country that has requested the notification referred to in paragraph 1, the Argo Information Centre can undertake the notification on behalf of the implementer.

- 4.) All the data obtained by the Argo Programme float, once they enter the EEZ, will be made freely available by the implementer, with the exception of data of direct significance for the exploration and exploitation of natural resources, whether living or non-living, which, to protect its sovereign rights and jurisdiction in its EEZ, the Pacific Island Country into whose EEZ the float enters formally requires the implementer not to be distributed. The aforementioned Pacific Island Country is encouraged, when possible, to determine a time limit for this request.
- 5.) No action or activity taken on the basis of these Guidelines shall be interpreted or considered as prejudicing the positions of State Parties to a land or maritime sovereignty dispute or to a dispute concerning the delimitation of maritime areas.
- 6.) For the purpose of an effective application of these Guidelines, including, in particular, the notification to be provided by the implementer:

- a. The charts and lists of geographical coordinates of points, specifying the geodetic datum, duly publicized and deposited by the Pacific Island Countries with the Secretary-General of the United Nations will be used, or
- b. When such information is not available, the Pacific Island Countries are encouraged to provide the relevant information to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the IOC-UNESCO or to the implementer, as appropriate.