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SPREP Circular

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To: SPREP National Focal Points
CROP Organisations
Collaborating Organisations
Institutional Focal Points

Subject: Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - Panama

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Dear Focal Points,

Please be advised that the Pacific meeting in preparation for the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will be held this year in the final week of September, back to back with the upcoming UNFCCC session, to be held in Panama from October 1 to 7th. The preparatory meeting will be held during the last week of September.

While we would have preferred to have held this session in the Pacific region, the large number of events planned for this year have made scheduling very difficult, and we wanted to limit the number of days and trips required of negotiators to be out of country.

At this early stage, we are just wanting to alert member countries of our intent to hold this meeting back to back with the official negotiation session in Panama (it will be held prior to the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and Group of 77 pre-meetings) so that you make your visa arrangements accordingly. The Pacific meeting will be for a total period of three days, and will be used as the official pre COP preparatory session, and will also be combined with communications and media training.

To assist with these arrangements, we ask that you please confirm who your official delegates to the upcoming UNFCCC session in Panama will be, so that we can alert the travel staff of the UNFCCC Secretariat to book your flights accordingly. SPREP will also be coving the additional costs of DSA for all officially nominated delegates.

An additional circular will be sent out, nearer the date, with information on the final date (last week of September), venue in Panama and agendas.

We would be most appreciative if you could please indicate to us, no later than Friday 26th of August (to joycet@sprep.org or dianem@sprep.org)

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who your official delegates to this meeting will be, so that we may advise the secretariat and prepare for additional DSA accordingly.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Chape
Officer-in-Charge

SC/NP/ER/dm