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SPREP Circular

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To: **SPREP National Focal Points**
CROP Organisations

Subject: **Pacific Strategy Meeting for Durban, 23rd November 2011**

Please be advised that based on member request, SPREP will be convening a Pacific pre COP Strategy Session for the 17th Session (COP 17) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in Durban, on Wednesday 23rd of November. This strategy session will build upon the pre COP meeting recently held in Apia (25 – 27th October) but will be less of a capacity building session and more of a strategy one, as it will only involve participants who are also attending the actual COP, and will work more specifically from the live negotiating documents, as requested.

This will be a one day meeting, in which SPREP will provide space for Pacific Island Countries to develop strategies on key negotiation issues, as direct input into the AOSIS and G77 preparatory sessions (held on November 24 - 25th, and November 26th – 27th respectively), as well as the UNFCCC meeting itself.
SPREP has alerted the UNFCCC Secretariat this week to the fact that we will be holding this strategy session ahead of the AOSIS meeting, and has asked that the Secretariat assist us, by ensuring those funded by the UNFCCC are given travel itineraries allowing for an arrival early enough to participate.

We are also aware that some countries have already received their itineraries to Durban, and would like to ask those of you who have received them, to please alert the UNFCCC Secretariat and their Travel Office that issued your ticket itinerary as early as possible to the fact that you would like to arrive one day earlier, to attend this session (in time for November 23rd). Please copy SPREP (Diane McFadzien DianeM@sprep.org) on this message.

SPREP will cover the costs of the additional day DSA, and is able to fund up to three delegates per country (i.e. it will cover the additional costs of your delegates who are already receiving funding under the UNFCCC).

To assist with these arrangements, we ask that you please confirm who your official delegates to the upcoming UNFCCC session in Durban will be, so that we can also follow up with the travel staff of the UNFCCC Secretariat to book your flights accordingly.

We would like to apologise in advance to our LDC country members for the clash in dates with your own preparatory meeting, but hope that delegations will be able to send at least one representative to each.

An additional circular will be sent out, nearer the date, with information on the final date venue in Durban and agendas.

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Please indicate to us, no later than Friday 11th November (to joycet@sprep.org or dianem@sprep.org) who your official delegates to this meeting will be, so that we may advise the secretariat and prepare to bring the additional DSA to Durban, accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

David Sheppard
Director General

DS/ER/rmg