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CIRCULAR

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To: All SPREP National Focal Points

SUBJECT: Review and update of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands region

Dear Focal Points,

Pursuant to the endorsement of the Concept Note for the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation at the 23rd SPREP Meeting, I wish to inform you specifically on plans for the review and update of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2008-2012.

As you are aware, the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Region provides context for individual and concerted actions for all those involved in nature conservation in the Pacific. The 2008-2012 Action Strategy contains a set of eight principles and code of ethics that guide the design and implementation of conservation programmes in the region. It was produced through a consultative process which incorporates feedback and input from all key stakeholders, in particular key outcomes of the 8th Conference for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas which was held in Alotau, PNG in 2007.

The review and update of the 2008-2012 Action Strategy will be conducted through a consultative process with input from key stakeholders in particular SPREP members as well as members of the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation. We plan to be as inclusive as possible in this process as the Action Strategy is a policy framework that impacts on all levels of society.

To assist with the review and update of the Action Strategy, the Secretariat has engaged the services of TierraMar Consulting Ltd represented by Mr. Peter Thomas and Ms. Anissa Lawrence who will be contacting you in the coming months for input into this process. I have attached Biodata for Peter Thomas and Anissa Lawrence for your information.

At the upcoming 24th SPREP Meeting in Apia, a side event will be held for members and other participants to the SPREP meeting to provide additional input and feedback. We will also take advantage of other opportunities through regional meetings to hold discussions on the side with participants to these meetings.

A special presentation on the draft Action Strategy framework will be delivered at the 9th Nature Conference, in December, 2013. In addition, we have also assigned a special parallel session on the Action Strategy for participants to the conference to provide input and feedback on the draft Action Strategy framework before it is presented at the final plenary for endorsement. Following this, we are hoping to submit and present the final Action Strategy at the 25th SPREP Meeting for formal approval.

We look forward to your invaluable input and feedback into this process which will help set strategic directions on priorities and targets for the region to achieve in the next five years and beyond.

For more information, please contact Stuart Chape stuartc@sprep.org and Easter Galuvao easterg@sprep.org

Yours sincerely

David Sheppard
Director General

DS/EG/ma

Mr. Peter Thomas Biodata

Peter Thomas has more than 25 years of experience in conservation and natural resource management in the Pacific; working for government and non-government organisations in a variety of management and leadership roles. Peter's association with the Action Strategy and Pacific Conferences on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas spans the history of these meetings from the time of the Third conference which was held in Apia, Samoa in 1985.

Peter has established and managed multi-country Pacific Islands programs in Micronesia (Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Guam and Northern Marianas) and Melanesia (Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands) for The Nature Conservancy. These programs focused on developing and implementing innovative multi-site, high leverage strategic responses on conservation issues and on strengthening local partner capacity for conservation action. From 2001 to 2009 he was the Pacific Island Countries Director for The Nature Conservancy. During that period he was closely involved in the establishment of regional strategic initiatives such as the Pacific Island Invasives Learning Network, and the creation of the Micronesia Challenge and Coral Triangle Initiative.

Since 2009 Peter has worked as a consultant and has been engaged as a member of the design team for the ADB /GEF RETA Strengthening Coastal and Marine Resources in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific Phase 1 which developed strategies for the delivery of funding to the Pacific countries of Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. More recently, working in tandem with Anissa Lawrence he has developed the draft 2011 – 2015 Pacific Regional Environment Programme Strategic Plan which is linked to and will inform the update of the current Action Strategy. Peter also successfully completed the design of the World Heritage linked Pacific Heritage Hub and assisted with the implementation of the design recommendations leading to the establishment of the Hub in February 2013. Engagement in this process helped strengthen his network of contacts associated with protected areas and heritage site management in the region. Most recently, in February 2013, Peter completed the BIOPAMA – Regional Capacity Building Needs Assessment for Protected Areas and Biodiversity Management for IUCN which involved extensive review of Pacific biodiversity and protected area related reports including all available NBSAPs, a requirement of this project. Recently Peter has been assisting the Division of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services with the development of a fundraising strategy and database and fundraising and proposal development for the 9th Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.

Other recent projects in the region include the Terminal Evaluation of the GEF/UNDP SMP for Building Capacity and Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management in the Federated States of Micronesia (UNDP/GEF) and an extensive organisation review of the WWF Programme in Western Melanesia and the South Pacific. This latter project was undertaken jointly with Anissa Lawrence and is a good example of the effectiveness of the team approach on these complex assignments.

Anissa Lawrence Biodata

With a diverse background in environmental science, coastal and marine natural resource management (NRM) and conservation, environmental communication, business and risk management, Anissa has over 24 years experience in developing and communicating strategic solutions and managing people, projects and businesses towards sustainability.

As the founding Director of TierraMar Consulting, Anissa has worked to build the capacity of natural resource management (NRM) and conservation program delivery agents to achieve better outcome across the Western Pacific. Her expertise is in providing strategic assistance and program design, management, implementation and evaluation expertise to build and strengthen the capacity of organizations engaged in managing natural resource and conservation issues across Australia, Asia and the Pacific, particularly relating to coastal, marine, fisheries and island ecosystems. A core driver for Anissa is to develop,

implement and communicate sustainable, workable solutions to environmental challenges. This work has included strategic assistance to develop regional and national conservation frameworks, program development, implementation and assessment and the review of on-ground conservation and NRM projects. As an experienced environmental communicator and strategist she strives to facilitate government, corporate, industry and community action to understand and manage business, social and environmental risks to achieve sustainable outcomes.

She has been engaged directly in a number of recent consultancies in the Pacific islands region, including the development of the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan for SPREP, the UNESCO Pacific Heritage Hub Scoping Study, the IUCN BIOPAMA Regional Capacity Building Needs Assessment and an extensive review of the WWF Programme in Western Melanesia and the South Pacific. She recently completed an evaluation of WWF's Sustainable Seafood Program across the Coral Triangle and Pacific and a conservation capacity assessment and country needs analysis across the broader Asia Pacific region in preparation for a WWF regional program of work. She is currently working with WWF teams from across the region to develop and implement a regional Sustainable Seafood Program and working with Peter Thomas for the Australian Government to implement a permanent secretariat for the Coral Triangle.