SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
E: sprep@sprep.org
T: +685 21929
F: +685 20231
W: www.sprep.org

CLEAN PACIFIC

The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures

CIRCULAR

FILE: SPM 20/7

TO: SPREP National Focal Points
CROP Organisations
Collaborating Organisations

DATE: 4 September 2013

CIRCULAR: 13/60

SUBJECT: **Pacific Environment Forum 2013 - Natural solutions for building resilience to climate change -an integrated ecosystem approach**

Dear Focal Points and Partners,

The Pacific Environment Forum (PEF) is an initiative by the Secretariat to meet long standing member requests for a more informal setting to facilitate discussion amongst officials and other stakeholders on key environmental, technical and institutional issues. The PEF is held prior to the SPREP Meeting (SM) allowing for the outcomes to be tabled at the SM for its consideration. PEF was held for the first time in 2011.

The 2013 Pacific Environment Forum (PEF) will be held directly before the SPREP meeting on Monday 16 September 2013, in Apia, Samoa. Given the importance of healthy ecosystems for Pacific Island cultures and livelihoods the focus of the 2013 PEF will be on ecosystem approaches ('natural solutions') for building resilience to climate change.

The forum will provide an opportunity for open discussion on various topics related to the overall theme including:

- National policy/legislation and links to community natural resource use
- Economic valuation of ecosystem services
- Fisheries management and aquaculture - an ecosystem approach
- Catchment/watershed management and cross-sectoral integration
- Community engagement in ecosystem management approaches
- Inclusion of integrated ecosystem approaches into project and programme development

We look forward to your participation and engaging discussions on this topic so that we can advance the development of natural solutions to climate change throughout the region.

The SPREP focal point for the Pacific Environment Forum 2013 is the Director, Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Division, Stuart Chape, stuartc@sprep.org

Yours sincerely

Kosi Latu
Acting Director General

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Twenty Fourth SPREP Meeting

PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM 2013

Provisional agenda

Natural solutions for building resilience to climate change - an integrated ecosystem approach

1. Background

The Pacific Environment Forum (PEF) is an initiative by the Secretariat to meet long standing member requests for a more informal setting to facilitate discussion amongst officials and other stakeholders on key environmental, technical and institutional issues. The PEF is held prior to the SPREP Meeting (SM) allowing for the outcomes to be tabled at the SM for its consideration. The PEF was held for the first time in 2011.

The 2013 PEF will focus on ecosystem-based approaches that underpin the development of Pacific island societies and establish a balance between their aspirations and the sustainability of natural systems. The aim is to inform and assist participants so that their own planning and project proposals adopt enhanced integrated ecosystem approaches.

To generate further regional and international recognition of this approach, 2014 will be the SPREP year of *'Natural Solutions'*.

The 2011-2015 Strategic Plan further details how SPREP Members and Secretariat are taking action to address this issue and commits to the goals that:

- Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) is widely recognised and implemented as a key element of climate change adaptation measures
- Climate change adaptation, including ecosystem-based approaches, is mainstreamed in national and sectoral polices, strategies and plans, and implemented through coordinated institutional arrangements supported by enabling environments at all levels and sectors; adaptation and mitigation activities are integrated to prevent any contrary ('perverse') impacts on ecosystems

Specific targets include:

- Five examples of Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) to climate change are being implemented in PICTs
- At least ten PICT Members to have mainstreamed climate change adaptation, including ecosystem-based approaches, and risk reduction considerations in their national sustainable development strategies (NSDS) or equivalent and resources have been mobilised for their implementation

2. 2013 PEF Theme and Objectives

The theme of the 2013 Pacific Environment Forum is "*Natural solutions for building resilience to climate change - an integrated ecosystem approach*".

The meeting objectives are to:

1. Provide participants with an introduction to ecosystem based adaptation and planning, including from a ridge-to-reef perspective.
2. Review the status of national level sectoral policies, strategies and plans to ensure ecosystem-based/cross sectoral approaches are mainstreamed into national adaptation policy.
3. Consider possible Member-Secretariat-partner collaboration in the development of the initiatives to safeguard PICTs from any contrary ('perverse') impacts on ecosystems caused by development, adaptation and mitigation activities.
4. Discuss mainstreaming and implementation of natural solutions within current funding and policy frameworks.

Time	Activity	Lead/Facilitator	Output
8:30 - 9:00	Registration		
9:00- 9:10	Welcome	**David Sheppard** (SPREP)	Key outputs to be generated by the 2013 PEF, linkage to Strategic Plan and introduce chairs
Session 1: Learning lessons from Natural Solutions (Chair - Samoa) (TBC)			
9:10 - 10:30	**Speakers:** Ecosystem based adaptation in the Pacific (15min + 5min questions)	**Stuart Chape** (SPREP)	Introduce Ecosystem based adaptation and process.
	Linking community to national government in Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands (15 min + 5min questions)	**Mataki, Melchior** (Gov Sol Islands) (GIZ)	Lessons learnt from experience with community based participatory processes in Choiseul Province; linkages to National level planning in the Solomon Islands.
	The economics of ecosystem services (15 min + 5min questions)	**Aaron Buncle** (SPREP)	Regional project experience from multiple sectors, how the market and non-market values of ecosystem services could assist the decision making process.
	Ecosystem based Adaptation in vulnerable coastal cities in the Pacific (15 min + 5min questions)	**Sarah Mecartney** (UN-HABITAT)	Ecosystem approaches are increasingly being employed in urban and peri-urban settings throughout the Pacific, often providing livelihoods and security to some of the most vulnerable peoples.
10:30 - 11:00	**Morning Tea**		
Session 2: Developing an integrated Adaptation and Planning approach			
11:00 - 11:20	**Speakers:** Recognizing hybrid solutions to building resilience - lessons from the PACC project	Taito Nakalevu (SPREP)	
11:20 - 12:30	Working Group Discussions (Introduction)	**Paul Donohoe** (SPREP) Group Facilitators **(1) Vai Jungblut** **(2) Peni Leavai** **(3) Tony Talouli** **(4) Tepa Suaesi**	Discussion will focus on integrated adaptation and planning: 1. Examples of Success 2. Barriers and challenges
12:30-2:00	**Lunch: Side events – 1. A regional scale Ocean Health Index for the Pacific Oceanscape** **2. SIDs DOCK**		
2:00-2:30	Report back from working groups (15 mins) General Discussion and questions	Working Group Facilitators	Key points and common messages
2:30 - 4.00	Addressing the question: "How can we facilitate and fund integrated approaches to climate change adaptation?"	**Meapaelo Maiai** (SPREP) **Fiona McKergow** (AusAID) **Samoa** (TBC) **Palau** (TBC) **Vanuatu** (TBC)	Facilitated by **Neta Pelesikoti** Each presenter has five minutes, followed by plenary facilitated discussion, and two minute final comment from each panellist.
4:00 - 4:30	**Afternoon tea**		
4:30-5:00	Summary Remarks and Close	**David Sheppard** (SPREP)	