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CLEAN PACIFIC

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

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 2/30/1 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points

DATE: 11 September 2013

CIRCULAR: 13/65

SUBJECT: **SPREP Member Input to Preparation of a State of Conservation in Oceania Assessment**

Dear Focal Points,

SPREP, IUCN and their partners are currently working on a State of Conservation in Oceania (SOCO) assessment to be presented to the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas to be held in Fiji in December 2013. In addition to a regional synthesis report, a series of country "State of Conservation" reports will also be written, one for each of the 21 Pacific island and territory members of SPREP. The assessments will also contribute to SPREP ongoing state of environment reporting support to members.

The SOCO assessment will summarise the pressures on biodiversity, the current state of biodiversity and ecosystems and the responses that have been taken to safeguard biodiversity in the country and region. This information will be used to identify our successes, and to assess our progress against national and global commitments such as NBSAPs and the CBD, in order to identify gaps in effort.

We hope that all SPREP member countries and territories will see the value in this work and be interested in collaborating with us to share up to date data layers and information, and to assist with the review of draft reports.

The data sets that we are seeking from each country are shown below, and would ideally be in GIS form:

- terrestrial ecosystems/land cover including trends
- marine ecosystems: e.g., coral reef coverage including trends
- distribution of key species/threatened species
- existing Protected Areas and Conservation Areas (PAs and CAs), Marine Managed Areas etc
- proposed sites for conservation (eg key marine and terrestrial ecosystems)
- maps of threats: e.g., invasive species distributions/numbers, climate change impacts, pollution etc

In addition we are seeking the following textual and other data:

- reports on the management effectiveness of PAs/CAs: e.g., how many PAs have management plans, how many management plans are being implemented, etc
- gap assessments of PAs versus ideal conservation area coverage

- information on the level of implementation of NBSAPs/NISAPs and other country conservation strategies
- photos of threatened species and key sites

If you could identify the key individuals who may be able to provide the above data layers we would be very grateful.

James Atherton is working with SPREP and IUCN to collate this information and I would be grateful if you could assist him when he contacts you (jatherton@samoa.ws) for information.

We appreciate your on-going support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely

David Sheppard
Director General

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