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CLEAN PACIFIC

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

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 4/2/13/1 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points

DATE: 22 October 2013

CIRCULAR: 13/77

SUBJECT: Pacific Sub-regional Capacity Building Workshop on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, Suva, Fiji 25-29 November, 2013

SPREP in partnership with the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity wishes to invite ABS National Focal Points or relevant technical or policy-legal officers to the above-cited meeting.

Background

In partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the ABS Initiative has convened three regional workshops and one training course since 2012, contributing to capacity building to promote ABS in the Pacific region.

Objective of the workshop

This workshop aims to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the Pacific region by providing an opportunity for exchange and learning to stakeholders from all Pacific countries.

Participants are invited to discuss the processes and tools for and the effective and efficient regulation of ABS from the regional to the national and local level. The workshop specifically pursues the following objectives:

1. Awareness raising, exchange of experiences and training supporting the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;
2. Exchange and training on key elements of national ABS policies, strategies and regulations and related biodiversity activities
3. Information on and exchange about GEF funded ABS capacity building projects under development in the Pacific region on the regional, national and local level

Expected Outcomes

Based on the objectives and the agenda presented above, the following outcomes are expected:

- Capacities for the NP ratification and implementation process among Pacific stakeholders are improved
- Regional exchange among Pacific stakeholders on ABS is strengthened

- Awareness among Pacific stakeholders of planned ABS capacity development projects in the region is enhanced and national perspectives are flagged for integration in the regional project under development.

Logistical arrangements
An agenda will be provided within the next week.

Funding will be provided for the attendance of one representative per country.

Please note:

i) this invitation is in addition to the invitation provided by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity which closed 30 September.

ii) the nominee will also be funded to attend the 9th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas which will be held in Suva from 2 to 6 December 2013. Attendance at that meeting will be for the purposes of carrying forward the recommendations of the ABS Workshop.

Countries are kindly requested to fill in the attached nomination form with official letter and send to Theresa Fruean-Afa (theresaf@sprep.org) no later than **Friday, 1st November 2013** in order for travel to be arranged. Please ensure nominations are firm and that travel dates are carefully selected as changes or ticket cancellations can incur significant costs.

For enquiries please contact Clark Peteru (clarkp@sprep.org).

Yours sincerely

David Sheppard
Director General

Attach: Nomination form