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CLEAN PACIFIC

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

CIRCULAR

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TO: SPREP National Focal Points
CROP Organisations
SPREP Partner Organisations

SUBJECT: Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience Project (PPCR)Team

Introducing::

- **Andrea Volentras (PPCR Programme Manager)**
- **Aaron Buncle (Mainstreaming Specialist, Climate Change and Disaster Risk)**
- **Satui Bentin (Regional Technical Support Mechanism Coordinator)**
- **Pauline Johnston (Procurement& Financial Management Specialist)**

SPREP is pleased to announce the commencement of the Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR) - Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR), Pacific Regional Track Initiative financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Strategic Climate Fund.

The Consultants
Working with ADB, SPREP will manage the consultants that will design and implement Components 1 and 3 of the SPCR, PPCR:



Mr. Andrea Volentras, Programme Manager for the PPCR Project. Mr Volentras holds a Masters of International Law and Bachelors of Law from the Australian National University as well as a BA (Hons) in International Relations. He joins SPREP from SPC where he was Climate Change Adviser. He was also UNDP GEF Regional Technical Adviser for Climate Change Adaptation for the Pacific. He is no stranger to SPREP having been SPREP Legal Counsel and Climate Change Coordinator from 1998-2003.



Mr. Aaron Buncle, Mainstreaming Specialist (Climate Change and Disaster Risk). Mr. Buncle is an Australian national and holds a Masters of Environment and Resource Economics from the Australian National University. He joins the PPCR team from the Commonwealth Secretariat where he worked as an Environmental Resource Economist seconded to SPREP for the last two years.



Ms. Satui Bentin, Regional Technical Support Mechanism Coordinator. Ms Bentin is a Samoan national and holds a Post Graduate Certificate in Applied Social and Medical Research from Otago University, New Zealand and Bachelor of Arts in Library and Information Science from The University of Canberra, Australia. Ms. Bentin previously worked at SPREP as the Information Resource Centre Manager and PEIN Project Coordinator. She joins the team from the private sector whereshe was Managing Director of her own consultancy firm.



Ms. Pauline Johnston, Procurement and Financial Management Specialist. Ms. Johnston is a national of New Zealand who holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Auckland. She joins the team from Conservation International where she has worked in the role of Regional Finance Manager for the Pacific Islands Programme for the last 7 years.

The goal of the PPCR is to help countries transform to a climate-resilient development path, consistent with national poverty reduction and sustainable development goals. As a pilot programme supporting learning-by-doing, the Pacific PPCR ultimately aims to increase the integration of climate resilience into development. The project commenced on 1 November 2013.

The impact of the Pacific Regional SPCR will be increased resilience of SPREP Members to climate variability and climate change. Its outcome will be the improved capacity of Members to respond to climate change impacts and related natural disasters. The two main outputs are:

(i) Climate change adaptation and Disaster risk reduction are mainstreamed into national and local development policies and plans, and

(ii) Pacific Island capacity to respond to climate change is built and supported.

The technical assistance will focus on priority sectors (food and infrastructure) of selected Pacific countries and contribute to attaining their sustainable development aspirations. It will provide countries with cost-effective support best offered on a regional basis and will complement ongoing Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk related initiatives of development partners.

The PPCR team will work closely with SPREP's Climate Change Division in the design and implementation of the SPCR PPCR components.

We welcome our new colleagues to SPREP and looking forward to this project increasing relevant support and services to the region.

Yours sincerely,

Kosi Latu
Acting Director General