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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: Pacific GEF Operational Focal Points
Pacific GEF Political Focal Points
SPREP National Focal Points
CROP Organisations
SPREP Partners

SUBJECT: Global Environment Facility Country Portfolio Evaluation (CPE) Report for Vanuatu and SPREP 1991-2012.

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to inform you that the Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility has completed their evaluation for Vanuatu and SPREP. Country Portfolio Evaluations (CPE) analyze total GEF support across GEF Agencies, projects, and programmes in Vanuatu and the Pacific Region through SPREP with the aim of reviewing the performance and results of GEF -supported activities and assessing how those activities align with country strategies and priorities, as well as with GEF's priorities for global environmental benefits. The findings from the CPE are consolidated in the form of a Country Portfolio Evaluation Report. The CPE Report for SPREP and Vanuatu can be accessed via the GEF Website: http://www.thegef.org/gef/CPE%20Vanuatu%20and%20SPREP

Kindly refer to the conclusions and recommendations for both Vanuatu and SPREP. We are pleased that the report identifies SPREP as a key partner and playing a critical role in supporting our member countries achieving their national sustainable development goals. The Report also highlights SPREP's key role in environmental protection and conservation and also in supporting Pacific countries in meeting various international obligations under MEAs, specifically the Rio Conventions and the Stockholm Convention.

The report is recommending strengthening the existing capacity of SPREP on' learning and knowledge management' for integrating project lessons and best practices. More importantly, it asks for a continuation and reinforcement of SPREP's role in providing technical assistance for GEF projects, particularly after GEF funding ends. We have provided our management response that notes our agreement to these recommendations and to the general findings of the report.

Finally, the CPE Report confirms the good work undertaken by SPREP and its member countries since 1991. Gains have been made in establishing legislative and policy frameworks in our member countries eligible for GEF funding including generating local

environmental outcomes that contribute to global environmental benefits that the GEF is addressing.

I wish to express my appreciation and gratitude to all our member countries who participated in this exercise, in particular to the Government of Vanuatu and their Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation for their efforts and assistance provided to the Evaluation Team.

Please let me know if you would like more information on this positive GEF Evaluation Report.

Yours sincerely



David Sheppard
Director General

DS/mm/tf