Bonn, 19 March 2014

CMS COP11 Regional Preparatory and Negotiation Workshop for the Pacific

Dear CMS National Focal Point,

As you are aware, the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP11) will take place from 4-9 November in Quito, Ecuador.

To ensure effective preparation for the COP and to give participants from the Pacific Islands region the possibility to develop common positions on some of the issues which will be of priority interest to them, the CMS Secretariat has the honour to inform you that, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, it intends to jointly host a **COP11 Regional Preparatory and Negotiation Workshop in English from 17-19 August 2014, in Nadi, Fiji**. These dates are part of a a larger Pacific Regional Joint Preparatory Meeting of CMS, CBD and Ramsar held from 11th to 19th August, 2014 at the same venue. This joint event aims to prepare Pacific Island countries for each respective Conference of the Parties and to bring common conservation issues to one table.

This CMS event, in particular, will cover several aspects of building the capacity of National Focal Points (NFPs). First and foremost, it will provide an opportunity for CMS Parties from the Pacific to have an overview of the issues and priorities for the region to be discussed at COP11. Beyond this, Pre-COP11 participants will be equipped with the necessary negotiation techniques provided by SPREP and skills to be utilized in upcoming COPs as well as other environmental negotiations. And finally, the CMS Family Manual and E-community platform will be discussed as the new capacity building tools for NFPs.

Funding:

The financial support for this workshop was made through the ACP Project between the European Commission, UNEP and FAO. The overall objective is to promote environmental sustainability in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries within the context of Millennium Development Goal number 7 and in line with the various Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) signed by the respective countries. The specific objective is to enhance the capacity of ACP countries to implement MEAs and honour related commitments thereby resulting in the sound management of the environment and natural resources of ACP countries. One of the expected results of this project is to develop practical tools and to deliver complementary training that strengthens the capacity of National Focal Points (NFPs) of the biodiversity-related MEAs.

Funds have been secured to cover **ONE NFP ONLY per country** that is eligible to receive support. As decided by the last CMS COP (CMS/Res.10.1 para 13) only developing countries that have paid their annual contributions or are less than three years in arrears are eligible to receive financial support to attend the meetings organized by CMS.

In case the outstanding dues are paid before 15 June 2014, the Secretariat could guarantee that the costs of your participation would be paid. Since the administration regarding this matter is a timely process, I strongly urge you to encourage payment as early as possible.

Pre-registration:

You will receive a reminder once pre-registration to COP11 and to this workshop becomes available. Since the workshop is geared towards direct preparation for the upcoming Conference of the Parties, **only the person, who attends COP11 in the capacity as NFP will be able to participate in this workshop.** Please do not hesitate to pre-register both for COP11 as well as this workshop once you have received the reminder with the link to the webpage. **Pre-registration for this event ends on 15 June 2014**.

Participant information:

All relevant information on the pre-COP11 Workshop will be communicated to registered participants as soon as their registrations have been confirmed and this information becomes available.

Contact information:

Should you have any questions regarding the Regional COP11 Preparatory Workshop, please do not hesitate to contact the Convention on Migratory Species Pacific Officer, Ms. Penina Solomona Email: peninas@sprep.org; ; Tel: (+685) 21929; Fax: (+685) 20231.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Bradnee Chambers
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UNEP/CMS Secretariat