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Natural Solutions for Island Resilience

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

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 4/2/13/2

TO: SPREP National Focal Points

DATE: 3 October 2014

CIRCULAR: 14/90

SUBJECT: **5th Pacific Sub-regional Workshop on Access and Benefit-Sharing, 10 – 13 November 2014, Sydney, Australia**

Dear Focal Points,

Further to the SPREP Circular 14/42 SPREP, in partnership with the GIZ implemented multi-donor Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Capacity Development Initiative, I would like to extend an invitation to the ABS National Focal points to attend the 5th Pacific Sub-regional Workshop on Access and Benefit-Sharing, from 10 – 13 November 2014 in Sydney, Australia.

The 5th ABS workshop will be held back to back with the IUCN World Parks Congress. Building on outcomes of previous ABS workshops, this workshop includes a specific focus on challenges of regulating marine bio-prospecting in the context of the Nagoya Protocol. Furthermore, the workshop will also look at the outcomes of COP-MOP 1 of the Nagoya Protocol.

More information about the workshop and its objective can be found in the attached draft workshop outline.

Logistical arrangements:
Due to limited funding, we are only able to fund the attendance of one representative per country. Please consider ABS Focal Points or past attendees to previous ABS Workshops and/or Trainings to be your first choice to attend the 5th Pacific Sub-regional ABS Workshop in Sydney.

We would like to seek your cooperation for the timely submission of completed nomination forms with an official endorsement cover letter and a copy of the first page of your passport to Makerita Atiga makeritaa@sprep.org and Anna Bertram annab@sprep.org no later than **15th of October 2014**. This will enable us to finalize logistical arrangements for travel, visa support letters, meeting venue, and hotel reservations. Late nominations and changes will not be accepted.

For further questions or additional information please contact Easter Galuvao – Biodiversity Adviser on easterg@sprep.org and Clark Peteru – Legal Adviser on clarkp@sprep.org and copy Anna Bertram annab@sprep.org.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Graham
Officer-in-Charge

Attach: Nomination Form
Draft workshop outline