SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
E: sprep@sprep.org
T: +685 21929
F: +685 20231
W: www.sprep.org

PROTECT PACIFIC WHALES – OCEAN VOYAGERS

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

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 6/5/6/1
DATE: 24 March 2017
CIRCULAR: 17/14

TO: SPREP National Focal Points
PacWaste National Focal Points

SUBJECT: Invitation to attend the fifth and final Steering Committee Meeting of the Pacific Hazardous Waste Management Project (PacWaste) and country consultations for the EDF11 Pacific-EU Waste Management Programme

Dear Focal Points,

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the European Union, I have the pleasure of inviting your government's participation in the final Steering Committee Meeting for the PacWaste project and country consultations for the EDF11 Pacific-EU Waste Management Programme.

The meeting and consultations will be held from 11-12 May, 2017 in Apia, Samoa.

1. Fifth and final Steering Committee Meeting of the Pacific Hazardous Waste Management Project (PacWaste)

PacWaste is a €7.85 million project funded by the European Union and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to improve regional hazardous waste management across the Pacific.

The objectives of the PacWaste Steering Committee Meeting are to:

- Report on PacWaste's progress to date;
- Update participating countries on planned PacWaste activities up to 31 December, 2017; and
- Receive feedback and input from participating countries on PacWaste activities.

The PacWaste Steering Committee Meeting is aimed at PacWaste Focal Points or senior level government officials with responsibility for:

- The management of asbestos materials and wastes to minimize negative impacts on human health arising from its use, removal and disposal;
- The management of healthcare wastes, training and systems development to minimise negative impacts on human health and environment arising from its creation, transport, storage and disposal;
- The management of E-waste, training and systems development to minimize negative impacts on human health and environment arising from its creation, transport, storage and disposal;

- The integrated management of solid wastes within an atoll environment, training and systems development to create a financially sustainable model that minimizes the negative impacts on human health and the environment arising from its processing, transport, storage, export and disposal; and
- Improved management of regional disaster waste management being conducted as a component of the PacWaste Contingency.

Participants will be required to complete a high volume of pre-reading in preparation for the Meeting along with a brief presentation from each country.

2. Pacific island country consultations for the EDF11 Pacific-EU Waste Management Programme.

In June 2015, the European Union and the PACPS agreed a Pacific Regional Indicative Programme (PRIP) for 2014-2020 with an allocation totaling €166 million for a range of regional activities to be undertaken in agreed areas to be funded under the EU's 11th European Development Fund (EDF11).

Within the PRIP Priority Area of 'Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment and Management of Waste' an indicative amount of €17 million has been allocated to address the specific objective of ensuring the safe and sustainable management of waste in the Pacific with due regard to the conservation of biodiversity, health and wellbeing of Pacific island communities; climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements.

The proposed Pacific-EU Waste Management Programme is anticipated to commence in 2018 and will operate in 14 Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste. It is proposed that the Programme is executed by a consortium comprising the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Community (SPC) and University of the South Pacific (USP). The Contracting Authority is the Regional Authorising Office entrusted to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Suva, Fiji. Proposal development is the responsibility of SPREP.

The overall objective of the Pacific-EU Waste Management Programme is to improve the economic, social, health and environmental benefits for PACP states arising from stronger regional economic integration and the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment.

The specific objective is to ensure the safe and sustainable management of waste with due regard for the conservation of biodiversity, health and wellbeing of Pacific island communities and climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements.

SPREP will hold face-to-face country consultations on the development of activities for the Pacific-EU Waste Management Programme during the fifth PacWaste Steering Committee Meeting.

These consultations will assist in the preparation of the programme's detailed Action Document to meet the EU review in May 2017. A detailed agenda for the consultations will be dispatched directly to participants in advance of the Meeting.

It is envisaged (budget allowing) that one participant from each of the following countries will be sponsored to attend the meeting and consultation:

Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

I look forward to receiving your early response. Once participants have been identified all finer details will be communicated directly with the nominated participants.

Yours sincerely,



Roger Cornforth
Acting Director General

RC/AC/rmg