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PROTECT PACIFIC WHALES – OCEAN VOYAGERS

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

CIRCULAR

FILE:	AP 2/2/18/1B	**TO:**	SPREP National Focal Points
DATE:	2 August 2017		CROP Organisations
CIRCULAR:	17/37		SPREP Partner Organisations

SUBJECT: **20th Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) Annual Meeting, 21 - 22 August 2017, Honiara, Solomon Islands**

Dear SPREP Members and Partners,

SPREP in collaboration with members and partners of the Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation, will convene its 20th Annual Meeting from the 21st to 22ndAugust 2017 in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

The Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation is a coalition of nature conservation and development organisations, governments, inter-governments, donor agencies and community groups created to increase effective conservation action in the Pacific Islands Region. It was established in 1998 at the request of Pacific island countries and territories which was voiced at the 6th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in 1997. The forum enables those organisations working on nature conservation in the Pacific to improve their collaboration and coordination towards effective conservation action. It is the key coordination mechanism for the implementation of the new Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Island region 2014-2020 which was adopted at the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas and was subsequently endorsed at the 25th Annual SPREP Meeting in September 2014.

This year, PIRT will convene its 20thannual meeting with a theme “Oceans at a tipping point – From global commitments to regional actions with an ocean lens on climate change”.

The topics for discussions are aligned to the theme and we anticipate a rich discussion focussed on the outcomes and voluntary commitments made by Pacific Island countries at the recent UN Oceans Conference, and how an oceans perspective will be applied to the upcoming Climate Change CoP23. What are the important links between these and what are the priorities and an exchange on how PIRT Members already are, or can further assist Pacific Island countries to meet these commitments.

Attendance and participation at the Roundtable meeting is on a voluntary and self-funded arrangement. In this regard, we would highly recommend for those who would be interested to attend to consider and explore funding opportunities from various sources. We would also

welcome any financial support that our partners may be able to provide to sponsor participants to the meeting and/or direct financial contributions to support the meeting logistics and costs.

Appreciate your expression of interest in attending by Monday 14th August.

SPREP is currently the Secretariat of the Roundtable and should you need further information, please contact the Secretariat on pirtsecretariat@sprep.org or Amanda Wheatley (amandaw@sprep.org).

Yours sincerely,



Kosi Latu
Director General

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