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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 6/5/8/1 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points

DATE: 13 February 2017

CIRCULAR: 07/05

SUBJECT: **EDF11 Pacific-EU Waste Management Programme: Pacific island country consultations**

1. Background

The European Union (EU) is one of the largest donors in the Pacific and contributes significantly towards the development of Pacific island countries. In June 2015, the EU and the PACPS agreed a Pacific Regional Indicative Programme (PRIP) for 2014-2020 with an allocation totalling €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 will be 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 Initial Action Document (iAD) prepared by the Consortium in late 2016 - following country consultation through the Cleaner Pacific Strategy development (Fiji, Samoa, Guam) and through the Clean Pacific Roundtable (Fiji), the Fourth PacWaste Steering Committee Meeting (Vanuatu) and the Twenty-seventh SPREP Meeting (Niue) - passed the initial EU approval stage (Quality Safety Group 1) on 13 December 2016.

The next stage of the process has now commenced which aims for the iAD to be further developed into a detailed Action Document that will be considered through the next EU approval stage (Quality Safety Group 2) in April 2017.

2. Project objectives and expected results

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.

The four key result areas, which will be applied to improved management of solid and hazardous wastes and related aspects of wastewater, are:

i. Improved data collection and information sharing;
ii. Policies and regulatory frameworks developed;
iii. Implementation of best practices including enhanced private sector engagement; and
iv. Enhanced human capacity.

These results will directly support the implementation of priority areas of the Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016–2025 (Cleaner Pacific 2025). The Action will address both the cost effective and sustainable management of waste and pollution as well as broader impacts including human health and wellbeing, climate change, disaster management, biodiversity conservation and resource recovery.

3. Country consultation process

SPREP will hold face-to-face country consultations on the development of activities for the Pacific-EU Waste Management Programme in the margins of the Sixth Meeting of the Waigani Convention Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC-6) and the Fifth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the joint implementation of the Waigani and Basel Conventions (SCPRC-5) in Nuku'alofa, Tonga from 20-22 February.

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

Pacific island country representatives are invited to complete the attached Prioritisation Matrix in advance of face-to-face consultations to help inform discussions.

Once complete, please return the Prioritisation Matrix to Dr Frank Griffin by **5pm** on **Wednesday, 15 February, 2017**.

4. Further information

For further information please contact Dr Frank Griffin, Acting Director, Waste Management and Pollution Control on frankg@sprep.org

Yours sincerely,



Kosi Latu
Director General

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