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CLEAN PACIFIC 2012

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

CIRCULAR

FILE: CONV 2/7
DATE: 2 May 2012
CIRCULAR: 12/34

TO: Basel Focal Points

SUBJECT: Basel Convention Legislation

1. Background

The Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, (the Basel Convention), is an international treaty designed to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations, and specifically to prevent transfer of hazardous wastes from developed to less developed countries. Ten Pacific countries are Party to the Basel Convention.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme is the Pacific Regional Centre (PRC) for training and technology transfer for the joint implementation of the Basel and the Waigani Conventions in the south Pacific region established under the Basel and Waigani Conventions Memorandum of Understanding 2003.

Under paragraph 4 of Article 4, each Party of the Basel Convention is required to take appropriate legal, administrative and other measures to implement and enforce the provisions of this Convention, including measures to prevent and punish conduct in contravention of the Convention.

Under paragraph 5 of Article 9, each Party is also required to introduce appropriate national/domestic legislation to prevent and punish illegal traffic.

2. Questionnaire

Under the MOU described above, the Secretariat has been requested by the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee to kindly request your cooperation in completing the attached questionnaire, which seeks information on Parties' needs for assistance to enable them to implement and enforce the obligations described above.

This request for information is in line with the objectives of the 2012-2013 work programme of the Committee which is to improve implementation of, and compliance with the two provisions described earlier which pertain to the development of national legislation. This is also an activity in the Pacific Regional Centre Business Plan for 2011-2012 developed under the Basel and Waigani Conventions MOU.

I have been informed that the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee is also specifically instructed to identify Parties' needs for assistance, assess the adequacy of existing tools and training activities to meet those needs, and develop a legal capacity building strategy under the Convention to improve the implementation of and compliance with these provisions of the Convention.

3. Timing

I would be grateful for your assistance in completing the attached questionnaire, which should be returned to the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to Ms. Yvonne Ewang (yvonne.ewang@unep.org) and copied to Mr. Anthony Talouli at SPREP's Waste Management and Pollution Control Division (anthonyt@sprep.org) no later than **24th May 2012**.

4. Key Contact

For further information, please contact: Mr Anthony Talouli, Waste Management and Pollution Control Division, SPREP: anthonyt@sprep.org

Thank you for your assistance.

Kindest regards,



David Sheppard
Director General