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CLEAN PACIFIC 2012

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

# CIRCULAR

**FILE:** CONV 1/3/7
**DATE:** 31 July 2012
**CIRCULAR:** 12/64

**TO:** SPREP Focal Points of Parties to the Noumea Convention

**SUBJECT:** **Correction to Announcement: Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region and Related Protocols (Noumea Convention) 30 August 2012.**

Dear Sirs/ Mesdames,

I am pleased to advise that the *11th ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region and Related Protocols (Noumea Convention)* will be held in Noumea, New Caledonia on the 30th August 2012, prior to the 23nd SPREP meeting. The provisional agenda for the Meeting and supporting documentation will follow in due course.

I would like to invite nominations and appreciate if the Secretariat could be advised by the 14th August 2012 of the name of the *designated, suitable representative and accompanying experts or advisers* to attend the forthcoming Meeting. **Funding is available to support the attendance of one representative from Cook Islands, Marshall Islands and Nauru only**.

The Parties to the Noumea Convention are: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and the United States of America. Representatives of non-Party members are invited as observers.

I additionally invite national reports to the convention to be submitted, also by the 14th August 2012. Please find the format for national reporting attached.

I thank you kindly for your consideration and encourage participation in this COP Meeting.

Yours sincerely

Kosi Latu
**Acting Director General**

KL/TC/ma

**FORMAT FOR NATIONAL REPORTS BY THE PARTIES TO THE SPREP CONVENTION**

***For the Period covering the last two years:***

1. What are the main issues and priorities concerning marine pollution for your country? You can attach relevant sections of annual reports, policy documents etc.

2. What measures generally have you initiated to implement this Convention and Protocols?

3. Give details of new or amended legislation that covers marine pollution beyond internal waters including any definition of 'pollution' and the institutions responsible.

4. What is the estimated volume/type of marine pollution per year in the Convention area from the following sources; the number of permits/licenses issued; and any other measures taken to *prevent, reduce and control* such pollution:

    a. vessels (**art. 6**)
    b. land based sources (**art. 7**)
    c. mining and coastal erosion, ie, dredging, land reclamation (**art. 14**)
    d. sea-bed and sub-soil activities (**art. 8**)
    e. discharges into atmosphere (**art. 9**)
    f. dumping and disposal from vessels, aircraft, man-made structures of waste including radioactive waste or matter (**art. 10**)
    g. the storage of toxic and hazardous wastes, including radioactive wastes or matter (**art. 11**)
    h. testing of nuclear devices (**art. 12**).

5. Have you prohibited the storage and disposal of radioactive waste in the Convention area and the continental shelf beyond the Convention area? If so, what is the legislative provision and what is the penalty? (**art. 10**)

6. What technical guidelines and legislation do you have concerning EIA of development activities likely to impact on the marine environment (**art. 16**)? How many assessments occurred, what were the measures adopted to prevent pollution and what was the extent of public involvement.

7. Outline the cooperation/coordination with the other Contracting Parties in implementing the Convention and Protocols (such as agreements for protection, development or management of the marine environment, information sharing, research, monitoring and technical assistance, protection against the threat and effects of 'pollution incidents' (**arts. 4, 17, and 18**).

8. How many 'pollution incidents' have there been and what were the laws, regulations, institutions and operational procedures used in each? (**Protocol on Pollution Emergencies**)

9. What are the reporting requirements regarding 'pollution incidents' of:
    a. Government officials;
    b. Masters of vessels flying your flag; and
    c. Masters of all vessels and pilots of all aircraft in the vicinity of your coasts (**art. 5**).

Endorsed by the Fourth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Apia and SPREP Conventions, 1998, paragraph 43 of the Report. National Reports to be lodged biennially and deposited with SPREP no less than three months prior to the Ordinary Meeting of the Parties.