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CIRCULAR

FILE: CONV 1/3/7
DATE: 28 September 2012
CIRCULAR: 12/78

TO: SPREP Focal Points of Parties to the Noumea Convention

SUBJECT: **Circulation for comment of Noumea Convention paper 4.1 Annex 1 in relation to the Precautionary Principle and Deep Sea Mineral Mining**

Dear Sirs/ Mesdames,

At the 11th Conference of the Parties for the Noumea Convention, held in Noumea, New Caledonia, under agenda item 4.1 Report of the Secretariat: Article 13, the Secretariat tabled a draft paper "Understanding and Applying the Precautionary Principle to Deep Sea Mineral Mining in the Pacific Islands Region: A Socio-cultural and Legal Approach". Parties requested the Secretariat to circulate the paper for input and comment by Parties.

The paper is attached herewith, and we request comments by the **30th November 2012** please, sent to the SPREP Marine and Coastal Adviser, Tim Carruthers, timc@sprep.org SPREP will then compile comments and reticulate a revised draft for further comment.

We thank you kindly for your input and comments on this issue.

Yours sincerely

David Sheppard
Director General

DS/TC/ma