SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
E: sprep@sprep.org
T: +685 21929
F: +685 20231
W: www.sprep.org

CLEAN PACIFIC 2012

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

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 4/2/13/1

DATE: 10 October 2012

CIRCULAR: 12/83

TO: SPREP National Focal Points

SUBJECT: Oceania Biodiscovery Forum 19-23 November, 2012, Brisbane, Australia

SPREP in partnership with the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and the Australian Government wishes to invite your ABS focal point to the above-captioned meeting. This meeting follows on from the two ABS meetings held this year. **It would be beneficial if the same person attended.**

Background

The ABS Capacity Development Initiative – a multi-donor initiative hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) – and implemented by GIZ (German Development Cooperation). It is working in conjunction with the Australian Government and SPREP on a programme of capacity building which will enable Pacific Island Countries to ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol 2010, to understand their obligations and to prepare a programme of implementation.

Objectives of the workshop

The Oceania Biodiscovery Forum will pursue the following outcomes:

- A better understanding of the commercialisation process – while the regulatory steps are reasonably well known, what makes research attractive for investors?
- A better understanding of the benefits of biodiversity research and development – with the lottery a better bet than a blockbuster drug, what makes it worthwhile to provide access? How do we ensure equitable sharing of benefits?
- A better understanding of the needs of those that provide genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge – why is there a reluctance to share resources with researchers?
- A better understanding for those who provide resources and associated traditional knowledge on how to design effective and efficient Prior informed consent (PIC) and mutually agreed terms (MAC) procedures and documents.

Please refer to the attached brochure for more information.

Logistical arrangements
Funding will be provided for the attendance of two representatives per Pacific Island Country and one representative per Pacific Island Territory.

Countries are kindly requested to fill in the attached nomination form with official letter and send to Theresa Fruean-Afa (theresaf@sprep.org) no later than **26 October 2012** in order for travel to be arranged. Please ample time to process your Australian visa.

For enquiries please contact Clark Peteru (clarkp@sprep.org)

Yours sincerely

David Sheppard
Director General

Attach: Oceania Biodiscovery Forum brochure

DS/cp/tf