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

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 6/9/7
DATE: 24 January 2013
CIRCULAR: 13/07

TO: SPREP Focal Points
Collaborating Organisations
Maritime Administrations
CROP Focal Points

SUBJECT: Invitation to Comment on the Revised Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN)

1. Background

The Secretariat in collaboration with Members has developed a revised draft of the *Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN)*. The PACPLAN is a document that provides the framework for cooperative responses to major marine spills in the Pacific islands region, including broad aims and objectives, underlying spill response philosophies and priorities, roles and responsibilities of relevant organizations, regional and international linkages and mechanisms for accessing regional and international assistance. The revision has been carried out with funding from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

2. Revised Draft PACPLAN

The PACPLAN document has been revised through a series of consultation meetings and workshops that were held from September to December, 2012. A major component of the Plan revision included discussion and consultation between the host countries (Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States) and their respective Pacific island countries and territories'. As a result of these consultations a revised draft PACPLAN document has been prepared for wider circulation. Specifically, the draft PACPLAN:

- Provides for alignment with recent developments in international and regional conventions such as the *International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation 1990 (OPRC 90)*, the *OPRC HNS Protocol*, and the *Noumea Convention 1986 and its associated Protocols*;
- Provides for current economic and political circumstances (for example the enduring relationships between Samoa and New Zealand);
- Provides for restructuring and inclusion of a new section on Public Information;
- Provides for inclusion of new attachments (for example the Claims Guide and an Equipment Stockpile Listing);
- Provides an updated regional oil spill risk assessment;
- Provides a clear guide for the PACPLAN activation processes; and
- Supports the development of fundamental management activities in Pacific island countries and territories in order for the successful implementation of the PACPLAN.

3. Comments on the revised final draft sought

I would like to invite comments on the revised draft PACPLAN document by email to anthonyt@sprep.org no later than 28th February 2013. Comments received will be consolidated and incorporated into a final draft prior to its submission for endorsement at the 24th SPREP Meeting in September 2013 that will be held in Apia,

Samoa. The document will also be made available on the SPREP web site. The document will also be featured at the international SPILLCON meeting in April 2013.

I look forward to receiving your comments by the end of February, 2013.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kindest Regards,

David Sheppard
Director General

DS/AT/ph