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

Natural Solutions for Island Resilience

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 6/5/6/3

DATE: 30 May 2014

CIRCULAR: 14/50

TO: SPREP National Focal Points: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

CC: PacWaste National Focal Points

SUBJECT: Launch of the PacWaste Regional Baseline Survey for Asbestos Materials and Waste

Dear members,

As you aware, the PacWaste project is a €7,850,000, four year project (2013-2017) funded by the European Union through the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to improve regional hazardous waste management with a focus on asbestos, healthcare waste, E-waste and atoll integrated solid waste management (pilot).

The first stage of the project for asbestos is to collect baseline information on the regional distribution and status of asbestos contaminated construction material and wastes in participating Pacific island countries. This data will identify the priority countries requiring interventions in the next stages of the PacWaste Project.

The New Zealand company *Contract Environmental Ltd* partnered with *Geoscience Consulting* has been selected to carry out the asbestos baseline survey in the participating countries listed in the table below **between June and August 2014**. The consultants will also review the collected data and recommend best-practice options for asbestos management and disposal in priority countries.

The survey team of seven will include - *Mr. John O'Grady, Mr. Dirk Catterall , Mr. Dave Robotham, Mr. Claude Midgley, Mr. Gareth Oddy, Mr. Huw Williams and Ms Ellen Clara* and is scheduled to conduct visits to houses, government buildings, hospitals, schools, asbestos waste stockpiles and other structures which may contain asbestos on the following indicative dates (that may be subject to change):

COUNTRY	ENVIRON AUDITOR	ANTICIPATED DATE (2014)
Cook Islands	Dirk Catterall & Huw Williams	14-23 July
FSM	Claude Midgley	16 June - 13 July
Fiji	John O'Grady & Gareth Oddy	7-11 July
Kiribati	Gareth Oddy	12-19 July
Marshall Islands	Claude Midgley	14-18 July
Nauru	John O'Grady	18-23 August
Niue	John O'Grady	2-8 August
Palau	John O'Grady & Claude Midgley	7-13 June

Samoa	John O'Grady & Dave Robotham	21-28 June
Solomon Islands	Dirk Catterall	10-19 August
Tonga	Dirk Catterall	28 July - 7 August
Tuvalu	Gareth Oddy	20-26 July
Vanuatu	Dirk Catterall & Ellen Clara	30 June - 8 July

The collection of this data is a key activity in the PacWaste project as it provides the information to identify options for the implementation of cost effective, sustainable solutions in the effective management of asbestos to reduce human exposure to harmful airborne asbestos fibres across the Pacific region.

Your support in ensuring the *Contract Environmental* and *Geoscience Consulting* field team have access to relevant contacts during their dates of travel is requested to enable a productive, mutually beneficial baseline process.

Further correspondence will be made directly to PacWaste focal points and in the absence of a project focal point, the SPREP national focal point by Contract Environmental and Geoscience Consulting in the upcoming weeks.

Further information on the PacWaste project in general and specific focus on asbestos can be obtained through the SPREP PacWaste webpage at http://www.sprep.org/pacwaste

I look forward to your ongoing participation in this important project.

Yours Sincerely,

Netatua Pelesikoti
Officer-In-Charge