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

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

Natural Solutions for Island Resilience

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 6/7/1 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points

DATE: 12 June 2014

CIRCULAR: 14/56

SUBJECT: Satellite-based synthetic aperture radar (SSAR) for oil spill detection and response

Dear Focal Points,

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has been contacted by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), advising of an opportunity for AMSA to obtain Pacific focused satellite imagery under a current Satellite-based Synthetic Aperture Radar (SSAR) contract.

AMSA advises that the satellite imagery will assist in:

- monitoring risks of vessel sourced pollution;
- confirming suspected oil spill incidents; and
- support any required oil spill response.

To fully understand Australia's PACPOL obligations, AMSA is currently undertaking a risk based exercise to evaluate the risk of oil pollution events and all associated costs if an incident was to occur.

Australia is committed to assisting Nauru, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Kiribati under PACPLAN. To fully understand Australia's PACPOL obligations.

As part of the risk assessment and to test the contractual arrangements, an opportunity has arisen to use the current SSAR contract to take images of countries Exclusive Economic Zones. This satellite imagery will be taken and analyses by a third party under contract to AMSA. All of the information will be held in the strictest confidentiality and can be made available to countries, if required.

It would be appreciated if you do not wish to be part of this SSAR opportunity could you please email SPREP, no later than **19th June 2014,** to, Anthony Talouli: anthonyt@sprep.org or Scott Willson: scottw@sprep.org

Yours Sincerely



David Sheppard
Director General