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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 3/1/1	**TO:**	SPREP National Focal Points
DATE:	5 September 2014		CROP Organisations
CIRCULAR:	14/83		SPREP Partner Organisations

SUBJECT: **Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) and Rapid Response Fund (RRF) – Applications now Open**

Dear Members,

SPREP is pleased to announce applications for Technical Assistance through the RTSM and RRF are now open for Pacific Island Countries eligibile under this initiative.

Hosted within the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the RTSM and RRF are a joint initiative of CROP agencies, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), Development Partners, Donors and Pacific Island Countries. It is a collaborative step taken by partner agencies towards 'transformative change', to efficiently support the priority and needs of Pacific Island Countries in relation to climate change.

The RTSM is a pre qualified pool of experts with experience in developing and implementing projects in the Pacific in the areas of climate change, climate resilience, adaptation, disaster risk reduction and risk management. The pool of experts can be available to provide technical assistance (TA) and capacity supplementation to respond country requests in a timely manner. TAs can provide support in areas such as: developing project concepts, proposals, and support reporting requirements and implementation of projects. The RTSM involves a wide range of experts in fields ranging from civil engineering, gender and climate change financing to knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation.

Within the RTSM is the RRF, which finances experts deployed into Pacific Island Countries to provide technical assistance (TA) as and when requested by PICs. The RRF is initially capitalized with USD$1.1million from the Climate Investment Fund (CIF), administered by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), implemented through SPREP

Partners to this regional initiative include the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (lead implementing agency), Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the University of the South Pacific, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Forum Fisheries Agency and the South Pacific Tourism Organisation, under the guidance of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific Executives Subcommittee on Climate Change and Disaster Resilient Development (CES-CCRD).

We are excited about furthering SPREP's services to its Pacific Island Countries through this regional collaborative mechanism.

We encourage our members to access the application forms available through the RTSM website: www.rtsm.pacificclimatechange.net OR by emailing rtsm@sprep.org

Yours sincerely,



David Sheppard
Director General

DS/SB/rmg