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: ORG 1/7/3 **TO:** Pacific GEF Operational Focal Points

DATE: 13 March 2015

CIRCULAR: 15/18

Dear Colleagues,

SUBJECT: Requesting Letters of Co-Finance for the GEF/UNEP/SPREP Regional Project to Build National and Regional Capacities to Implement MEAS by Strengthening Planning, State of the Environment Assessments and Reporting.

This note follows the SPREP circular 12/82 sent on the 8th October 2012 Re: GEF State of the Environment Assessment and Reporting Capacity Building Proposal. We formulated this proposal as a result of a decision by the 23rd SPREP Meeting in 2012.This proposal (or PIF) was approved by the GEF CEO on the 20th February 2013. Subsequently, we pursued immediately to develop the full comprehensive project document and have undertaken national consultations in all your countries. This project will be funded through the GEF 5 global capacity building set aside funding modality (Cross Cutting Development Funding Window) and does not utilize any national STAR allocations.

I am pleased to advise that we are in the final stages of developing the project document. As you are aware, this regional project is subject to the GEF requirement for co-financing. I am therefore requesting your kind understanding and support to submit your Letters of Co-Financing for this project. The total project budget is USD 4.3 million for 4 years. The minimum co-financing ratio is 1:1. SPREP has identified a significant portion of co-financing from its own staff and resources to support this project but would still require your national in-kind contributions to be reflected in the project document as per GEF policy on national ownership.

I am attaching a draft letter of co-financing for your consideration. We have identified a minimum of USD 200,000 threshold from each country. This amount is stretched over the project's lifespan and is sourced primarily from your normal in-kind support. If you have additional parallel funding or project(s) of similar objectives that can be aligned or complement this project, then you may include it as part of your overall co-finance. Only projects that are active during this project (2016-2020) should be considered.

I am also attaching the latest copy of the GEF Co-Financing Policy 2014 for your perusal.

Please contact Mr. Meapelo Maiai (GEF Support Adviser) via meapelom@sprep.org for any clarification or query you may have pertaining to the contents of this circular.

Thank you for your usual support.

Yours sincerely,



David Sheppard

Director General