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

Natural Solutions for Island Resilience

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

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 2/2/20

TO: SPREP National Focal Points - Vanuatu, Solomon Islands & Papua New Guinea
SPREP Partner Organisations

DATE: 18 January 2016

CIRCULAR: 16/04

SUBJECT: **Pacific islands Community Co-management Course (PICCC)**

Dear SPREP Members and Partners,

Purpose:

To invite applications from natural resource managers, community conservation leaders, conservation practitioners and organizations in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea (New Britain, New Ireland, Bouganville and Manus) to attend a regional conservation training course on Community-based Conservation and Adaptive Management. The course will be offered over three phases:

Phase 1: 4 weeks in March, 2016
Phase 2: April – September, applying learning at work site
Phase 3: 3 weeks in October, 2016 – Reflecting on Work Experience
Venue: Honiara, Solomon Islands, in association with The University of the South Pacific (USP) and the Solomon Islands Community Conservation Program

Background:

The Pacific Islands are dispersed over a third of the globe and blessed with extremely rich marine biological and habitat diversity, matched by remarkable diversity of its people's cultures. However this diversity presents many challenges to resource managers. In remote island settings, communities, who in most cases are customary owners of the land, inshore areas and natural resources therein, are the lynchpin in achieving wise resource management and Western, relatively centralized, approaches to resource management do not work. Until recently this represented a significant challenge in terms of capacity building, as most modern expertise and information came from the West.

This lack of human capacity to address government and local resource managers' needs identified in 2000 led to the collaboration by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), The University of the South Pacific (USP) and the International Centre for Protected Landscape (ICPL) to develop and establish a vocational training program for Pacific Island practitioners in 2001. The Pacific Islands Community-based Conservation Course (PICCC) has been offered four times since then and it has received acclaim from governments, NGOs and sponsors alike.

There was strong support from the BIOPAMA program and the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management program in Pacific Island Countries (MACBIO) funded by the German Agency for Development Cooperation (GIZ) to revive, update and consolidate the PICCC over a 5 year period (2014 – 2019) during which 3 Pacific regional and at least 2 sub-regional or tailored courses will be held. The Protected Area component of BIOPAMA was the main funder of the first course and is jointly implemented by IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) and EC-JRC (European Commission Joint Research Centre) and is an initiative of the ACP Secretariat, funded by the European Union under EDF 10.

The 2016 course will mainly be funded under the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund but with assistance from MACBIO. A key feature will be developing the skills of the SICCP to conduct such training.

This "new" Pacific Islands Community Co-management Course (PICCC) is an outcome of the concerted efforts by the collaborative partners to modernise the old PICCC course to refocus on critical, urgent and relevant issues and skills for the Pacific islands such as coastal fisheries management and terrestrial protected areas and to meet design constraints which include:

- targeting people most likely to apply the skills acquired,
- ensuring that approaches appropriate to the region are taught,
- that appropriate methods are used both during the course and in subsequent support to trainees,
- providing information and tools likely to be applied after course completion, and
- keeping the course concise so as not to remove key staff from their jobs for an excessive period.

The course will provide participants with the practical knowledge and skills required for the sustainable management of natural resources such as fisheries management and conservation areas and other forms of protected areas such as Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs). In 2016 the course will add a significant component on prioritizing land species and habitats and their conservation. The course is integrated in the USP curriculum and provides practitioners with the opportunity to further their education in conservation management including the possibility of acquiring post-graduate qualifications through the university's academic structure.

Course Aim and Objectives:

The aim of the course is to build and improve the capacity of conservation practitioners, community representatives, government technical officers, NGO technical officers, training

personnel in the management of community-based conservation projects and sites for the sustainable conservation and management of natural resources.

The course aims to provide core skills and develop critical thinking for achieving widespread natural resource management and sustainable community livelihoods in Pacific and other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) drawing particularly on successful regional experience and skills. Though the course draws on relevant international science and thinking it particularly encourages participants to evaluate and share experiences from within the region. The aims are to:

- Develop personal professional skills and the confidence to apply them
- Develop and practice community participation and planning skills
- Develop understanding of the wider governance context affecting or supporting community livelihoods
- Develop critical thinking and strategic planning capacity
- Understand basic natural resource management, conservation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction and supplementary livelihood tools

The specific objectives of the course are to give participants the ability to:

- be familiar with the various approaches to natural resource management and conservation, including the role of Fisheries Management, LMMA and Conservation Area systems in protecting biological and cultural diversity and in supporting communities to do so;
- identify and address, at the local level, the major natural and cultural threats to sustainable conservation area establishment and management;
- use a range of participatory planning and consultation tools in support of conservation area management and the development of community-based conservation action plans;
- examine the need for enterprise planning; describe the basic themes and processes of business planning; as well as gain practical experience with a range of basic business skills;
- gain practical experience with a range of interpersonal and communication skills including how to generate public support and how to understand the role of partners in education programs;
- appreciate and understand project design and management relevant for conservation management;
- appreciate and understand the need for leadership skills, critical thinking, strategic planning; and know the roles and functions of a range of planning tools; and
- describe the major biodiversity and conservation conventions and strategies, their inter-linkages and their relevance to the Pacific Island countries.

Teaching Methods:

There will be some direct teaching, interspersed in most sessions with active (individual, paired or group exercises) of varying lengths. Presentations, discussion and reviews will reinforce the active learning component.

Taught elements will be illustrated by case studies and examples from the member countries and from other regions. There will be field visits to bring issues to light and to

provide opportunities to practice skills. These visits will include a 2-3 day excursion to provide practical, in field and in-the-community experience in applying the principles and skills learned during the course.

Selection Criteria:
Participation at this course will require on-going commitment to conservation. The participation of personnel who are involved in conservation management at the "hands-on" level will be encouraged. Participants will be expected to describe how their attendance will improve a conservation site or program in their country. Given the CEPF focus the participants will mainly need to be practitioners from Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and the PNG Islands of New Britain, New Ireland, Bouganville and Manus that are part of the Eastern Melanesia Ecosystem. The following criteria will be used by USP and SPREP when selecting candidates for the course:

- Qualifications and experience of each applicant to implement and transfer to others what was learnt at the course.
- Work program of applicant - will it allow for the additional load of preparing and writing up a project back home after the course.
- Interest level and motivation of the applicant - has the applicant shown initiative in his/her own area of work in issues relating to community based conservation management?
- The applicant must be currently or planning to be involved in assisting with the management of a conservation area which involves training others;
- Level of support from the candidates organization;
- Sufficient guarantee that the applicant will return to apply the newly learned skills after completion of the course.

Gender equity is a factor in the selection of participants for inclusion in this program.

Phase 1 will be a four-week face to face learning experience in Honiara during March/April, 2016 covering topics in the attached course description.

Phase 2: In-country Project work
In line with the above objectives, participants will have to carry out a 4-5 month practical project relevant to their work and natural resource conservation management in their home countries. Participants will use their background knowledge and the skills and knowledge gained from the training to complete the in-country project. The in-country project will form part of the overall assessment for the course leading to a course certificate. Arrangements will be made for ongoing project supervision in-country.

3rd Phase: October, 2016
Following the 4-5 month project work, participants will be required to return to Honiara to attend a three-week on-campus course that will involve coverage of additional learning modules, a review of everything covered in Phase 1 and the in-country project, enabling participants to share their experiences. Successful completion of this project and submission of a draft project report are pre-requisites for attendance in Phase 3. Applicants who successfully complete all three aspects will receive a certificate of completion and be considered on application for being awarded a USP course credit towards post-graduate study.

Funding of Applicants:
Major financial support for the 2016 PICCC has been committed by CEPF. This will assist in adapting the course to include more about terrestrial conservation planning and paying tuition costs for applicants from the Eastern Melanesian Ecosystem. Other candidates who have experience in CEPF work in Micronesia and Polynesia can apply but will need to have funding support from their organization.

Please forward **all completed applications to SPREP:**
Ecosystem and Biodiversity Officer, SPREP, P.0 Box 240, Apia, Samoa, Fax +685 20231, email: amandaw@sprep.org
Application deadline is 15 February, 2016.

Logistical Arrangements:

Accommodation, Meals and Incidentals

At this stage, accommodation for all participants will be provided at nearby lodgings (hotels/motels) and will be confirmed nearer the course commencement. Funds will be provided at an appropriate rate to cover meals not provided at venue and for incidentals.

Airfares and Transfers

Departure taxes, excess luggage, any other incidental costs and any flight alterations will be the responsibility of the participant. Limited sponsorship is available for these costs.

Insurance

Participants are responsible for their own insurance while travelling to or from the workshop venue and the organisers shall not accept liability for any injury suffered by a person attending the workshop. We strongly recommend that participants take out personal insurance (at employer's/her/his own expense) for the period in which s/he is sponsored or is travelling to or from the course.

Visas

It is the responsibility of the participant to arrange any necessary visa(s) required for travel.

Program

Please note that this is subject to finalization by USP and SPREP and SICCP and will be circulated as soon as it is finalized.

Course Costs (US$) per participant

Course Costs	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
Tuition fee	2089	691	2780
Estimate of Accommodation meals and incidentals	2258	1694	3952
Total (US$)	4347	2385	6732

Further Information
For further information, please contact Professor Bill Aalbersberg aalbersberg@usp.ac.fj
Applicants should forward their applications to the **Ecosystem and Biodiversity Officer**, **Ms Amanda Wheatley, SPREP, P.0 Box 240, Apia, Samoa, Fax +685 20231, email: amandaw@sprep.org**
by the **15 February, 2016**.

Yours sincerely,



Clark Peteru
Officer-in-Charge

Attachment:

CP/AW/ma