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

PROTECT PACIFIC WHALES – OCEAN VOYAGERS

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

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 2/18/2/2
DATE: 13 April 2016
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TO: SPREP National Focal Points
CROP Organisations
SPREP Partner Organisations

SUBJECT: **Regional Invasive Species School Challenge 2016**

Dear SPREP Focal Points,

We are pleased to announce that our Invasive Species Schools Challenge is opening again this year. This Schools Challenge is part of the overall campaign "Invasive Species are everyone's Responsibility" and follows on from last year whereby we developed an Invasive Species Toolkit including four fact sheets, a challenge book, a TV clip and a radio spot.

As per last year, this will be held at two levels – we are redistributing our electronic School Challenge Toolkit including all resources mentioned above, and kindly ask that you implement this in your country as the National Invasive Species Schools Challenge.

We welcome the winning entries of the first, second and third place holders of your national competition to be submitted to our team at SPREP by 15 August, 2016 for the Regional Invasive Species Challenge.

These entries will be judged by a special panel and will announce the regional first, second and third place winners of the regional competition by 1 September, 2016.

We are hopeful that this will be a successful competition both at the national and regional levels to raise awareness on the harmful impacts caused by Invasive Species and the actions that can be undertaken to help stop or reduce their spread. While the lessons and information learnt through these Challenge activities are broad enough to encompass all Invasive Species, we are focusing on the Little Fire Ant as an example.

Please find attached, an overview of the Regional Invasive Species Schools Challenge that will accompany the Invasive Species Resource Toolkit. Should you require further information, please contact David Moverley, SPREP Invasive Species Adviser (davidm@sprep.org) and copy to Anna Bertram, Invasive Species Technical Assistant (annab@sprep.org).

Yours sincerely,

Kosi Latu
Director General

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Regional Invasive Species Schools Challenge Overview

The Invasive Species Schools Challenge is part of the Invasive Species Resource Toolkit that we are distributing throughout the region. We hope to inspire use of the toolkit through providing a range of challenges that classrooms can undertake as part of a national Schools Challenge.

We are hopeful that you will coordinate the competition at the national level. You may wish to work with the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders or partners to coordinate the national schools challenge in your country. We request that you submit the winning entries of the top three placeholders to SPREP by 15 August, 2016 to be part of the regional Invasive Species Schools Challenge for which we will provide the top three entries with a cash prize.

SPREP has developed the Invasive Species Challenge Toolkit which consists of four fact sheets, eight suggested challenges - the "Invasive Spices Challenge Sheets", the Little Fire Ant Video and the Little Fire Ant radio clip. The toolkit can be found and downloaded here: IS Schools Challenge Resource Toolkit

Please let us know if your country, state or territory would like to participate and/or if you need any further information or assistance. You can contact David Moverley, SPREP Invasive Species Adviser (davidm@sprep.org) and copy to Anna Bertram, Invasive Species Technical Assistant (annab@sprep.org).