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PROTECT PACIFIC WHALES – OCEAN VOYAGERS

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

CIRCULAR

FILE:	AP 6/5/4	**TO:**	SPREP National Focal Points
DATE:	6 October 2016		CROP Organizations
CIRCULAR:	16/58		SPREP Partner Organizations

SUBJECT: GEF Pacific POPs Release Reduction Project Update

SPREP wishes to advice on the following key elements of the *"Pacific POPs Release Reduction Project"*, that is currently underway. The project is co-funded through the *Global Environment Facility - Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GEF-PAS)* and *Agence Française de Développement (AFD).* The project is executed by SPREP with the *United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)* and *Food and Agriculture Organization (FA*O) as the implementing agencies.

a. Pesticide Container Management Project

The Pesticide Container Management component of the Pacific POPs Project commenced in August 2016 and SPREP wishes to apologise for this late advice.

The objective of this component is to assist Pacific Island countries in achieving best management practices for used pesticide containers. The activities will contribute to the reduction of environmental and human health risks from pesticides and pesticide wastes as well as reduction in emissions of POPs particularly those that are produced unintentionally.

SPREP engaged GHD PTY LTD, as consultant, to undertake the following works:

1. Baseline survey in 14 Pacific Island countries (Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Niue, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu) to obtain estimates of annual pesticide container importation rates (types and quantities);
   and
2. In-depth feasibility study with cost benefit analysis in three Pacific Island countries (Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga) to determine the best and most cost effective used pesticide container decontamination and collection strategy.

b. Regional Vocational Training Program on Solid and Hazardous Waste Management

The next training will be conducted in Fiji on the 28th November to 8th December 2016 which will be hosted by the Fiji National University (FNU) College of Medicine with delivery assistance provided by Griffith University of Australia. The training was initiated and developed through the AFD Regional

Solid Waste Management Initiative Project in 2011, and the Pacific POPs Release Project have assumed the coordination and funding of this project element since 2015.

The nominations received as per Circular No. 16/10 are currently being evaluated. It is anticipated that successful applicants will be notified by Friday 13th October 2016. All selected trainees will need to satisfy the following requirements:

a. Government of Fiji's entry visa requirements; and
b. Attendance to the entire duration of the training.

The successful applicants will be provided with a return economy airfare between the country of nomination and Fiji (Suva), suitable accommodation for the duration of the training and daily allowance to cover meals and incidental expenses.

This is a valuable opportunity for capacity building on waste management that should not be missed. I, therefore, encourage eligible Member countries to send their nominations through Lusiana Ralogaivau: lusianar@sprep.org by Friday, 4th October 2016, if you have not yet done so.

c. Project Mid-term Evaluation

The project which commenced in July 2013 has reached its mid-term and as per requirement, the UNEP Office has engaged a consultant, Mr. Philip Tortell, to undertake the mid-term evaluation from October to November 2016. The evaluation will entail interviews with relevant officers within your countries and actual visits to at least three Pacific Island countries.

SPREP will make prior contact to any visit and kindly requests your support for this engagement.

d. 4th Project Steering Committee Meeting, NIPs Update Meeting and GMP-2 Meeting

The 4th Steering Committee Meeting will be held on 29th to 30th November 2016 in Auckland, New Zealand. This meeting will be held back to back with *UNEP NIPs Update Project* on 1st December 2016 and the *Global Monitoring Project* – 2 on 2nd December 2016.

SPREP will send invitations with details to the focal points in the next week and it is recommended that countries have consistent representation at the Steering Committee meeting. We also advise all representatives to ensure that the Government of New Zealand's entry visa requirements are met, if required.

Thank you again for the support rendered to the Pacific POPs Release Reduction Project and we look forward to your continued cooperation towards the management of our POPs in the Pacific.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Chape
Officer in Charge