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PROTECT PACIFIC WHALES – OCEAN VOYAGERS

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

# CIRCULAR

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| **FILE:** | AP 2/33/1 | **TO:** | SPREP National Focal Points |
| **DATE:** | 18 April 2017 | | CROP Organisations |
| **CIRCULAR:** | 17/18 | | SPREP Partner Organisations |

**SUBJECT:** GEF-UNEP Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the countries of the Pacific Region Project Planning Workshop, 26-30 June, 2017, SPREP Headquarters, Samoa

Dear Focal Points,

The Secretariat wishes to invite a representative from each of the SPREP member countries[1] that are part of the above mentioned project, to attend a regional project planning workshop from the 26th to the 30th June, 2017 at the SPREP Headquarters at Vailima, Samoa.

The main objectives of the planning workshop are to:

(i) Establish a clear understanding of the objectives and expected outcomes of the regional Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) project; discuss and confirm implementation arrangements; and identify opportunities for building synergies with other related ABS projects in the region; and
(ii) Discuss key outcomes of the Second Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol including implications for Pacific island parties

The workshop aims at bringing together those who are involved in various ABS initiatives to engage in a meaningful dialogue on practical ways to build synergies and linkages among these initiatives to achieve common objectives and shared outcomes.

SPREP will cover travel and related costs in accordance with the SPREP approved travel policies for a representative from each of the regional ABS project participating countries. Unfortunately due to funding constraints, we kindly ask countries[2] with individual stand-alone ABS projects and including partner organizations, to self-fund your attendance.

For attendance at the workshop, please nominate a person who is directly involved in ABS matters so they are able to actively engage in the workshop discussions. To assist with the workshop logistical arrangements, including travel for SPREP sponsored participants, please complete the attached Nomination Form with details of your nominee and email it to the Secretariat on email makeritaa@sprep.org and copy registry@sprep.org no later than Monday 24th April, 2017.

[1]Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
[2]Cook Islands and Fiji.

Detailed information on the workshop agenda and related documentations will be circulated in due course. For any specific queries regarding the workshop, please contact Easter Galuvao easterg@sprep.org and Clark Peteru clarkp@sprep.org

Kind regards,



Roger Cornforth
**Acting Director General**

*RC/EG/ma*