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 2/17/3
DATE: 26 May 2017
CIRCULAR: 17/25

TO: SPREP National Focal Points
CROP Organisations
SPREP Partner Organisations

SUBJECT: WHALE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

Dear Members,

Thanks to the generosity of the Australian company, Blue Planet Marine (BPM), an opportunity has arisen to place a number of Pacific island participants alongside some of the region's most experienced and accomplished whale research scientists on board BPM's flagship vessel, Flying Fish, during a research cruise this winter in the humpback whale breeding grounds in the northern Great Barrier Reef. The programme begins in late July and finishes during the latter part of September (see the attached brochure). BPM has kindly offered to carry a number of Pacific island participants as part of the research team free of charge, as part of their contribution to building capacity in the region for whale research.

SPREP will contribute to this initiative by covering the travel to and from the embarkation point in North Queensland for selected nominees from SPREP members, subject to the normal terms and conditions. The number of participants we shall be able to support will depend on the cost of travel for each nominee. Member countries and territories who can fund the travel costs of their nominee(s) should apply directly to BPM and advise SPREP accordingly.

The research season opens mid-July, so I should like to receive nominations for travel support for prospective participants by **9 June 2017**. Please provide background information on any nominee you are recommending for travel support, and an explanation of how their participation would assist your country or territory's ability to conduct research on whales in your waters.

I hope that this generous offer from Blue Planet Marine attracts several nominations.

Yours sincerely,

Kosi Latu
Director General