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 2/2/9/1 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points
DATE: 6 July 2017
CIRCULAR: 17/31

SUBJECT: MARINE SPECIES ACTION PLANS 2013-2017

Dear Focal Points,

Ms Iris Arbogast from Carleton College in Minnesota, USA, will be with SPREP as an intern for July/August. Her main task will be to review the effectiveness of SPREP's Marine Species Programme (MSP) for the period 2013-2017. The MSP is reviewed and revised every five years, and with your cooperation, we hope to have a draft MSP for 2018-2022 ready for distribution at the SPREP meeting in September.Attached to this circular (Annex 1) is some further information on this important initiative.

I urge you to complete the survey forms at your earliest convenience and to return them to Iris (irisa.ext@sprep.org) for analysis. Your cooperation will help SPREP to revise the Marine Species Programme to more effectively guide your efforts to protect the Pacific's threatened marine species for the period 2018-2022.

Thank you in anticipation of your speedy response.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Cornforth
Acting Director General

RC/MD/ma

Annex 1

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ms Iris Arbogast from Carleton College in Minnesota, USA, has been asked to review the effectiveness of SPREP's Marine Species Programme (MSP) for the period 2013-2017. The MSP consists of separate action plans for the key groups of threatened and migratory species, and it is reviewed and revised every five years. For the next version of the MSP, we intend to add a chapter on sharks and rays to the existing chapters on turtles, dugong and cetaceans.

Your feedback is vital to guide us in shaping a programme that will be helpful for you, so please ensure that you respond promptly to the questions in the surveys that Iris has prepared, or pass it on to the person best suited to do so. This is an opportunity to ensure that your views are heard and that they influence the final product.

The surveys take the form of a survey monkey questionnaire about the MSP generally, (also at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C9CM28S), and three more specific surveys on the separate action plans.

Iris will also be contacting focal points in countries that are range states for dugong (New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Palau), seeking further advice and guidance to prepare the first draft for the section on dugong for MSP 2018-2022.