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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 4/12/13 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points

DATE: 17 July 2017

CIRCULAR: 17/33

SUBJECT: **For review and comment – EIA Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development in the Pacific Region**

Dear SPREP Members,

SPREP is circulating a draft document for your review, titled ***Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development in the Pacific Region*** (Tourism EIA Guidelines). Preparation of the Tourism EIA Guidelines was endorsed at the 11th Conference of the Parties for the Noumea Convention.

The Tourism EIA Guidelines address Objective 4.1 in SPREP's Strategic Plan 2017-2026, to *"Strengthen national sustainable development planning and implementation systems including through use of Environmental Impact Assessments, Strategic Environmental Assessments, and spatial planning"*.

The Guidelines have been developed in partnership with the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO), to provide sector-specific EIA guidance. They build on SPREP's long-running EIA assistance programme for member countries, including SPREP's Regional EIA Guidelines, which were launched at the 27th SPREP Meeting.

Consultation activities have been undertaken in Fiji, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu to support the preparation of the Guidelines. Input has also been provided by Member countries through the SPTO 'Tourism and Environment' workshop held in Tonga in 2014.

The EIA Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development have been developed as a practical manual that:

- provides an overview of tourism in the Pacific region;
- identifies environmental considerations for coastal tourism;
- outlines key aspects of the EIA process (with reference to SPREP's Regional EIA Guidelines); and
- includes an EIA terms of reference template for coastal tourism development.

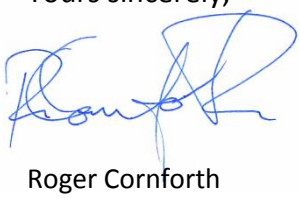
The Tourism EIA Guidelines will be an important reference document for government officers who are responsible for the EIA process, tourism developers and businesses, national tourism organisations, customary land and resource owners, and members of civil society organisations and community groups who take an interest in tourism development.

An invitation is now being extended to all SPREP Members to provide feedback on the content of the draft document. Comments should be submitted to Melanie Bradley, Environmental Planning Officer, at melanieb@sprep.org by **Friday 28th July 2017**.

The final draft of the Tourism EIA Guidelines will be tabled for endorsement at the 14th Conference of the Parties for the Noumea Convention and the 28th SPREP Meeting. The Guidelines will also be tabled at the SPTO Board Meeting in October 2017, for endorsement.

Thank you for your kind assistance with the review of the draft document.

Yours sincerely,



Roger Cornforth
Acting Director General

RC/JD/jd