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

PROTECT PACIFIC WHALES – OCEAN VOYAGERS

CIRCULAR

FILE:	HR 5/4/6	**TO:**	SPREP National Focal Points
DATE:	7 September 2017		CROP Organisations
CIRCULAR:	17/45		SPREP Partner Organisations

SUBJECT: **Introducing the following:**

SPREP is pleased to announce the following appointments to work with the Secretariat:

- **Mr. David Sakoda, Invasive Species Specialist (Peace Corp Response Volunteer)**
- **Ms. Ofa He Paea Kaisamy, Access and Benefit Sharing, Legal Adviser**



Mr. David Sakoda has been appointed to the position of Invasive Species Specialist through the Secretariat's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United States Peace Corp Response Volunteers (PCRV) Programme. David joins SPREP from the County of Maui, Hawaii where he has been a Municipal Arborist for the past 21 years and where he was in charge of the Urban Forestry Programme throughout the county; providing technical assistance in street and park tee management, tree selection management and hazard tree assessments. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Forest Management, Ecosystems and Silvaculture from the University of Minnesota, College of Forestry. He started official duties on Monday, 4th September 2017 and is based with the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management (BEM) Division for the next twelve months.



Ms. Ofa Kaisamy has been appointed to the position of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), Legal Adviser for the GEF Regional project on the Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the Pacific region which is a project implemented by the UN Environment and executed by SPREP. Ofa will be working directly with the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management (BEM) Division and in collaboration with the Environmental Monitoring and Governance Division. Ofa is a national of Tonga and she joins SPREP from the Tonga's Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC) where she has been working as the Principal Legal Analyst and Head of the Legal Division. Ofa has also held different roles in Climate Change issues for AusAID in Tonga and GIZ/SPC Suva, Fiji. This position will provide technical and legal advice relating to relevant activities, contracts and reports in association with the SPREP-UNEP-GEF Regional ABS project to ratify and implement the Nagoya Protocol in the countries of the Pacific. Ofa holds a Master in

Environmental Law from the Australian National University, a Diploma on Ocean Laws and Policy from Aegean Institution, Rhodes, Greece and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of the South Pacific, Port Vila, Vanuatu. She will start official duties on Wednesday, 13th September 2017 and will be joined in Apia by her husband Melitiana and four children.

We welcome David and Ofa to the SPREP family and we look forward to these positions increasing and strengthening relevant support and services to the region.

Yours sincerely,



Kosi Latu
Director General