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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: SPM 24/2
DATE: 11 September 2017
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To: SPREP National Focal Points
Copy: CROP Agencies
SPREP Partner Organisations

SUBJECT: Invitation to the Workshop on Marine Species Action Plans 2018-2022, 16 September 2017, Apia, Samoa

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Dear SPREP Members, Partners and participants of the 28th SPREP Meeting.

I am pleased to invite you to attend the above Workshop in the margin of the 28th SPREP Meeting, on Saturday, 16th September 2017, at the venue of the 28th SPREP Meeting which is the Tanoa Tusitala Hotel.

Marine Species Action Plans Workshop
As you may know, SPREP's Marine Species Programme is due for renewal for the period 2018-2022. New Action Plans are being drafted and a workshop will be convened at the Tanoa Hotel in one of the small meeting rooms on **Saturday 16 September at 10 a.m.** to review the draft Action Plans for:

- Whales and dolphins
- Turtles
- Dugong
- Sharks and rays

BACKGROUND
SPREP's Marine Species Programme (MSP) for the period 2013-2017 is in the process of review for its next iteration (2018-2022). The MSP consists of separate action plans for the key groups of threatened and migratory vertebrate species, and it is reviewed and revised every five years. For the next version of the MSP, a chapter on sharks and rays will be added to the existing chapters on turtles, dugong and cetaceans.

In June, we circulated a survey monkey questionnaire to Members, seeking feedback on the effectiveness of the MSP generally https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C9CM28S, and three more specific surveys on the separate action plans for dugong, marine turtles and cetaceans.

We received a disappointing amount of feedback (many thanks to those Members who did respond), but your feedback is vital to guide us in shaping a programme that will be helpful for you. We have developed draft Action Plans for dugong and marine turtles, which are attached. The draft plans for sharks and rays and cetaceans will follow within the next couple of days.

COMMENTS ON DRAFT ACTION PLANS
We have attempted to take note of the comments made by Members in drafting the attached draft Action Plans. If we have not addressed them adequately, please let me know.

We have also tried to significantly reduce the scope of the Action Plans from the 2013-2017 version, in an attempt to make them more affordable, achievable, and better tailored to the requirements that Members and Leaders have articulated in a number of fora, including the Voluntary Commitments made by countries at the UN Ocean Conference; and to implement decisions taken at recent Conferences of Parties to various international conventions.

INFORMAL WORKSHOP

We apologise that these draft Action Plans are late in their delivery to you, and we acknowledge that there is little time to formally review them before the SPREP Meeting 19-22 September. For those Members and supporters who are interested, SPREP will be convening a workshop to review the draft Action Plans at:

0930 : Conference Meeting Room
Tanoa Tusitala Hotel
Saturday 16 September

All are very welcome. This is an opportunity to ensure that your views are heard and that they influence the final product. We look forward to seeing you then, and if you will be present, we would appreciate a short email notifying your intention to attend. Kindly please contact SPREP's Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser, Michael Donoghue on michaeld@sprep.org for more details of the workshop.

Yours sincerely,



Kosi Latu
Director General

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