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CLEAN PACIFIC

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

CIRCULAR

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TO: GEF Operational Focal Points
(Pacific Island Countries only)
SPREP Focal Points (PICs only)

SUBJECT: Summary Discussion Points from the GEF Constituency meeting in Sydney

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your support to SPREP at the recent GEF Constituency Meeting in Sydney, Australia. First, I want to congratulate the Cook Islands for having their PIF/PPG approved during our meeting. Samoa is now working to complete preparation of their project document for approval by GEF soon.

I wanted to follow-up with you regarding key discussion points of the GEF meeting through this circular. The following points refer to the Ridge to Reef Programme which served as the main focus of our meeting.

1. Letter of Endorsements (LoEs): All 14 LoEs are now with UNDP/FAO/UNEP.

2. PIF/PPG Phase: As of now, approximately half of PICs (7 countries) have prepared their PIF/PPG. These include Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands (not R2R), and Vanuatu. The remaining countries have submitted concept papers in lieu of PIF and have an additional 6 months to complete PIF formulation after June when the GEF Council is expected to approve the Ridge to Reef Programme Framework Document.

3. GEF IA: As in the case of Tonga (appointed both FAO and UNDP), countries are able to appoint more than 1 implementing agencies.

4. Co-Financing: problematic for smaller countries with limited financial resources. Ms. Nicole Glingeur of GEF has advised that countries may wish to consider writing to the GEF Secretariat to advise on the constraints with meeting the full co- financing ratio. Please note that co-financing can be off-set and shared among countries in regional programmes. Countries may also wish to leverage co-financing from it's preferred Implementing Agency and through CROP agencies such as SPREP.

5. Additional Funding: Countries are receiving an estimated USD165,000 - USD 175,000 of top-up funds in addition to their STAR resources to support their national activities

under the Ridge to Reef Programme. There are substantial funds from the Capacity Building window that could top-up Ridge to Reef continuation in GEF6. These are catalytic funds that support activities towards achieving the multi-focal areas of the 3 Rio Conventions.

6. SCCF Funds: Noted that approximately USD 1,376,147 from the Special Climate Change Fund will be injected into the regional component of the Ridge to Reef by fall (September-December) of 2013. The total amount for the regional component of Ridge to Reef is **USD10,126,147.**

7. GEF Agency and Partner Roles:
   - UNDP – Cook Islands, FS Micronesia, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, IW Regional Programme Coordinating Agency.
   - UNEP – Marshall Islands, Palau.
   - FAO – Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tonga.
   - SOPAC – execution of Regional IW Project (building on GEF IWRM project).

8. SPREP's Support: We appreciated the strong support from countries to include SPREP in the preparation of their national project documents. SPREP's full support package should be reflected to support national activities in each country's project document. We have noted the request from Kiribati for SPREP's support in a joint-mission with FAO to develop their PIF. Tentative dates of joint mission are between 29 April- 13th May 2013.

9. Proposed Regional Project for Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS): SPREP will follow this up with a circular note regarding this new proposal between the GEF Secretariat, UNEP and SPREP. A total of USD 2 million is earmarked from the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund to support Pacific Island Countries interested to receive assistance to ratify the Nagoya Protocol and its implementation.

Yours faithfully

David Sheppard
Director General

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