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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: All SPREP National Focal Points and Collaborating Partners

Date: 17 December, 2013
Circular No. 13/89

SUBJECT: Key outcomes achieved at the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, 2nd to 6th December 2013, Suva, Fiji

Dear SPREP Members and Partners,

I am pleased to inform you of the successful conclusion of the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas which was hosted by the Government of Fiji in partnership with SPREP and the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation.

The conference concluded with the successful adoption of the following key outcomes:

- High Level Session Ten Key Actions
- Laucala (conference) Declaration; and
- a new Regional Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2014-2020

More than 500 participants attended the conference from the Pacific and around the world representing different interest groups ranging from community groups, youths, university students, NGOs, government officials, development partners, political leaders and many others who travelled far to take part in this important event.

There were many highlights of the conference, including the Inaugural Pacific Islands Environment Leadership Award which recognized the contribution and achievement of key people in nature conservation over the years. This special event will continue every two years and we look forward to an increasing number of nominations for this important event.

As we celebrate the successes of the conference and its main achievements, it is important that we prepare ourselves in advance for successful implementation of these key outcomes. On this note, I kindly request your continued assistance and cooperation to work with us to take these outcomes forward at relevant meetings and events taking place in 2014 and beyond. In 2014, we should collectively take the key messages of the 9th conference to the SIDS meeting in Apia, the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney and many other key events at national, regional and international levels.

Specifically on the new regional framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2014-2020, we kindly seek your assistance and support to ensure this regional framework is closely aligned and integrated with your National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans, or equivalent. The success of this new regional framework depends on all of us, member countries and collaborating partners. The Secretariat will prepare a paper on this new regional framework for endorsement at the 2014 SPREP Meeting and we hope that you will continue to provide input into the finalization of the regional framework prior to its formal endorsement.

As part of our post conference follow up actions, we will circulate draft copies of the conference proceedings in due course. In the meantime, please feel free to access and download copies of all conference presentations and documents at *www.sprep.org/pacificnatureconference*

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and contribution to the 9th conference and look forward to working closely with you to implement key conference outcomes in the next five years.

On behalf of the management and staff of SPREP, I wish you a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,



David Sheppard
Director General

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