**Regional Workshop on improving information and capacity for more effective Protected Area management in the Pacific**

**11-15 June 2018**
**Apia, Samoa**

To: SPREP National Focal Points of the following Pacific ACP countries:
**Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.**

The **Regional Workshop on improving information and capacity for more effective Protected Area management in the Pacific** will be held in Apia, Samoa, 11-15 June 2018.

The workshop has been made possible through the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme, which is an initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States financed by the European Union's 11th European Development Fund (EDF). BIOPAMA supports the long-term conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in all ACP countries in protected areas and surrounding communities through better use and monitoring of information and capacity development on management and governance. Furthermore, BIOPAMA provides tools for data and information management, services for improving the knowledge and capacity for protected area planning and decision making, and grant funding opportunities for specific site-based actions.

The workshop will be hosted by the Government of Samoa and is jointly delivered by the BIOPAMA regional implementing partners IUCN Oceania Regional Office and SPREP, and supported by the programmes' global partner implementing partner, the European Commission Joint Research Centre (EC-JRC)

**Workshop objectives:**

Specific objectives of the regional workshop are to:

- provide information about the second phase of the BIOPAMA Programme - its objectives, benefits to countries, expected results and main activities as well opportunities for involvement by countries and organisations

- engage with stakeholders and partners about priority needs for improving information and capacity for decision making and effective management of protected areas

- provide training on the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal PIPAP (managed by SPREP in collaboration with the EC-JRC) and other relevant web based information tools for protected area planning and management

- provide information about the BIOPAMA Action Component and identify regional and national priorities for investments through grant making (managed by IUCN)

Accordingly, we have pleasure in inviting **two representatives** from each of the eligible Pacific Island countries to participate in the workshop. The persons nominated should ideally meet the following criteria:

- Be mid to senior-level government officers or equivalent and have direct involvement and responsibility for protected area management and/or administration in their country;
- Have direct knowledge and experience on the status, issues and challenges concerning national protected area management;
- Be in a position to make decisions on the actions and recommendations that will result from the workshop;
- Have experience of working with local communities within protected areas;
- Have an understanding of their national protected areas databases and status;
- Have a good understanding of their national protected areas strategies and plans such as CBD Aichi Target 11 national priority road maps, NBSAPs and other relevant strategies and plans;
- Become the official national counterparts for BIOPAMA engagement following the workshop.

The nominated representatives from each country will be financially supported to attend this workshop. This support covers return economy-air travel through the most direct and economical route, hotel accommodation and daily subsistence allowances to cover meals and incidentals.

In order to complete these arrangements, kindly forward the details of your nominated representatives using the attached nomination form. Please complete the form and forward via email to the SPREP Programme Assistant, Makerita Atiga (makeritaa@sprep.org) as soon as possible but no later than **Friday March 16, 2018.**

Confirmed participants are kindly requested to facilitate their own arrangements for any applicable visas en route to Samoa.

The workshop programme and relevant participation information will be sent out once we receive confirmation of nominated participants. For further information please contact Vainuupo Jungblut, Protected Areas Officer at SPREP by email vainuupoj@sprep.org or by phone on (685) 66282.

We look forward to your participation at this important workshop to review past initiatives and set a clear and realistic path towards achieving the effective management of protected areas in the Pacific Islands region.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Roger Cornforth
**Acting Director General**
**Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)**



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