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SPREP Circular

File: CONV 2/12/1

Date: 9 June 2011

Circular: 11/46

To: UNCCD Focal Points [Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshal Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu]

Subject: **Pacific UNCCD Pre-COP10 Meeting**
29th August – 2nd September 2011, Apia, Samoa

I am pleased to inform you that the dates and venue for the Pacific UNCCD Pre-COP meeting are confirmed for the period 29th August - 2nd September 2011, in Apia Samoa (Actual venue to be advised).

The objectives for this meeting are:

- To provide an opportunity for PICs and partners to discuss and reach a consensus on common positions;
- Enhance negotiation skills of country delegates to prepare them for negotiations on priority issues at COP 10;
- Develop a Strategy for effective participation and successful attainment of PIC positions at COP 10;
- Strengthen negotiating positions;
- Develop a **One Pacific Voice** at COP10 through side events and exhibitions showcasing success stories and sustainable land management (SLM) products from the Pacific and to highlight Pacific challenges and gaps in SLM;
- Coordinate and deliver joint support from key regional organizations and partners to assist Pacific Island Countries at COP10.

Background

SPREP is now inviting nominations to the UNCCD Pacific Pre-COP meeting who, in general, meet the following criteria.

If the objective of advancing the success of the approach that was adopted and followed at the CBD COP10 meeting in Nagoya last year is to be achieved some prerequisites for participation in the UNCCD pre COP10 workshop have been developed to help guide the selection of the most appropriate participant.

These include:

- It is important that continuity and a strong relationship between participants is developed and maintained. This basically means that the people that



attend the pre-COP meeting and the delegates that participate at COP10 should, as far as it is possible, be the same people.

- Continuity should also flow through to the post COP10 workshop. This forum will be formulated to de-brief participants and develop a check list of lessons learned and how these could contribute towards more effective and improved ways for PICs to influence global trends and policies.
- Due to limited funding availability, SPREP will cover travel (most direct and economical route) and DSAs for one participant only from each of the Pacific Island Parties to the UNCCD.
- Additional participants from within government as well as from NGO's are welcome to submit nominations.
- This workshop primarily focuses on Pacific UNCCD parties, the invitation has, however, been extended to other SPREP members and partners. Collaborating partners and other SPREP members who wish to attend are encouraged to seek their own funding to support their participation.

The meeting agenda and programme for important preparatory meeting will be circulated in advance of the actual meeting together with key meeting documents.

Please complete the attached nomination form and submit to SPREP no later than Monday 25th July 2011. For all enquiries regarding meeting and logistical arrangements, please contact Ms. Theresa Fruean theresaf@sprep.org or Bruce Jefferies brucej@sprep.org.

Yours sincerely,



David Sheppard
Director

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Att.