

CIRCULAR

FILE: CONV 2/4/1

TO: SPREP National Focal Points:
Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu

DATE: 24 July 2023

CIRCULAR: 23/60

SUBJECT: Establishment of an Informal Oceania Panel of Experts to support inputs into the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Dear Members,

At its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (CBD) adopted the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) ([decision 15/5](#)).

In the same decision, it also decided to establish an ad hoc technical expert group (AHTEG), with a time-bound mandate until the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to advise on the further operationalization of the monitoring framework. The terms of reference for the expert group are contained in annex II of that decision.

The CBD called for nominations to the AHTEG from Parties and Observers earlier this year. Only two delegates from across the Oceania region were successfully nominated onto the AHTEG: SPREP's consultant Tiffany Straza and Piers Dunstan from the Australian Government's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

To ensure that Pacific island biodiversity and management context are considered during the development of indicators in this global process, and to ensure information is efficiently shared back to Pacific, **SPREP is supporting the establishment of an informal Oceania panel of experts** to liaise with the AHTEG nominees throughout the process (2023 and 2024). The intent is to create a panel of experts with knowledge and contacts within the Oceania region (Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific islands countries).

The Oceania Panel will essentially be an informal listing of interested experts from governments, academia, NGOs, regional agencies, etc.) who nominate GBF targets and associated indicators that they are specifically interested in providing input on as requested, and also receiving information from the Oceania nominees on the status of discussions within the AHTEG. The goal is to support an open flow

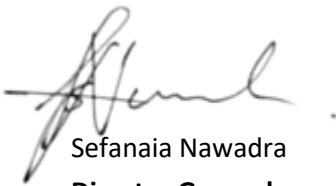
of information from the AHTEG process, and vice versa to the Oceania nominees for inputting into the AHTEG.

A concept note has been developed and is attached as **Annex 1**.

To join the Oceania panel of experts, please add your name and contact information in the appropriate row(s) in the spreadsheet attached as **Annex 2** arranged by proposed indicator and/or subject area or you can complete the sheet found [here](#).

For further information, contact Amanda Wheatley, Biodiversity Adviser amandaw@sprep.org or Juney Ward, Ecosystem and Biodiversity Officer juneyw@sprep.org.

Yours sincerely,



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