

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP_4/1/3/2 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points
DATE: 4 August 2023
CIRCULAR: 23/66

SUBJECT: Environmental Auditing Guidelines for Tourism Operations in the Pacific – Survey for Government Officials.

Dear Focal Points,

The Secretariat has been actively assisting members in enhancing national mechanisms for environmental impact assessment and compliance monitoring. In collaboration with the Pacific Tourism Organization (SPTO), the Secretariat, with support from the "Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries", also known as the ACP MEAs3 Programme, is currently engaged in developing comprehensive Environmental Auditing Guidelines for Tourism Operations in the Pacific. These guidelines aim to facilitate the adoption of best practices and effective compliance monitoring for tourism businesses in the region, aligned with regional and international commitments such as the Pacific Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework, the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

To gain insights into the current environmental auditing and assessment practices related to hotel and accommodation operations in the Pacific, the Secretariat has developed a survey provided in the link below to assist in the development of the guidelines. We kindly request your support to share the link to the questionnaire with environment and tourism agencies, and other departments, agencies and regulators dealing with tourism operations in your respective countries.

The questionnaire has been carefully crafted to gather specific and relevant information, and it should only take a few minutes to complete. The survey questions are available in both English and French and will remain open until 1st September 2023. All responses will be kept confidential and used exclusively for guideline development purposes.

Please access the online survey through the link: <https://ee.kobotoolbox.org/x/5Dmgo022>

Should you have any inquiries or need further assistance, please contact Jope Davetanivalu (joped@sprep.org) or Ivan Diarra (ivand@sprep.org).

We look forward to your valuable input and support on this initiative.

Yours sincerely,



Easter Chu Shing
Acting Director General