



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

BRIEF

To: SPREP Focal Points and Pacific BioScapes (PBS) Steering Committee members

RE: Invitation to nominate country representatives as National Marine Turtle Monitoring Coordinators.

SPREP, through its European Union (EU) funded Pacific BioScapes Programme will be implementing the turtle conservation activity **1.2.4 Establish National Marine Turtle Monitoring Coordinators** in 11 Pacific countries, *i.e.* Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu. The purpose of this activity is to ensure better coordination and networking between SPREP and in-country organisations in implementing turtle monitoring and conservation.

Furthermore, turtle monitoring will also be expanded through the activity **1.2.5 Implement network of long-term marine turtle nesting beach surveys** in a few selected and priority sites to be identified through the activity **1.2.2. Convene workshop to develop specific activities in participating countries to conserve turtles.**

Turtle monitoring is usually undertaken by NGOs and CSOs and can be sporadic and inconsistent due to funding constraints and lack of technical oversight. The objective is to invite *National Marine Turtle Monitoring Coordinators* (1 per country) to undertake a coordination role. The Coordinators will be invited to attend training and capacity building workshops (online & face-to-face) being undertaken for practitioners focusing on turtle monitoring techniques and conservation. These will be facilitated by SPREP and expert consultants hired through the Pacific BioScapes Programme. These workshops will ensure that the Coordinator:

- is fully aware of the monitoring techniques being used, where and by whom;
- is well-equipped to provide technical support and coordination of turtle monitors in country;
- will collaborate with turtle monitors to provide regular updates on the status of their turtle conservation activities to the national authority and SPREP;
- will coordinate to ensure data is provided to the national authority responsible for turtles and included in SPREP's TREDIS database;
- will collaborate with SPREP in assisting turtle monitors to consolidate, verify and upload their turtle data to TREDIS;
- acts as the in-country focal point for making requests and distributing turtle tags and other resources as needed made available for turtle monitoring;
- will collaborate with SPREP, turtle monitors and the national authority in ensuring effective long-term turtle monitoring activities;
- may receive further assistance in the form of equipment's for sea turtle monitoring in the field in-country.



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Required:

The *National Marine Turtle Monitoring Coordinator* nominee should be nominated within the relevant Ministry or relevant agency encompassing biodiversity and wildlife conservation or turtle conservation and who is aware/involved or leading sea turtle protection efforts.

Important note: The *National Marine Turtle Monitoring Coordinator* nominee may not be provided any additional funding as salary supplement. There are, however, significant training and capacity building opportunities to be offered in association with this role. The nominated coordinators will greatly benefit from a series of training in turtle tagging and monitoring to be provided by the programme, from exposure to regional and international peers and initiatives, and with the possibility to receive further assistance in the form of training equipment's for sea turtle monitoring in the field in-country. Travel for the nominated coordinator to attend all training and workshops will be borne by SPREP's Pacific BioScapes Programme.

Should you require further clarification on this matter, or would like to provide a nomination, please contact Mr. Unity Roebeck, Turtle Database and Conservation Officer (Consultant) directly on email: unityr.ext@sprep.org and Etienne Delattre PBS Programme Manager Etienne Delattre ; etienned@sprep.org by **March 15, 2024**.