

# CIRCULAR

**FILE:** AP\_2/18/11 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points  
GEF Focal Points

**DATE:** 8 March 2024

**CIRCULAR:** 24/12

**SUBJECT:** **Country GEF 8 Star Allocation Support Letter due by 31 March 2024 – Scaling Up Invasive Species Management in the Pacific**

Dear Focal Points,

I am pleased to remind you that the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is working with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to develop a Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project to scale up the management of invasive species in the Pacific Region. During the 31st SPREP Meeting (31SM) of Officials held in 2023, the Meeting recognised invasive species management as essential for biodiversity protection, restoring island resilience, and climate change adaptation.

The development of the GEF 8 Project addresses the Meeting's directive to continue to develop invasive species-focused regional initiatives for building island resilience. As you know, SPREP is executing the GEF 6 Regional Invasives Project (GEF 6 RIP) - Strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of Invasive Alien Species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific. The project has supported and delivered several key targeted interventions to progress invasive species management in the region, including establishing the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS), which now has a USD 28 million portfolio.

The proposed GEF 8 Project builds on the recent history of regional invasive species programmes and scales up the successful components of the GEF 6 RIP by ensuring the foundational capacity and capability development for dealing with invasive species and biosecurity throughout the region. Enabling these areas improves countries' readiness for more extensive resourcing opportunities and further project development led by the SPREP Invasive Species Team.

Countries that wish to progress invasive species management in their countries and participate in this project require a contribution of at least USD 1 million of their GEF 8 STAR. I acknowledge with many thanks the countries that have provided their support letters for this project and encourage our other members to take on this opportunity to restore the resilience of our region through invasive species management.

Members are encouraged to express their commitment to the proposed project by returning a support letter by 31 March 2024. For further information, please contact Mr David Moverley, Invasive Species Adviser on email: [davidm@sprep.org](mailto:davidm@sprep.org) or Isabell Rasch, Project Manager - GEF 6 RIP on email: [isabellr@sprep.org](mailto:isabellr@sprep.org).



**SPREP**  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme

I look forward to your kind consideration of our request and thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Sefanaia Nawadra  
**Director General**

SN/DM/IR