



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trades, Tourism,  
Environment & Labour

**Government of Tuvalu**

Private Mail Bag, Vaiaku, Funafuti, TUVALU  
Phone: (688) 20104 Fax: (688) 20843 Email: tfalefou@yahoo.com

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2 February 2012

David Sheppard  
Director General  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme (SPREP)  
Apia  
SAMOA

Dear Mr. Sheppard,

**Subject: Nuclear testing and its environmental impact in the Pacific**

This letter serves as Tuvalu's comment on the issue of nuclear testing and its environmental impact in the pacific region that you sought the views of SPREP members, as per your letter dated 16 December 2011.

The proposal by French Polynesia to establish a Panel of Expert under the umbrella of SPREP is most welcomed by Tuvalu. Likewise, the suggestion on the membership of the Panel of Expert as well as the offer by French Polynesia to host the first meeting is supported.

Tuvalu would like to see that the decisions made by leaders at the 29<sup>th</sup> Forum Leaders Meeting in 1998 are properly revisited and attended to by the proposed Panel of Expert, and to provide the necessary reports to member countries and leaders at future Forum Leaders Meeting.

Please accept our apology for the late submission of our comments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Tapugao Falefou'.

Tapugao Falefou  
Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Trades, Tourims,  
Environment and Labour