



SPREP

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The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 6/5/6

DATE: 27 January 2014

CIRCULAR: No.14/04

TO: SPREP National Focal Points

cc Directors: National Environment
Departments

SUBJECT: National Focal Point Nomination for the PacWaste EDF10 Programme

The PacWaste project is a €7,850,000, four year project (2013-2017) generously funded by the European Union through the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

It will support Pacific ACP countries' efforts to adopt cost-effective and self-sustaining priority waste management systems by focusing on three hazardous waste streams (asbestos, e-waste and medical waste) that are considered priority regional waste streams and are not currently adequately funded through other management programmes.

Priority hazardous waste interventions will be completed in the Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, PNG, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu and Timor Leste.

To facilitate coordination of this important programme of assistance, the Secretariat kindly requests that all participating countries nominate a national focal point for the PACWASTE programme to enhance national involvement in the programme activities.

This request for a PACWASTE specific national focal point is an outcome of the 1st Steering committee meeting of the EU/EDF10 Pacific Hazardous Waste Management Programme held on the 18th of September 2013 in Apia, Samoa (Attachment 1).

It would be appreciated if nominations could be provided by the 14th of February 2014 to Mr. Stewart Williams, EDF10 Hazardous Waste Project Manager, SPREP Waste Management and Pollution Control Division. This can be provided by email to stewartw@sprep.org or post to PO Box 240, Apia.

I look forward to your ongoing participation in this important programme.

Yours Sincerely,

David Sheppard
Director General

Attachment 1: Steering Committee Minutes

Minutes of the 1st Steering Committee Meeting of the EU/EDF10 Pacific Hazardous Waste Management Programme (PACWASTE)

Date: 18th September 2013, Apia, Samoa

Venue: 24th SPREP Meeting, Apia, Samoa

Attendees: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau
Solomon Islands, Tonga, EU, SPREP

Apologies: PNG, RMI, Samoa, Timor Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, RAO (PIFS)

1. Endorsement of the draft Agenda

- The draft Agenda as circulated was endorsed by the meeting participants.

2. Background to the EDF10 Project

- The EU representative provided opening remarks and outlined the far reaching implications of the €8M PACWASTE programme for the 15 participating countries in the region for improved management of asbestos, E-waste and health care waste.
- The EU further highlighted the key considerations for future country assistance which include a requirement for improvement to relevant national policy and regulations, and demonstrated commitment to on-ground programme assistance as reflected in country's response to the 2011/2012 request for information issued by SPREP during the development of the PACWASTE programme.

3. Country priorities and the EDF10 Project

- The Director of SPREP's Waste Management and Pollution Control Division provided an outline of the country priorities and the expected results for PACWASTE, and outlined the proposed first year's work programme.
- The delegate from Niue sought clarification on the activities to be implemented in Niue, particularly in relation to asbestos. SPREP explained that since Niue was already receiving significant assistance from the New Zealand Government to address asbestos issues, further assistance under PACWASTE was unlikely.
- Nauru advised that AusAID will be providing some assistance to survey the asbestos issue in Nauru, and sought clarification on whether PACWASTE could be modified to avoid overlap.

SPREP clarified that this could and would be accommodated through the first year assessment process.

- Solomon Islands agreed with the overall approach, in particular the first year work programme since there was a considerable lack of reliable data in the region.
- The delegate from Fiji acknowledged the assistance from EU/SPREP provided through PACWASTE and asked for additional information to be provided via email, indicating that the PACWASTE proposal would have to be put through the national government consultation and approval processes.
- The delegate from Tonga observed that the management framework presented was limited to the regional level, and stressed the importance of establishing and linking to national level project management framework. SPREP later clarified that local liaison was an integral part of the project.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Nauru to provide SPREP with details of AusAID assistance in asbestos management.*
- SPREP to provide all countries with further details on the PACWASTE programme.*

4. Programme Oversight

- The EU and SPREP provided an overview of programme management and oversight arrangements and outlined the roles of the Steering Committee and the Project Technical Committee.
- The delegate from the FSM sought clarification on the proposed membership of the Technical Committee. SPREP advised that panel selection will be based on the principle of ensuring the highest quality technical input and guidance to the project and further provided justification for the selection of the proposed members (World Health University, Griffith University, New Zealand Environment Department and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). SPREP further advised that additional experts could be added to the Committee should this be considered necessary at some later stage.
- The delegate from the Solomon Islands suggested that alternative experts should be considered.
- The delegate from Fiji expressed a wish to see representation from regional experts on the Technical Committee.

ACTION ITEMS:

- SPREP will distribute a request for all participating countries to nominate a national focal point for PACWASTE to enhance national involvement.*

5. First Year Programme Endorsement

- The PACWASTE approach as presented was endorsed by meeting consensus, with the first year of PACWASTE focusing on fact-finding and developing suitable interventions.

6. Next Meeting

- The 2nd Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for the 2014 SPREP Meeting in the Cook Islands, November 2014.