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Environment Programme

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

## CIRCULAR

**FILE:** AP 6/9/7  
**DATE:** 18 April 2012  
**CIRCULAR:** 12/30

**TO:** Focal Points: Australia, France, New Zealand and USA

**SUBJECT:** Review of the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN)

### 1. Background

The Secretariat as part of its role to assist island members to address environmental issues and in accordance with SPREP Strategic Action Plan, has a programme that addresses ship based marine pollution the Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL). PACPOL includes, amongst others, a number of initiatives to assist island members with marine spill prevention and response. One of these initiatives is the development of the *Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN)* that provides the framework for cooperative responses to major marine spills in the Pacific Islands region, including broad aims and objectives, underlying spill response philosophies and priorities, roles and responsibilities of relevant organizations, regional and international linkages and mechanisms for accessing regional and international assistance. The PACPLAN was approved at the 2000 SPREP Meeting in Guam.

### 2. PACPLAN Review

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has provided funding for the review of PACPLAN in 2012.

### 3. Request for Primary Responder Assistance

As part of the review process we are requesting the 4 *primary PACPLAN responders* (Australia, France, NZ and USA) to assist in the review process by hosting the review workshops with their respective island countries. These workshops are tentatively planned to be held in Brisbane, New Caledonia, Auckland and Honolulu and funding is available to cover the airfares and DSA for participants and SPREP will make all the necessary travel arrangements.

The PACPLAN divides the island members into 4 groups with each group overseen by one of the 4 non-island members (Australia, France, NZ and USA) as the countries responsible for providing island countries with primary response assistance. The table below outlines the groups.

Primary Responder	Island Member Country
Australia	Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Kiribati
France	French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Wallis & Futuna
New Zealand	Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Tokelau, Tonga (Samoa)
USA	American Samoa, FSM, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau

#### **4. Review Process**

The plan is to have a 2 phased review process:

*Phase 1* – This will involve a review process between the primary responders and the respective countries in a 2 to 3 days workshop. One of the key issues to be discussed would be the trigger mechanisms for assistance by the primary responders and the expectations and requirements necessary in island countries in the delivery of the response. This would also give a chance for the primary responders to show case what assistance can be made available which may be in the form of a tour of the oil spill response equipment sites and meeting with the people that will be providing that assistance. We hope that this process will take place, with your approval, in quarter 4 this year. We envisage that there will be a preparatory session – over emails, telephone and Skype, that will take place between SPREP, the primary responders and island countries to outline the expectations of the review process.

*Phase 2* – This will involve a finalization workshop. It is our thinking at the moment that the primary responders will be invited to come to Samoa Apia for the finalization of the document.

#### **5. Review Timing**

The review process will involve 4 workshops hosted by Australia, France, NZ and USA followed by a final workshop in Samoa at the secretariat to finalise the PACPLAN document. Primary Responding Countries are requested to host and coordinate a workshop in-country in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter (October & November) 2012 to review the *Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN)* and also to invite other government agencies to be part of the process.

#### **6. Review Funding**

SPREP will provide funding for airfares and DSAs to these workshops and organize all necessary travel arrangements.

#### **5. Key Contact**

For further information, please contact: Mr Anthony Talouli, Waste Management and Pollution Control Division, SPREP: [anthonyt@sprep.org](mailto:anthonyt@sprep.org)

I look forward to your response regarding your ability to assist with hosting and coordinating the PACPLAN review workshop in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

Thank you for your consideration. ✓

Kindest Regards,



Kosi Latu

**Acting Director General**