

## CIRCULAR

**FILE:** AP 4/5/5 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points  
**DATE:** 10 April 2019  
**CIRCULAR:** 19/29  
**SUBJECT:** **Review of the Draft Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Guidelines**

Dear SPREP Focal Points,

As you are aware, the Secretariat continues to develop guidelines and tools to support Members in its efforts to strengthen environmental governance and promote best practice as articulated in the Strategic Plan.

In 2015, the SPREP Council meeting endorsed the Strengthening Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Pacific Island Countries and Territories. The Regional EIA Guidelines have been widely used by Members and partners to support capacity building on EIA and to better improve EIA processes in country. With the continued increase in coastal tourism development activities, the Secretariat initiated a process to develop specific EIA guidelines for coastal tourism which was carried out as a joint activity with SPTO. In 2017, the Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development in the Pacific Region was endorsed.

To support and strengthen the integration of environmental considerations at the strategic policy level, the Secretariat with funding support from the EU ACPMEA Phase 2 Project started the process of developing draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Guidelines with initial input from Pacific island participants at the joint review meeting of the Inform and ACPMEA projects convened by the Secretariat in September, 2018. The SEA Guidelines is another important strategic planning tool to support and guide strategic planning and decision making for environmental sustainability and ultimately contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals.

It is in this context that we are writing to seek your written views, input and feedback on the draft SEA Guidelines to assist with the finalization of the Guidelines. The final draft of the Guidelines will be presented to the 29<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting for endorsement.

To allow time for the compilation of comments and finalization of the Guidelines, please submit comments via email by the **30<sup>th</sup> April 2019** to Mr. .Jope Davetanivalu [joped@sprep.org](mailto:joped@sprep.org) and Mr. Gregory Barbara [gregb@sprep.org](mailto:gregb@sprep.org).

Yours sincerely,



Kosi Latu  
**Director General**