

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP_4/2/19 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points
DATE: 25 September 2019
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SUBJECT: New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment Conference on Climate Change Mitigation Impact Assessment, Pre-conference technical visit and Regional SEA Guidelines consultation 25 – 28 November 2019, Auckland New Zealand

Dear SPREP Focal Points,

The Secretariat wishes to inform you of the New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment (NZAIA) Conference which will be held from the 27th to 28th November 2019 in Auckland, New Zealand. The theme of the conference is 'Climate Change Impact Assessment' an issue that is relevant to Pacific island countries and territories.

The conference will bring together Environmental Impact Assessment specialists, regulators, planners, climate change experts and other relevant disciplines from across the region to share experiences, exchange knowledge and best practices, and to engage in discussions on ways to ensure environmental impacts of climate mitigation and adaptation actions are effectively implemented. Thus, the theme of the conference is not about climate change impacts but rather the impacts of actions to mitigate or adapt to climate change on the environment. This can range from defective seawalls causing increased erosion or siltation of habitats, to improved living conditions or social conflicts over resettlement plans brought about by adaptation plans and policy. For your information, Kosi Latu, SPREP Director General will be speaking at the conference as one of the two keynote speakers at the opening of the conference, which is an excellent opportunity to share SPREP's efforts, experience and success stories in the specific areas of climate change and environmental governance that are relevant to the theme of the conference. For more information on the conference, please visit the following URL: <https://www.nzaia.org.nz/2019-climate-change.html>

NZAIA has long history of working with SPREP, which includes substantive technical provided by NZAIA on the SPREP Regional EIA Guidelines including other technical areas of cooperation between NZAIA and SPREP. Recently, SPREP officially became a Member of the NZAIA which provides more opportunities to enhance the collaboration between SPREP and NZAIA.

The NZAIA conference in November offers an excellent platform for representatives of Pacific island countries and territories to share experiences and learn from other experts attending the conference. It is an opportunity to continue the Pacific Talanoa dialogue which was first held during the International Association for Impact Assessment conference in Brisbane in April this year between SPREP and representatives of Pacific island countries on ideas for establishing a Community of Practice for Impact Assessment in the Pacific.

SPREP is capitalizing on the excellent opportunity available through the conference to conduct the following pre-conference capacity building activities:

- (i) organize and conduct capacity building and training through technical field visits that SPREP will organize on Monday 25th November for which NZAIA has offered to assist with the organisation of the technical visits; and
- (ii) hold a one-day consultation with representatives of Pacific island countries and territories on the draft Strategic Environment Assessment Guidelines as per decision of the recent 29 SPREP Meeting. This consultation would be the first of a series of consultations with SPREP Members and partners. The one-day consultation on the draft SEA Guidelines will precede the conference on Tuesday 26th November 2019.

To support the SPREP led pre-conference activities including participation in the actual conference, I am pleased to inform you that SPREP through funding from the Government of Sweden will fund the participation of one representative from each of the Pacific island countries and territories to attend the pre-conference capacity building technical visits, the consultation on the draft SEA guidelines as well as the conference proper. This funding support will cover a return ticket on the most direct and economical route, daily subsistence allowance at the SPREP approved rate, and conference registration. Kindly note that participants are responsible for organizing necessary visa requirements including associated costs. SPREP will however provide a Letter of Support to assist with visa applications, if required.

To assist with travel logistics and conference registration, please complete the attached nomination form with details of your nominee and submit to SPREP **no later than Friday 11th October 2019**. Please note that late nominations will not be considered. Furthermore, we kindly seek your assistance to nominate those who are directly involved in the EIA process and environmental planning particularly those who could contribute relevant knowledge and expertise to assist with substantive discussions on the draft SEA guidelines.

Since we are only able to fund one participant per country, we would like to encourage you to seek other funding sources such as through existing national projects or local budgets should you wish to sponsor additional participants to attend the conference and the SPREP organized pre-conference activities. For SPREP Metropolitan Members who would be available to attend the consultation on the draft SEA guidelines, we kindly request that you cover your participation costs as we are not able to do so due to funding limitation.

Once we receive your nominations by the due date, our office will contact the nominee directly on logistics and other important preparations in advance of the planned conference activities and attendance. Should you have any queries on the SPREP pre-conference activities or any conference specific matters, please contact Jope joped@sprep.org and Gregory gregoryb@sprep.org and copy Ms. Faasipa Lemalu faasipal@sprep.org

I thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Kosi Latu
Director General

Attach: Nomination Form