



CIRCULAR

FILE: AP/2/33/1

TO: SPREP National Focal Points:
Cook Islands, Federated States of
Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall
Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau,
Papua New Guinea, Samoa,
Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu
and Vanuatu

DATE: 25 February 2020

CIRCULAR: 20/12

SUBJECT: Pacific Regional Workshop on Developing Interim and Long-term Measures for ABS implementation, 15 - 17 April 2020, Noumea New Caledonia

Greetings from SPREP,

I am pleased to inform you that SPREP has been able to secure a modest amount of funding to organise a Regional Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) workshop back to back with the 10th Pacific Nature Conference to be held in Noumea, New Caledonia. The regional workshop “**Regional Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) Workshop on Developing Interim and Long-term Measures for ABS Implementation**” will be held in **Noumea, New Caledonia from 15-17 April 2020**.

The workshop will provide a platform for information exchange and discussion between policy makers and government, research stakeholders engaged in the exploration of biodiversity, industry and local communities (resource owners in most of the countries in the Pacific). The objectives of the two workshops are:

1. Learn the core requirements of the Nagoya Protocol and options for their implementation;
2. Gain knowledge on the challenges that (Pacific) countries are facing and ideas/resources for advancing processes, including the debate about ensuring benefit-sharing from the (commercial) use of digital sequence information (DSI);
3. Learn from range of experts on the way that biodiscovery is currently done including in the Pacific, and Australasia;
4. Share and exchange information and discussion on how government, indigenous and local communities, research stakeholders engaged in the biodiscovery process; and
5. Learn how to set standards for access and benefit-sharing that will need to be met in the future, including ‘user measures’, monitoring and compliance aspects of ABS.

Due to limited funding available, participants to the workshop are selected to attend the ABS workshop if they are already attending the 10th Nature Conference on Protected Areas (<https://www.pacificnatureconference.com/>) and have pre-purchased return ticket to Noumea.



SPREP will pay subsistence allowance to these participants for them to attend the three-day ABS workshop, including any charges incurred to amend their tickets. In special circumstances where participants are seeking to be fully funded by the SPREP, a request letter must be sent to SPREP in advance of a month. Although all efforts will be made to secure funding, please note that due to lack of availability of funds, is not guaranteed.

Therefore, I have the pleasure to invite you to nominate an officer from within your government delegations that has already secured funding to attend the 10th Nature Conference. You are also welcomed to write to me if you seek a full funding for three days workshop including airfares. Such requests will go through careful assessment and a decision will be conveyed at the earliest. I reiterate that due to a modest budget available for the workshop, SPREP intends to only pay for the additional three days daily subsistence allowance for participants that are already attending the 10th Nature Conference.

Further information is made available on the information note for participants and the draft program attached herein. The details on the workshop and further updates will be made available on the following link www.sprep.org/abs .

Please do not hesitate to contact **Ms. 'Ofa Ma'asi-Kaisamy** on ofak@sprep.org or Phone +685 21929 (219) for any further enquiries.

Looking forward for your usual support and cooperation on the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Cornforth
Acting Director General

Enclosed:

1. Information Note to Participants
2. Nomination Form
3. Programme (Draft)

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