



## CIRCULAR

**FILE:** SPREP 2/1 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points  
**DATE:** 2 April 2020  
**CIRCULAR:** 20/25  
**SUBJECT:** **Stocktake survey of SPREP Member connectivity capacities**

Dear Members,

In the absence of in-country project implementation, face to face meetings and related in-country activities due to the limitations imposed by COVID-19 – the Secretariat is now carrying out its work remotely. We anticipate that the current situation is likely to continue for the next few months, if not longer, and therefore we will continue to work remotely with Members to deliver on realistic outcomes.

Effective communications are therefore going to be particularly critical in ensuring remote delivery of services to Members from now onwards until the current situation improves. The effectiveness of our remote communications will depend on Members' capacities for connectivity.

In this regard, I am seeking your input to a survey of connectivity status and issues. This survey is important for us to establish and improve the effectiveness of our connectivity with you.

In a business as usual context, the Secretariat would be supporting Members to achieve their environmental priorities through in-country technical support and assistance including workshops and capacity building activities.

We understand that the majority of Members now have in place a state of emergency or restrictions on movement of people due to COVID-19. Furthermore, we also understand that many Governments in the region now require their officials to either work remotely from home or on reduced hours

The Secretariat is aware that Members have different connectivity capacities and challenges. The objective of this survey is to explore the connectivity capacities of Members so that we can work together more effectively.

The Secretariat is currently in the process of renegotiating project workplans and budgets with donors to compensate for the inability to travel and hold workshops. This survey will help us to factor in possible in-country improvements to connectivity as a part of these negotiations, so please help us to help you by providing your responses to the survey by following this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/internetcapsurvey>.

The Secretariat will be trialing ZOOM workshoping as part of our remote service support and will be in touch with some of you about this pilot workshop very soon. Our aim is to trial on a small scale first, before exploring wider application with Members. Please send us your responses to the survey asap and preferably before COB Monday 6 April. I will be in touch as soon as I can with further information on the ZOOM toolbox.

Yours sincerely,

Kosi Latu  
**Director General**