

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 2/15/5 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points
DATE: 19 June 2020
CIRCULAR: 20/52
SUBJECT: Turtle Research and Database System (TREDS)

Dear National Focal Points,

You may be aware that SPREP intends to upgrade the current Turtle Research and Database System (TREDS) which is an Access database system we have had for many years capturing turtle data from the region, to a more user-friendly cloud web-based system. In the interim, we have an opportunity to produce some useful outputs from the existing TREDS database through a collaboration with the EU-OACPS Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme. This would require access to the data from the database to undertake analysis and produce a series of high-quality maps that will support decision making based on scientific data in the future. These would become part of a final output report from the old database, to be shared with PICTs. The analysis of the data will be carried out by Mr. Unity Roebeck, Turtle Database and Conservation Officer in collaboration with the BIOPAMA Geographic and Information System (GIS) expert.

This circular is to alert you to this opportunity and seek your support and agreement for the use of the database as per the terms of the existing TREDS data sharing policy, attached here for your convenience.

In addition to this opportunity, we will also collaborate on a global turtle distribution project being led by Dr Kartik Shanker, by providing data from the database. This project will assess global threats to sea turtle nesting beaches in particular from lighting. As a first step they are modelling the global sea turtle spatial distribution using species distribution models (based on a wide range of climatic, marine and geomorphological variables). The data from TREDS may be helpful in verifying the results of the models with presence and abundance data. It may also assist us with the work that SPREP is doing to develop a marine turtle extinction risk analysis for the region, being led by Dr Nicolas Pilcher, under the Pacific European Union Marine Programme's (PUEMP), Bycatch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) project, being led by SPREP. - An additional step in this process could be to check results of turtle distribution through Environment and Conservation staff in country for accuracy. The final results of this collaborative project will be shared publicly and made available to countries through the Regional Environment Portal (Inform Project).

Please advise if you have any concerns with the data from TREDS being used for this purpose. We would also appreciate any updated data countries may have in their existing TREDS so that we can have the latest data for analysis. Can you also indicate a contact person for collaboration on Turtle data to verify results. This would potentially result in co-authorship of the final report if desired.



Please provide advice back to our Threatened and Migratory Marine Species Adviser, Karen Baird karenb@sprep.org before the **16th of July 2020**. A lack of response will indicate no objection and be taken as support for this initiative.

Yours sincerely,



Kosi Latu
Director General

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