

Dr. Kosi Latu
Director-General
Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
Apia
Samoa.

Malmö, 19 October 2021

Dear Director-General,

Letter of Support - Data Collection on Consent for Foreign Research Vessels

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Director of the WMU - Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute to introduce Ms. Luciana Fernandes Coelho, who is pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Maritime Affairs under my supervision.

Her doctoral research is supported by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management and the German Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, under a programme that has a special focus on meeting the needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

To this end, Ms. Coelho is reviewing the **Practice of Small Island Developing States on the Consent Regimes for Marine Scientific Research under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**. A central aspect of her work entails the completion of a survey questionnaire, which has already been circulated to some representatives of SIDS¹. We anticipate that this work will make a vital contribution to the Decade of Ocean Science, Sustainable Development Goals 14.A and C, as well as the implementation of a future BBNJ Agreement.

In view of its regional significance, we wish to request your assistance in sharing the questionnaire with member States of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. The findings will be duly presented and discussed with relevant authorities in the participating member States, as well as with key stakeholders in regional and global bodies concerned with marine scientific research.

A word version of the questionnaire can be found attached to this e-mail and a link to the online version can be found here: <https://fs4.formsite.com/wmuregistry/MSRForHumankind/index.html>

Lastly, I hereby extend my sincere gratitude for your kind participation in this vital research project for the benefit of SIDS, as well as for the participating institutions, which we will acknowledge in all project outputs and publications. Should you require any further clarification regarding this matter, I can be reached at rl@wmu.se.

Yours Sincerely,



Professor Ronán Long
Director, WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute,
World Maritime University

¹ We acknowledge the valuable contribution of Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Nauru and Seychelles, which have already provided answers to the survey.