

## CIRCULAR

**FILE:** AP\_6/15 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points  
**DATE:** 17 November 2022  
**CIRCULAR:** 22/101

**SUBJECT:** Invitation to attend the virtual SPREP/SWAP/J-PRISM II/PACWASTE PLUS workshop on Disaster Waste Management: Experience and lessons-learnt sharing on disaster waste management from the Pacific Islands: 8 December 2022 – Virtual (via Zoom) - 1.00 pm – 4.30 pm Samoa Standard Time

Dear Members,

The frequency and intensity of natural disasters especially tropical cyclones in the Pacific are increasing and when these natural disasters occur, large amounts of waste, known as disaster waste, are generated from damage to both the natural and man-made environment.

These natural disasters are a real challenge for all Pacific islands because of the negative environmental, health, economic and social impacts. In addition to the significant risks to property and people directly caused by disasters, these events can generate a significant amount of waste which in turn can impact on health, the economy and, or the environment.

Pacific Islands are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of disaster waste, as natural disasters such as tropical cyclones are becoming more intense and frequent.

According to the latest data from the World Risk Report 2021, three of the ten countries with the highest risk of disaster in the world are in the Pacific region, with Vanuatu at 1<sup>st</sup>, Solomon Islands at 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Tonga was considered the third most vulnerable country to disasters. A total of six Pacific islands are included in the top 20 countries most at risk from natural disasters.

To discuss how Pacific Islands (such as Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu) have coped with managing disaster waste through lessons-learnt and experiences, SPREP, through the SWAP (*Committing to Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific*) project in collaboration with the J-PRISM II project and the PacWaste Plus Programme, will be conducting a three and half-hour virtual workshop on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 1pm Samoa time.**

In addition, we will be hosting in-person workshop hubs for Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. If you wish to join from one of the in-country workshop hubs, please refer below for information on locations/venues:

Country	Venue locations
Fiji	SPC, Suva, Fiji (Room details TBC)
Samoa	Pacific Climate Change Centre, Room 1 at SPREP, Avele, Samoa
Tonga	MEIDECC's Conference Room, Nuku'alofa, Tonga
Vanuatu	TBC

We sincerely hope that you will be able to join us on this special occasion. Please confirm your participation via the online Registration Form: <https://swap.virtualislandsummit.com/>

Should you require any further information please refer to the attached concept note and agenda or visit the dedicated webpage: <https://www.sprep.org/disaster-waste-management-workshop> or contact Mrs Julie Pillet at [juliep@sprep.org](mailto:juliep@sprep.org) SWAP Project Coordinator or [toab@sprep.org](mailto:toab@sprep.org), SWAP Technical Assistant.

Yours sincerely,



Easter Chu Shing  
**Acting Director General**

Att.

JP/TB