



## CIRCULAR

**FILE:** AP\_2/45 **TO:** GEF Operational Focal Points  
**DATE:** 9 March 2022  
**CIRCULAR:** 22/19  
**SUBJECT:** Notification of delayed submission to the GEF Secretariat for the GEF project ID 10783 entitled "Pacific I2I Regional Project: Ocean Health for Ocean Wealth - The Voyage to a Blue Economy for the Blue Pacific Continent"

Dear GEF Operational Focal Points,

The Pacific I2I (project identification form) PIF was approved in June 2021 and a Project Preparation Grant (PPG) was unlocked to support the project formulation which is coordinated through SPREP. SPREP is the Executing Agency with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) as the Implementing Agencies. The project formulation phase normally takes 12 months, with a submission for the GEF CEO for endorsement scheduled on 18 June 2022.

Country participation during the formulation phase is critical to ensure robust project design and country ownership. These have been affected by the travel restrictions in most of the participating Pacific Island countries due to Covid-19 pandemic as well as natural disasters such as cyclones and the recent volcano eruption in Tonga. The required multi-stakeholder consultations in support of project formulation to gain baseline information and/or discuss pilot interventions have been delayed and slow to materialize.

Cognizant of such eventualities, the GEF allows for some flexibility and both Implementing Agencies, UNEP and ADB, have agreed to submit a notification of delayed submission to the GEF. The plan is to extend the formulation phase with a revised submission for GEF CEO endorsement to September 2022. This new timeframe would not delay final CEO endorsement which should normally be granted no later than December 2022. Therefore, while we are requesting more time for project formulation, the endorsement and consequently the start of the execution of the project will not be impacted.

In this context, we would highly appreciate if, should you have any objection to the above, you could revert back to us no later than 16 March 2022 as to allow the Implementing Agencies to notify the GEF Secretariat accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kosi Latu', is positioned above the printed name.

Kosi Latu  
**Director General**

KL/TC/rmg



**SPREP  
PROE**

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