



CIRCULAR

FILE: AP_4/12/19 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points
DATE: 5 August 2022
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SUBJECT: Launch of the Comparative Analysis of Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) Evaluation Tools for the Pacific Islands' region

Dear Focal Points,

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in partnership with the ACP MEAs III project and the EU-OACPS BIOPAMA Programme invites you to the launch of the **Comparative Analysis of Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) Evaluation Tools for the Pacific islands' region**.

The Comparative Analysis has been developed:

1. To raise regional awareness and understanding of the suite of available tools to evaluate protected area management effectiveness.
2. To verify the cost, benefits and limitations of each evaluation tool when or if applied to different island-type contexts across the region.
3. To provide and showcase existing case studies from across the region to demonstrate current experience with the utilisation of specific PAME evaluation tools.
4. To inform and guide planning at appropriate levels and influencing decisions to determine the most suitable PAME evaluation tool for use.

The success of protected areas as a tool for conservation is based around the assumption that they are managed to protect the values that they contain. Achieving effective management is not an easy task. In the Pacific, the last 11 years witnessed a notable increase in the establishment and formal designation of both marine and terrestrial protected areas across the region. This trend increases the need for, and urgency of effective management to avoid many of these areas becoming labelled as 'Paper Parks'.

While PAME evaluations have been carried out for some Pacific countries, the majority have yet to undertake these evaluations due to various factors, combined with a general lack of awareness and understanding of available PAME evaluation tools. Given the latter, increasing this understanding across the region, through clear technical guidance is paramount and will contribute to facilitating efforts at institutionalising PAME evaluation tools within Pacific island governments and aid planning towards more effective management of Pacific island protected and conserved areas.

The launch of the Comparative Analysis is scheduled for **Friday, 12th August 2022 from 10:00am - 11:15am (UTC +13:00)**. Registration for the launch can be done at the link below:



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

<https://www.sprep.org/registration/acpmea-launch>

For more information, please contact Mr. Vainuupo Jungblut, Protected Areas Officer on phone (0685 66282) or via email vainuupoj@sprep.org

Thanking you for your ongoing support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Sefaraia Nawadra
Director General

Attach: Final Programme – Launch of the Comparative Analysis of Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) Evaluation Tools for the Pacific islands' region