

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP_2/18/11 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points
DATE: 27 November 2023
CIRCULAR: 23/101
SUBJECT: **GEF 8 Regional Invasives Project – Scaling Up Invasive Species Management in the Pacific.**

Dear Focal Points,

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is currently executing the **GEF 6 Regional Invasives Project** (GEF 6 RIP) - Strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of Invasive Alien Species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific. Implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the project has supported and delivered several key targeted interventions to progress invasive species management in the region, including establishing the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS), which now has a USD 28 million portfolio.

During the 31st SPREP Meeting (31SM) of Officials held in Apia this year, the meeting recognised invasive species management as essential for biodiversity protection, restoring island resilience, and climate change adaptation. Furthermore, the meeting directed and supported the Secretariat to continue to develop invasive species-focused regional initiatives for building island resilience.

Since the 31st SPREP Meeting (31SM) of Officials and PRISMSS Event on restoring island resilience, several countries have expressed interest in developing a GEF 8 project to continue efforts to supporting invasive species management in the region beyond the current project timeline. This includes the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga which has committed at least USD 1 million of its GEF 8 STAR allocation for invasive species management. The United Nations Environment Programme is now recruiting a Project Design Consultant to assist in preparing a project concept for a potential second phase of the project funded by the GEF 8.

SPREP seeks Member support by committing a portion of their GEF 8 STAR allocation to continue the success and momentum of the GEF 6 RIP through the proposed GEF 8 project. The proposed second phase will build on the recent history of regional invasive species' programmes and scale up the successful components of the GEF 6 RIP by ensuring the foundational capacity and capability development for dealing with invasive species and biosecurity throughout the region.

Members are encouraged to submit an expression of interest in the proposed project by 29 February 2024. For further information, please contact Mr David Moverley, Invasive Species Adviser on email: davidm@sprep.org or Isabell Rasch, Project Manager - GEF 6 RIP on email: isabellr@sprep.org.

I look forward to your kind consideration of our request and thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Easter Chu Shing
Acting Director General

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