

## CIRCULAR

**FILE:** AP\_6/16 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points  
**DATE:** 22 March 2023  
**CIRCULAR:** 23/17

**SUBJECT:** Review of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter 2018-2025

Dear SPREP Members,

SPREP is organising a review of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter 2018-2025 (Pacific RAP). The Pacific RAP has not yet had a mid-term review, which was due in 2020, due mainly to the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2022 Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) process for a new global agreement on plastic pollution. The Implementation Activities committed to, at pages 23-26 of the Pacific RAP, are attached. [Pacific Regional Action Plan: Marine Litter 2018-2025 | Pacific Environment \(sprep.org\)](#)

In relation to marine plastic litter, several recent developments catalysed this proposal. The INC for a new global agreement on plastic pollution saw strong Pacific Island participation and encouragement of high-level global commitments. At the regional level, the adoption of the 2021-2025 Implementation Plan for the Cleaner Pacific 2025 programme saw a strengthening of regional commitments.

This circular is to inform that this year we are carrying out the mid-term review whilst keeping a watching brief on the INC plastic pollution process including:

- Review Pacific RAP implementation 2018-2022;
- Revise the work plan up to 2025 and beyond considering the INC process and its outcomes;
- Align the Pacific RAP with the Cleaner Pacific 2025 Implementation Plan 2021-2025 and with the 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent; and
- Introduce and remove elements as suggested by Member Countries and stakeholders.

Accordingly, SPREP is undertaking the following programme to engage Member States concerning their implementation of the Pacific RAP, what - if anything - additional they would like to see in it, and their objectives and expectations of relevant targets that should be achieved under it:

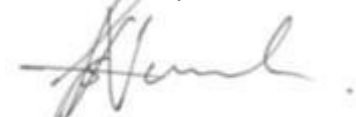
- A survey will be prepared and responses collated and circulated to SPREP Members in March to:
  - assess implementation of the Pacific RAP;
  - seek new expectations by Members of the Pacific RAP;
  - relevant activities under other programmes; and
  - clarify what implementation funding was or might be provided.
- To support the survey, a one-hour interactive webinar with SPREP Members will be held in April (date and guiding questions to follow).
- Follow up consultations with stakeholders.

- draft revisions to the Pacific RAP will be prepared and circulated. These will be subject to further consultations and then workshops with SPREP Members, then revised as required, and put to SPREP Members for adoption when completed.

Provisional timeline for revised Pacific RAP (2023):	Other relevant dates in 2023 Q1-Q2:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Circulate Pacific RAP assessment survey – 24 March.</li> <li>2. Responses received from Members – 13 April</li> <li>3. Webinar &amp; bilateral consultations – 17 April – 5 May</li> <li>4. Zero draft of revised Pacific RAP – 8 May</li> <li>5. Workshop – 11-12 May</li> <li>6. Second draft circulated for comment – 23 June</li> <li>7. Final draft submitted to COP17 – 31 July</li> </ol>	<p>Easter weekend – 7-10 April            PSIDS preparatory meeting – 24-25 April            INC-2 – 28 May – 2 June            Noumea COP17 – 31 August</p>

We look forward to working with you on this project to protect the Pacific marine environment from the plastic pollution.

Yours sincerely



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**Director General**