

CIRCULAR

FILE: CONV_2/18; AP_6/5/9 **TO:** SPREP Focal Points
DATE: 7 November 2023
CIRCULAR: 23/96

SUBJECT: Invitation for nominations for sponsorship to attend the following meetings:

- 1. The Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the 4th session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee; and**
- 2. GEF ISLANDS Pacific Project 2nd Project Steering Committee Meeting**

Dear Members,

I trust this correspondence finds you in good health and spirits. On behalf of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), I am writing to formally invite your government's esteemed delegation to participate in two pivotal meetings scheduled to take place in Auckland, New Zealand:

1. Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4): Scheduled from 12 to 15 February 2024.
2. Second Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting of the GEF ISLANDS Pacific Project: Scheduled for 16 February 2024.

We are privileged to have the financial backing of the Government of Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). Additionally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Government of New Zealand for their generous hospitality in hosting these meetings.

Objectives:

1. Pacific Preparatory Meeting (INC-4): Our main goal is to deliberate on the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) positions and strategies in preparation for INC-4, focusing on plastic pollution. We aim to garner endorsement for Pacific positions, fortify PSIDS coordination, and ensure our commitment to the AOSIS and Asia-Pacific processes. Preparations for PSIDS delegates will also be a focal point, with resources being distributed accordingly. A comprehensive agenda will be circulated shortly.
2. GEF ISLANDS Pacific PSC Meeting: The objective is to secure endorsement for the redesigned workplan and budget spanning 2024 to 2027. The outcomes will be instrumental in facilitating UNEP and SPREP to reinstate the project. The agenda for this meeting will also be provided in due course.

The INC-4 Meeting is tailored for Pacific delegates preparing for the subsequent INC-4 in Ottawa, Canada, in April 2024. Conversely, the GEF ISLANDS Pacific PSC Meeting is designed specifically for designated Technical Focal Points.

We are pleased to offer sponsorship for one delegate from each of the following countries to attend both meetings: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Niue, Nauru, Palau,



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Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. If different individuals are nominated for the INC-4 Preparatory Meeting and the ISLANDS PSC Meeting, we are prepared to sponsor both participants' attendance.

Regrettably, our funding does not cover in-person attendance for delegates from American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Tokelau, and Wallis and Futuna. Participation from these territories would either need to be self-funded or conducted virtually.

All sponsored travel arrangements will adhere strictly to the SPREP travel policy, inclusive of economy return airfare via the most direct and economical route. Please note that the responsibility for travel insurance and visa expenses lies with the traveller.

We kindly request the completion and return of the attached nomination form (refer to annex 1) by Friday, 17 November 2023. This will confirm your attendance and enable the Secretariat to initiate travel preparations ahead of the Christmas holiday season.

For any further clarification or additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mr. Anthony Talouli, Director of the Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme at anthonyt@sprep.org. Kindly also copy Ms. Renee Kamu, ISLANDS Pacific Child Project, Finance & Administration Officer at reneek@sprep.org, and Ms. Davina Tiitii, WMPC Programme Assistant at davinat@sprep.org.

Your attendance and contribution to these crucial meetings are highly anticipated, and we look forward to the invaluable insights and perspectives that your delegation will bring to the table.

Yours sincerely,

Clark Peteru
Officer-In-Charge