

CIRCULAR

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TO: SPREP Focal Points for Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands

DATE: 24 April 2025

CIRCULAR: 25/28

SUBJECT: **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: Regional Workshop on the Application of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Principles in Transboundary Movements of Waste under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)**
23 – 26 June 2025, Apia, Samoa

Dear Members,

I am pleased to inform you that SPREP will be hosting a Regional Workshop on the Application of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Principles in Transboundary Movements of Waste under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), scheduled for **23 – 26 June 2025 in Apia, Samoa**.

This workshop is convened by SPREP with support provided through the EU-funded Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries Phase 3 Programme (ACP MEAs 3).

The Pacific region faces unique challenges in managing transboundary movements of hazardous waste, including limited disposal facilities, vast ocean territories complicating oversight, and increasing volumes of hazardous waste requiring shipment for proper treatment. While multiple conventions provide legal frameworks for these movements, the practical application of environmental assessment principles to strengthen the decision-making process remains inconsistent across the region.

The regulation and management of transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes remain critical priorities for our region. This workshop will focus on strengthening the application of EIA principles within the frameworks of key MEAs, such as the Waigani and Noumea Conventions, to enhance environmental protection during these movements.

The specific objectives of the workshop are to:

- Enhance understanding of the role of global and regional MEAs and processes for transboundary waste movement.
- Develop skills in applying EIA principles to strengthen permitting and approval processes, particularly the Prior Informed Consent procedure.
- Build capacity to identify, assess, and mitigate environmental risks at all stages of waste movement.
- Provide practical experience through case studies and exercises.
- Collaboratively develop elements of a regional coordination mechanism.

In light of the above, SPREP invites **each** participating country (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Solomon Islands) to nominate **TWO (2) relevant participants**:

- One (1) officer from the national environmental authority with responsibility for environmental impact assessment, environmental permitting and approvals
- One (1) hazardous waste officer from the waste management department **OR** an officer from the national maritime authority with responsibility for hazardous waste management, shipping regulations, or transboundary movement of materials.

Nominees should have experience in environmental assessment, waste management, or maritime transport of hazardous materials. A gender-balanced nomination is strongly encouraged where possible.

Financial support will be provided by SPREP through the ACP MEAs 3 project for the **two (2)** nominated participants from each country listed above. This support includes travel costs via the most direct and economical route and Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for the duration of the workshop only. All travel arrangements will adhere to the SPREP Travel Policy. Please note that costs related to passports, visas, travel/medical insurance, and any country-specific entry/exit requirements remain the responsibility of the nominating governments/participants.

All nominations must be submitted using the attached **Nomination Form (Annex 1)** and endorsed by the relevant SPREP National Focal Point.

Kindly send completed Nomination Forms and a copy of the nominee's passport bio-data page to Ivan Diarra (ivand@sprep.org) and Flavia Vaai (flaviav@sprep.org) at your earliest convenience, but no later than 2 May 2025, to facilitate timely travel arrangements.

We look forward to your active participation.

Yours sincerely,



Tagaloa Cooper
Officer-In-Charge

Att:

1. Workshop Concept Note
2. Nomination Form