

CIRCULAR

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TO: SPREP National Focal Points

DATE: 5 August 2025

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SUBJECT: Marine turtle monitoring training and extinction risk priority development commencing for Marine turtles under the Pacific BioScapes Programme

Background

The Pacific BioScapes Programme, funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by SPREP, supports the sustainable development of Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through improved marine and coastal ecosystem management. Delivered under the 11th European Development Fund, the Programme contributes to SDGs 14 and 15 and supports implementation of the Rio Conventions.

As part of this work SPREP is pleased to announce a series of regional activities aimed at strengthening marine turtle conservation and monitoring in the Pacific.

Marine turtles continue to face serious threats across their range. Recent extinction risk assessments conducted under PEUMP have underscored the urgent need for coordinated and targeted conservation responses. In response, SPREP will implement a suite of activities to support national and regional efforts.

Key Initiatives

Development of Regional Threat Reduction Activities

Workshops both online and in person will be held in Pacific BioScapes Programme countries to develop short term national priority actions based on the extinction risk assessments for the five species of marine turtles found in the Pacific. These will guide coordinated threat-reduction efforts at both the national and regional level.

Field-based Training and Capacity Building

Commencing in November 2025, SPREP will deliver regional, national, and sub-regional training workshops, aligned with turtle nesting and hatching seasons. These sessions will:

- Strengthen national capacity for turtle monitoring and data entry into the Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDS)
- Deliver hands-on, practical training in turtle monitoring, tagging, and conservation techniques
- Facilitate peer-to-peer learning and support local knowledge sharing on effective conservation practices.

Provision of Monitoring Equipment

SPREP will also facilitate the distribution of basic monitoring equipment to support in-country sea turtle monitoring and conservation activities.

Further information on training and workshop schedules, nominations, equipment distribution, and priority-setting workshops will be provided directly to each country.

For further information, please contact: Belinda Norris, Pacific BioScapes Coastal and Marine Specialist via email: belindan@sprep.org.

We look forward to your collaboration on this important and exciting initiative.

Yours sincerely,



Easter Chu Shing
Acting Director General