

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP_4/12/19/11 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points
DATE: 05 April 2026
CIRCULAR: 26/50
SUBJECT: **SPREP selected as Co-host for the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA27) Conference, 20–23 April 2027, Christchurch, New Zealand**

Dear Members,

The Secretariat is pleased to inform Members of the upcoming 46th Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA27), to be held at Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre, Christchurch, New Zealand, from 20–23 April 2027. SPREP, together with the New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment (NZAIA) and the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ), successfully won the bid to jointly host IAIA27. This marks a historic milestone — it is the first time SPREP is co-hosting this prestigious international conference, and only the second time it has been held in New Zealand since 1998.

The conference theme, "Ka mua, ka muri: Looking Back for the Future of Impact Assessment," is inspired by the Māori proverb Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua — to look to the future while being mindful of the past. The theme resonates strongly with Pacific approaches to environmental stewardship, recognising the vital role of traditional ecological knowledge and customary governance systems alongside contemporary impact assessment methodologies.

Strong Pacific Focus

IAIA27 presents an unprecedented opportunity for Pacific Island Countries and Territories to meaningfully engage with the global impact assessment community. The conference is expected to attract up to 1,000 delegates from more than 70 countries. Its location in Christchurch significantly reduces the traditional barriers of distance and cost that have historically limited Pacific participation in this global forum.

SPREP is represented on key conference organising committees, including the Programme Committee and the Sponsorship Committee, ensuring that Pacific voices, perspectives, and interests are central to the conference planning and delivery. SPREP is actively working to facilitate dedicated Pacific Island sessions within the conference programme, providing a platform for practitioners, researchers, and policymakers from across the region to showcase Pacific perspectives on impact assessment, share innovations, and highlight the unique environmental challenges facing our island nations.

Call for Abstracts and Pacific Island Sessions

The call for paper and poster abstracts is expected to open in September 2026, with a submission deadline of 2 November 2026. Session proposals are currently being accepted until 30 July 2026. SPREP will provide further guidance and technical support to Pacific Island practitioners in developing and submitting conference abstracts in due course, to ensure strong Pacific representation in the technical programme.

Key Dates

- 30 July 2026 — Deadline for session proposals
- 7 September 2026 — Paper and poster abstract submission opens
- 2 November 2026 — Deadline for submission of paper or poster abstracts
- 3 December 2026 — Authors notified of acceptance status
- 13 January 2027 — Registration and payment deadline for presenters
- 20–23 April 2027 — IAIA27 Conference, Christchurch, New Zealand

Encouragement to Members

SPREP encourages Members to support the attendance of their technical and project staff, environmental officers, planners, policymakers, and other key personnel at this important conference. IAIA27 offers a valuable opportunity for professional development, international networking, and knowledge exchange with the global impact assessment community.

Members are also encouraged to identify and support self-funded participants from government agencies, the private sector, civil society, academia, and community organisations who would benefit from attending the conference.

Further Information

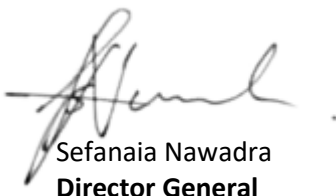
The conference programme and further details are still being developed. Additional information, including on registration, the call for abstracts, and Pacific-specific sessions, will be shared with Members as it becomes available.

Members may also visit the conference website at <https://2027.iaia.org> for updates.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact:

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Yours sincerely,



Sefanaia Nawadra
Director General

Att: Save the Date Flyer