

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 5/6/1; CONV 2/9/1

TO:

Ramsar Convention Oceania
Heads of Administrative Authori-
ties and National Focal Points of
Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Is-
lands, New Zealand, Palau, Papua
New Guinea, Samoa, Vanuatu

DATE: 31 July 2026

CIRCULAR: 26/77

SUBJECT: **Proposed Oceania Ramsar Regional Initiative to be hosted by SPREP**

Dear Members,

As you would have recall the **Call for proposals** for new Ramsar Regional Initiatives that was disseminated by the Ramsar Secretariat on 2 October 2025, it was agreed during our Regional coordination meeting with the Ramsar Secretariat on 10 December 2025 to submit a proposal to establish an Oceania Ramsar Regional Initiative.

An Oceania Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) Subgroup which includes Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment (SPREP) was established to work on developing a drafted proposal. We are pleased to share with you the draft proposal for the Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI), an initiative for Oceania under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

The proposed RRI aims to strengthen regional collaboration among Contracting Parties, enhance the conservation and wise use of wetlands, and support the implementation of the Ramsar Convention across the unique ecological and cultural landscapes of the Oceania region. The initiative has been developed with a view to fostering knowledge exchange, building technical capacity, and improving coordinated responses to share wetland challenges.

The proposal has been disseminated for initial review to the Heads of Administrative Authorities and Focal Points of Ramsar. We are seeking formal letters of commitment from Contracting Parties in the Oceania region to support the establishment of this RRI to be hosted by SPREP. After which, the Subgroup intends to submit the proposal to the Ramsar Secretariat by the deadline of 5 August 2026.

We kindly request Parties to:

- Review the attached draft proposal attached as **Annex 1** and provide feedback;
- Indicate your support in principle for the establishment of the RRI to be hosted by SPREP; and
- Provide a Letter of Commitment signed by your country's Ramsar Head of Administrative Authority confirming your willingness to participate in the proposed initiative. A sample letter is attached as **Annex 2**.
- Identify a designated focal point/s to represent your country in the initiative for the current triennium.

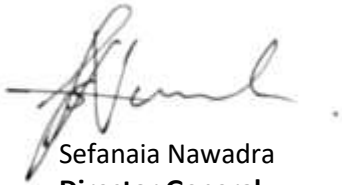
Your commitment will be essential in demonstrating strong regional support for submission of the proposal to the Ramsar Secretariat for consideration and recognition as an official RRI under the Ramsar Convention.

We would greatly appreciate receiving your response and signed Letter of Commitment at your earliest convenience. Kindly requesting to please send your correspondence to Ms. Nolani Hazelman at nolanih@sprep.org with a copy to Ms. Juney Ward at juneyw@sprep.org.

Should you have any questions, feedback, or wish to discuss elements of the proposal, we would warmly welcome your input.

We thank you for your continued leadership and engagement in wetland conservation across Oceania. We look forward to your support in establishing this important regional platform.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sefanaia Nawadra', followed by a period.

Sefanaia Nawadra
Director General

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