

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP_6/5/9

TO: SPREP National Focal Points
GEF ISLANDS Focal Points
Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA)
Focal

DATE: 11 August 2026

CIRCULAR: 26/80

SUBJECT: **Invitation to Participate: Minamata Regional Capacity Building Workshop & GEF Islands Pacific Coordination Meeting, 13 – 15 October, Nadi, Fiji**

Dear Members,

I am pleased to inform you of the upcoming **Minamata Regional Capacity Building Workshop & GEF ISLANDS Pacific Coordination Meeting** to be held in Nadi, Fiji from **13 to 15 October 2026**.

The SPREP Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme, in coordination with UNEP and the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, is convening this regional workshop as a critical step in building national capacity to manage mercury and its adverse effects on human health and the environment. The workshop will bring together representatives from all **14 Pacific Island Countries** and will combine Minamata Convention capacity building, the inception of the ISLANDS Pacific Output 1.3 Model Mercury Legislation, and an ISLANDS Pacific project coordination meeting.

Please refer to the attached **Concept Note** for detailed information on the workshop background, objectives, expected outcomes, and the **provisional agenda**.

As the content of this workshop is specifically targeted at GEF ISLANDS Focal Points and Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) Focal Points, **SPREP National Focal Points are kindly requested to nominate the appropriate representatives from your country** to attend this workshop.

SPREP, through the Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme in coordination with the GEF ISLANDS Pacific Project, will provide funding support for the following participants:

- a) **One representative per country** from all **14 Pacific Island Countries** participating in the GEF ISLANDS Pacific project; and
- b) **One MIA Focal Point representative** from the following countries: **Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu**.

This funding is intended to cover travel, accommodation, and per diem for the workshop dates.

Please note: If the GEF ISLANDS Focal Point and MIA Focal Point in your country are the same person, only **one** representative is to be nominated and funded. For example, Motunui's GEF ISLANDS Focal Point is Moana Vaea, who also serves as the MIA Focal Point; therefore, Moana will be the sole representative for Motunui at this workshop.

Countries wishing to send additional participants beyond the funded delegate are welcome to do so through their own resources or alternative funding arrangements.

To facilitate logistical arrangements and coordination, SPREP kindly requests your Office to:

1. **Confirm** that your country's GEF ISLANDS Pacific technical focal point and/or MIA focal point (or nominated representative) will participate in the Workshop on **13–15 October 2026**;
2. **Notify** the Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme no later than **21 August 2026** if your country wishes to send any additional participants (in-person); and
3. **Submit** all confirmations and enquiries to the Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme at **davinat@sprep.org**, with a copy to **sosealat@sprep.org**.

Please complete the attached nomination form and return it to the Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme at **davinat@sprep.org** no later than **21 August 2026**.

SPREP appreciates your continued support and commitment to protecting human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury in our region.

Yours sincerely,



Sefanaia Nawadra
Director General

Att:

- Concept Note – Minamata Regional Capacity Building Workshop & GEF ISLANDS Pacific Coordination Meeting (including Provisional Agenda)
- Nomination Form