

## CIRCULAR

**FILE:** AP2/33/1  
**DATE:** 13 August 2019  
**CIRCULAR:** 19/56

**TO:** **SPREP National Focal Points:**  
Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue,  
Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon  
Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

**SUBJECT:** **Sub-regional capacity building training on the use of 'Access and Benefit Sharing Clearinghouse (ABS-CH)', monitoring and reporting on the utilization of genetic resources under the Nagoya Protocol.**

Dear Focal Points,

I am pleased to inform you that a sub-regional capacity building training on the use of Access and Benefit Sharing Clearing House (ABS-CH) and monitoring the utilisation of genetic resources under the Nagoya Protocol will be held from 7-10 October, at the Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, Fiji. The Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP) will organise and facilitate the training.

The training will provide an opportunity to raise awareness, build capacity and share practical experiences regarding the use of the ABS clearinghouse, key compliance requirements and measures that countries can adopt to strengthen monitoring and reporting, with a view to overcome the practical challenges of implementation as countries develop and strengthen their national ABS systems. The workshop will focus on:

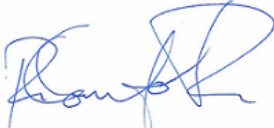
- The importance of the ABS Clearing-House and how information sharing plays a key role in the implementation of the Protocol;
- The overall system for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources through the ABS Clearing-House;
- The permitting system- the case using Prior Informed Consent and Mutually Agreed Terms;
- The importance of granting permits at the time of access and publishing them as internationally recognized certificates of compliance in the ABS Clearing-House;
- The development of a national road map to operationalize the system to monitor the utilization of genetic resources.

Nominations of two government officers should be submitted using the nomination form attached signed by the National ABS Focal Point (or the CBD Focal Point). The completed nomination form should be sent to Ms. 'Ofa Kaisamy at [absproject@sprep.org](mailto:absproject@sprep.org) at your earliest convenience but no later than 30 August 2019.

Funding for nominated individuals will include a return airfare on the most economical route and daily subsistence allowance for the duration of the meeting. All other costs are to be arranged and becomes the responsibility of the nominating government/ organization. (e.g. visa, passports, medical insurance, travel insurance etc.). Please note that participants are responsible for organizing their own accommodation and visa, if required.

Further information is made available on the following link <https://www.sprep.org/abs/abs-regional-technical-cooperation> .

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Roger Cornforth', written over a faint blue grid background.

Roger Cornforth  
**Acting Director General**

**Enclosed:**

1. Information Note to Participants
2. Nomination Form
3. Program (Draft)

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