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# SPREP Circular

**File:** STF 5/2  
**Date:** 10 June 2011  
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**To:** SPREP National Focal Points  
CROP Organisations  
Collaborating Organisations  
Institutional Focal Points  
**Subject:** Introducing Mr. Aaron Buncle, Environmental Resource Economist.

SPREP is pleased to announce Mr. Aaron Buncle's secondment to SPREP from the Commonwealth Secretariat as the Environmental Resource Economist. Mr. Buncle is an Australian national and holds a Masters degree in Environmental and Resource Economics from the Australian National University. He was recently employed by the Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP) in Honiara as Technical Advisor and was also a consultant to the Solomon Islands Government on the development and implementation of a Community Service Obligation (CSO) Framework - a key part of Solomon Islands State-Owned-Enterprise reforms. Prior to this he worked in various organizations in Australia, mainly on projects on environmental and socio-economic issues.

Mr. Buncle's secondment is through the ComSec's technical assistance and is aimed at supporting SPREP's capacity building initiatives on climate change within the Pacific region. Mr. Buncle's attachment to SPREP will be for two years. He will be attached to the Pacific Futures Programme and will report directly to the Programme Manager. Mr. Buncle started official duties on 19 May 2011.

In this regard, Mr. Buncle will be closely engaged in working on a Regional Economic Costs of Climate Change study, seeking to enhance knowledge and understanding of the costs to the region of climate change. The broad objectives will be to:

- Assist the PICs better understand the impacts of climate change on their economies and improve and enhance their national climate change policies and adaptation actions in the longer term, as well as to inform the UNFCCC COP and KP processes;
- Support the PICs develop a better understanding of how their economies should develop into the future using information generated from the study;
- Assist countries understand the impacts of climate change through economic assessments at a project level: undertaking cost-benefit analyses for the 13 national adaptation projects under the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project; and

- Build capacity within the PICs to interpret the RECCS data and facilitate development of effective adaptation and mitigation policies and strategies to integrate into national development plans

Mr. Buncle will be contacting SPREP and climate change focal points as well as experts in Treasury or Finance departments in the coming months in relation to this study.

We welcome Mr. Buncle to SPREP and look forward to improved services to the region with his arrival.

Yours sincerely,



David Sheppard  
**Director**