



CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 2/19
DATE: 1 April 2020

TO: SPREP National Focal Points

CIRCULAR: 20/24

SUBJECT: Regional Marine Species Programme Action Plans – Review

Dear National Focal Points,

As you may be aware, the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2013-2017 and action plans (RMSAPs) are under review with the intention to produce new plans for the period 2020-2025. As part of that review process, as has been done for previous iterations, we would like to undertake a review of progress on implementation of the current plans including identification of issues and challenges to assist with finalizing drafts of the new plans.

Our proposal is that this would be done via discussions with country species technical staff via online platforms such as SKYPE or Zoom using a questionnaire as a basis for the discussion and taking place over the next couple of months.

Our intention would be then to update our draft plans and consult with country technical staff to finalise these drafts. Our intention had been to then hold a regional workshop at the end of 2020 to bring everyone together to finalise the plans as well as provide an opportunity for experts on marine species in the region to provide the latest updates on the status of our migratory marine species and other useful technical information. We still hope that this will be possible this year.

Given the situation with Covid-19, we are aware that many governments and staff will be working from home or may be deployed to assist with other priority issues in country.

This letter is to establish if:

1. You have staff capacity to contribute to a discussion with us about progress on the RMSAPs. This would potentially be one to three online meetings lasting a couple of hours each.
2. If yes, then provide the staff name(s) and contact details so that we can make arrangements for discussions to take place.

We are fortunate that the New Zealand Department of Conservation through a secondment to SPREP is providing a marine expert to assist our Threatened and Migratory Marine Species Adviser, Karen Baird with this review. Her name is Hannah Hendricks and she will also be working from home at least for the next month, possibly longer.

Please provide your responses to Karen Baird at karenb@sprep.org.

Yours sincerely,



Kosi Latu
Director General

KL/KB/ma