

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP_4/5/5/19 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points
DATE: 2 February 2022
CIRCULAR: 22/09
SUBJECT: Feedback on Draft Guidance Note for Coastal Engineering Good Practice in Impact Assessment for Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

Dear Members,

Warm greetings from SPREP.

It is with great pleasure that we wish to inform you of the development of a guidance note for coastal engineering good practice in Impact Assessment (in the Pacific).

The *SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026* recognises that the people and environment of the Pacific benefit from commitment to and best practice in environmental governance. Good environmental governance is supported by regulation and a structured process for the environmental assessment of development, as well as the mitigation of adverse effects, monitoring and appropriate environmental management. Each one is dependent on the other and benefits from thorough but straight forward guidance.

Previous impact assessment guidelines published by SPREP; *Strengthening environmental impact assessment (EIA) guidelines for Pacific Island countries and territories* (PICT) (SPREP, 2016), as well as the *EIA guidelines for coastal tourism development in PICT* (SPREP, 2018) and *Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Guidelines for PICT* (SPREP 2020), have all been effectively used and facilitated improvements in EIA processes, its management and awareness. They have built capacity of our member countries in strengthening environmental assessment work in at national level.

With funding support from the European Union initiated capacity building project titled "*Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries*" (ACPMEAs phase 3), the Environmental Monitoring and Governance (EMG) programme of SPREP is currently developing a regional guidance note on good practice in environmental impact assessment and management for coastal engineering projects. The guidance note will provide guidelines for assessing and mitigating impacts from coastal engineering projects in the Pacific, including (but not



limited to) land reclamation, coastal defences, and port development. It will include clear examples of good practice in data collection and assessment relevant to the physical and cultural context of the

Pacific Islands and will illustrate appropriate approaches to developing environmental monitoring and mitigation plans.

To ensure the guidance note respond to and address your specific country needs and context, your kind support and cooperation is sought to provide key information, input and advice on the coastal engineering guidance note, particularly on how it could be effectively used as a tool to support inclusive and sustainable national and regional development. In this regard, a draft copy of the guidance note has been attached to this circular requesting your valuable comments and feedback please. If possible, your feedback on the guidance note is kindly requested by Monday **14th February 2022**.

For further information on the process and drafting of the Coastal Engineering Guidance Note, please contact Mr. Jope Davetanivalu, Acting Director of the EMG Programme (joped@sprep.org), Mr. Gregory Barbara, Environmental Assessment and Planning Officer (gregoryb@sprep.org); and Mr. Ivan Diarra, PNEA Officer (ivand@sprep.org)

Your assistance will be invaluable.

Thank you for your usual cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kosi Latu', is positioned above the printed name.

Kosi Latu

Director General

KL/JD/rmg

Att.