

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP_4/12/19 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points (Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)

DATE: 24 July 2024

CIRCULAR: 24/50

SUBJECT: **Pacific Regional Lawyers Workshop on Environmental Rule of Law: 23 – 25 September 2024, Nadi, Fiji**

Dear Members,

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will host the Regional Lawyers Workshop on Environmental Rule of Law in the Pacific Region in Nadi, Fiji from 23 to 25 September 2024.

The purpose of this Workshop is to build the capacity of lawyers to be well-equipped with understanding and knowledge of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and their role in promoting environmental rule of law. Building the capacity of lawyers in the Pacific region supports their respective roles to effectively address the complex environmental challenges through policy and legislative development and review. Further, the inaugural IUCN Oceania Environmental Law Conference convened in 2021 identified the need to strengthen environmental rule of law in the Pacific region to foster effective environmental governance.

The objectives of the Pacific Regional Lawyers Workshop are:

1. To advocate and promote the central role of environmental rule of law in sustainable development, emphasizing its integration with fundamental principles of the rule of law.
2. To improve environmental governance by highlighting the significance of environmental sustainability and linkages to essential rights and obligations.
3. To emphasize the importance of legal enforcement in environmental governance to prevent arbitrary, discretionary, and unpredictable practices.
4. To support the development and implementation of robust environmental laws and institutions to achieve environmental goals and address pressing environmental crises.

5. To ensure protection of everyone's fundamental right to live in a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment and climate.
6. To work towards strengthening the environmental rule of law as a key element of good environmental governance, emphasizing the critical role of lawyers.
7. To assist Pacific Island Countries in negotiating, implementing, and harmonizing domestic environmental policies and laws with international standards and best practices set by MEAs.
8. To provide capacity building and support to Pacific Island Countries on negotiations skills, mainstreaming MEA issues into national planning processes, and preparing for major MEA conferences.

SPREP and its Partners invite **one (1) Senior Legal Officer** from your country to attend the Workshop and complete the attached Nomination Form. The nominated Senior Legal Officer must:

- Possess good working knowledge and understanding of MEA processes and negotiations.
- Be involved in or play a significant role in the development of environmental laws and policies as well as guide their implementation.
- Possess a good working knowledge of environmental principles and the concept of environmental governance.

Financial assistance consists of travel on the most direct and economical return airfare and daily subsistence allowance for the duration of the meeting. Travel will be in accordance with the conditions of SPREP Travel Policy.

Due to time constraints and the need to organize available flights, please submit your completed Nomination Form **no later than 4:00PM (Samoa time) on Friday 2nd August 2024** to Ms. Anastacia Amoa-Stowers, MEAs Coordinator, on anastacias@sprep.org and Ms. Flavia Vaai, MEAs Support Officer, on flaviav@sprep.org.

For further information, please contact Ms. Anastacia Amoa-Stowers, MEAs Coordinator or Ms. Frances Disiga, IUCN Legal Officer, on frances.disiga@iucn.org.

Yours sincerely,



Jope Davetanivalu
Officer-In-Charge

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