

## **CIRCULAR**

FILE: AP 4/1/1 TO: SPREP National Focal Points

DATE: 31 October 2024

CIRCULAR: 24/81

**SUBJECT:** Nominations for Country Leads to the One Health Approach

Dear Members,

Greetings from the Secretariat.

As we continue to face multifaceted health, environmental, and climate challenges, the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health has become more evident than ever. The One Health approach, which fosters collaboration across sectors to tackle these complex challenges, is critical to safeguarding the resilience and sustainability of our ecosystems and communities.

SPREP with its sister organisation SPC are working closely together to strengthen the implementation of the integrated One Health approach in the Pacific. One of the focuses of the One Health approach is to strengthen the involvement of the environmental sector due to the effect of the planetary crisis on human health. Thus, the integration of the environment in the one health approach is crucial.

In this regard, you are kindly invited to nominate a representative from the Ministry of Environment to be the One Health Lead for your respective country. This role will be instrumental in facilitating cross-sectoral communication and coordination on One Health initiatives, enabling effective collaboration among public health, agriculture, animal health, and environmental sectors.

The selected One Health Lead will work closely with SPREP and SPC to:

- 1. Be the key contact and liaison for the country's One Health committee for the Environment Sector.
- 2. Contribute to the development and implementation of the One Health frameworks and policies tailored to national contexts.
- 3. Assist in building capacity for integrated disease surveillance linked to climate change adaptation, and biodiversity conservation.
- 4. Facilitate information-sharing on One Health issues across national, regional and international networks.

The SPREP Focal Point on One Health Jope Davetanivalu, Director of Environmental Monitoring Governance (DEMG) Programme. I would be grateful if you could submit the name(s) and contact information of the nominee(s) by end of November 2024 to the Director of Environmental Monitoring Governance (DEMG) Programme, through this email <a href="mailto:joped@sprep.org">joped@sprep.org</a>. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or for additional information.



Thank you for your continued commitment to the environment and health sustainability of our region.

Yours sincerely,

Sefanaia Nawadra Director General

SN/JD/rmg