



CIRCULAR

FILE: CONV 1/5/1; CONV 2/7/1
AP_6/5/9

TO: SPREP Focal Points

DATE: 3 November 2024

CIRCULAR: 24/82

SUBJECT: Invitation for nominations for sponsorship to attend the following meetings:

1. **THIRD PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC) MEETING OF THE GEF ISLANDS PACIFIC PROJECT;**
2. **ASIA PACIFIC SUB-REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING OF PACIFIC STATES FOR THE 2025 MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP) TO THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM (BRS) CONVENTIONS; and**
3. **TENTH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC 10) OF THE WAIGANI CONVENTION.**

Dear Members,

SPREP invites your government's nominated delegate(s) to participate in three pivotal meetings scheduled to take place in Rarotonga, Cook Islands:

1. The 3rd PSC Meeting of the GEF ISLANDS Pacific Project: **Scheduled for 10 March 2025;**
2. Asia Pacific Sub-Regional Preparatory meeting of Pacific States for the 2025 Meetings of the COP to the BRS Conventions: **Scheduled for 11-12 March 2025;** and
3. STAC 10 of the Waigani Convention: **Scheduled for 13-14 March 2025.**

These meetings have been made possible through the generous support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), European Union and the Parties to the Waigani Convention, via the GEF ISLANDS Pacific and ACP MEA III projects. Additionally, we wish to express our gratitude to the Government of Cook Islands for their generous hospitality as host of these meetings.

Objectives:

1. 3rd GEF ISLANDS Pacific PSC Meeting: The objective is to secure endorsement for the workplan and budget for the year 2025, provide updates of achievement and work progressed in 2024. The draft agenda for this meeting will also be provided in due course.
2. Asia Pacific Sub-Regional Preparatory meeting of Pacific States for the 2025 Meetings of the COP to the BRS Conventions: To enhance the readiness of Pacific delegations by providing briefing sessions on the key negotiation topics and agenda items for the 2025 Meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the BRS Conventions, ensuring that delegates are well-equipped to effectively represent their regional and national positions and priorities during the COP discussions.
3. Waigani STAC 10 Meeting: To review and provide scientific and technical recommendations on the implementation of the Waigani Convention, with a specific focus on the recommendations of the 2021 review of the Convention.

We are pleased to offer sponsorship for one delegate for each of the following countries to attend the above 3 meetings: Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. If different individuals are nominated for the GEF ISLANDS PSC and Basel/Waigani meetings we are prepared to sponsor both participants.

SPREP kindly requests the selection of nominees to be based on their familiarity and levels of involvement with the above meetings and their subject matter to progress their issues for discussion and potential decisions. In light of the national arrangements for the Basel/Waigani focal point and the GEF ISLANDS Project focal point, we kindly ask that if these two areas share the same lead focal point, please nominate that person only. However, if they have different focal points, both can be nominated. Also, since this Basel/Waigani meeting is a preparatory meeting for the BRS Convention meeting in Geneva in April/May 2025, we request that the nominee for these meetings be the same person attending the Geneva meeting.


All sponsored travel arrangements will adhere strictly to the SPREP travel policy, inclusive of economy return airfare via the most direct and economical route. Please note that the responsibility for travel insurance and visa expenses lies with the traveller.

We kindly request the completion and return of the attached nomination form (refer to annex 1) by Monday, 18 November 2024. This will confirm your attendance and enable the Secretariat to initiate travel preparations ahead of the Christmas holiday season.

For any further clarification or additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mr. Joshua Sam at joshuas@sprep.org or Mr. Dean Solofa at deans@sprep.org. Kindly also copy Ms. Renee Kamu, ISLANDS Pacific Child Project, Finance & Administration Officer at reneek@sprep.org.

Your attendance and contribution to these crucial meetings are highly anticipated, and we look forward to the invaluable insights and perspectives that your delegates will represent.

Yours sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Faumuinā Anthony Talouli
Officer in Charge