

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 6/5/4

TO: SPREP National Focal Points
(Cook Islands, Tonga, Niue, Marshall Islands, Fiji, Palau, Kiribati, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Nauru, Solomon Islands, FSM, PNG)

DATE: 11 June 2018

CIRCULAR: 18/33

SUBJECT: Transitioning from the GEFPAS uPOPs Release Reduction Project to a chemical and waste-related GEF7 Project through Identification of National Priorities

Dear Focal Points,

As you may be aware, the *Pacific POPs Release Reduction through Improved Management of Solid and Hazardous Waste* project which commenced in 2013 is now in its final year of implementation. The project is mainly funded through GEF under the Pacific Alliance of Sustainability.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) through SPREP is in the process of preparing for the GEF-7 funding cycle with the identification of national priorities for potential chemical and waste-related activities, which will fall under a new regional project.

The GEF-7 investment framework seeks to: eliminate/restrict/control emissions from chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention, eliminate mercury emissions and releases, and support SAICM objectives, including building capacity for e-waste management. Specifically for SIDS, activities under GEF-7 are expected to pursue the following: sustainable low and non-chemical development strategies, promotion of Best Available Technologies (BAT)/Best Environmental Practices (BEP) to eliminate uPOPs, strengthening the management system for e-waste and gender mainstreaming, among others.

Leading on to the preparation of the GEF7 Project proposal for the Pacific Region, UNEP engaged the services of Dr. David Haynes to:

- a. Conduct baseline research for the Pacific Child Project based on the NIPs, national waste strategies and other relevant policies as well as regional donor activities pertaining to chemicals and wastes such as projects funded through JICA (JPRISM), AFD, and EU (Pacwaste) including synergism and complementarity with EDF11 PacWaste Plus Project. The research will also include a review of national priorities.
- b. Consult PICs virtually to validate national priorities for assistance, identify champions and potential private sector partners and develop a Private Partnership Framework;

- c. Assess regional and national level institutional capacity;
- d. Conduct regional and national stakeholder analysis and risk analysis;

Dr. David Haynes needs no further introduction to the PICs having served as the SPREP Director for Waste Management and Pollution Control from 2010 until 2015. SPREP would be grateful if you can provide the necessary ground support to Dr. Haynes to facilitate his work in gathering relevant information as described above for this project in your respective countries. The tentative schedule for the country consultations will commence in the middle of June 2018 and will take roughly a month to complete the whole region.

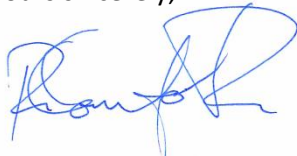
Further details about the consultancy work will be provided by Dr. Haynes.

We also wanted to highlight the opportunity for assistance under the GEF PAS project, with assistance on Special Programme Trust Fund applications – these are funds available for national level work on priority chemicals and waste issues. This assistance is being facilitated by our Capacity Building consultant, Ms. Esther Richards, who is visiting countries to build awareness, and assist in the delivery of national trainings by former FNU trainees, among others. Please note the deadline for Special Programme applications is in mid-June, so please be in contact should you wish to benefit from Esther's assistance.

Also under the GEFPAS, funds are available for national awareness campaigns on POPs and waste management. If your country is yet to apply, please do contact Esther for more guidance on this opportunity (e.richards@evrenv.com.au).

I thank you in advance for your usual support.

Yours sincerely,



Roger Cornforth
Deputy Director-General