

CIRCULAR

FILE: CONV_2/4/12; AP_4/12/19/18 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

DATE: 4 May 2021

CIRCULAR: 21/33

SUBJECT: **Invitation: Virtual technical session titled “Soil biodiversity - an important topic for the Pacific Islands”, 12 May 2021**

Dear Members,

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), are hosting the above-mentioned on-line session on the **12 May 2021, 1pm – 2.30pm, Fiji local time**.

The session will review regional priorities and needs on soil biodiversity in the Pacific, to inform discussion at the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 24) and at the CBD Conference of Parties (COP) 15 that will take place in October 2021.

The technical session is also expected to raise awareness of the benefits associated with soil biodiversity for food production and nutrition, carbon sequestration, water quality and human health, and is designed to bring together both the national agriculture and environment focal points.

We would value your inputs prior to the session via a short survey on soil biodiversity in the Pacific which can be completed online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6V9Y6J6>. Even if you cannot attend the online event, we still invite you to complete the survey.

To register please complete the online form via this link (<https://forms.office.com/r/by82wm0caV>). A Zoom link will be shared once participants register. Thank you and we look forward to your attendance.

Yours sincerely,



Kosi Latu
Director General

KL/AW/ma

Att.

Soil biodiversity, an important topic for the Pacific Islands

Discover more about this important item on the agenda of the upcoming Convention on Biological Diversity meetings.

OBJECTIVES:

- Raise awareness of the benefits associated with soil biodiversity for food production and nutrition, carbon sequestration, water quality and human health;
- Discuss regional priorities and needs for soil biodiversity in the Pacific and prepare for a Pacific intervention at SBSTTA 14 and COP 15 meetings.



Wednesday 12 May 2021, 1–2:30PM (Fiji time) via Zoom

To register please visit: <https://forms.office.com/r/by82wm0caV>

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Stuart Minchin, SPC Director General

Kosi Latu, SPREP Director General

Xiangjun Yao, FAO sub-regional Coordinator

Ronald Vargas, FAO Global Soil Partnership

William Wigmore, Director of Cook Islands Crops and Resource Division

and other Pacific island biodiversity and agriculture representatives

TARGET AUDIENCE: CBD Focal Points within Pacific Island countries, biodiversity and agricultural officers from Pacific island countries and territories.

