

## CIRCULAR

**FILE:** AP 6/9  
**DATE:** 13 September 2022  
**CIRCULAR:** 22/82

**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

**Subject: Request for expressions of interest to participate in the Pacific Ocean Litter Project**

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Dear Members,

Warm Pacific greetings from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Headquarters in Apia, Samoa.

I write to inform you about developments with the Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP), funded by the Government of Australia, and seek expressions of interest (EOIs) to participate in the project.

The POLP aims to reduce, replace and find alternatives to single use plastics to decrease marine plastic litter. With borders reopening and travel restrictions easing in the region after the challenges of COVID-19, SPREP is stepping up the pace of implementation of this project.

The POLP will soon commence targeted activities in a selection of Pacific Island countries. These activities will address national priorities to reduce marine plastic litter and align to the project outcomes (refer to the Information Note). The activities may be undertaken over a period of up to three (3) years and will be managed by a locally employed officer.

Strong national support for the activities will be crucial.

We are now seeking EOIs from Pacific Island countries to participate in POLP activities. The EOIs should summarize the marine litter problem of your country and identify priority activities that your country would like to progress to reduce single use plastics.

An Information Note and EOI template to assist in the development of EOIs are attached to this circular. National Focal Points are respectfully requested to submit all EOIs by **14<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022**.

Once the EOIs have been assessed, SPREP will be in touch with individual National Focal Points to discuss in more detail activities that may be eligible for funding and propose a way forward for that country. Please be aware that submitting an EOI does not guarantee that the POLP project will fund activities in your country.

It is my sincere wish that in-country activities will be fully underway in the first quarter of 2023.

The Secretariat is ready to assist you in relation to any queries or information you may need in relation to matters raised in this circular. Our contacts are Andrea Volentras [andreav@sprep.org](mailto:andreav@sprep.org), POLP Project Manager or Ngaire Ah Ching [ngairec@sprep.org](mailto:ngairec@sprep.org), POLP Senior Project Officer.

Yours Sincerely,



Easter Chu Shing  
**Acting Director General**

ECS/AV/nac