

# CIRCULAR

**FILE:** AP\_2/43 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points  
**DATE:** 5 May 2025  
**CIRCULAR:** 25/34  
**SUBJECT:** **Consultations Commencing for Coral Reef Monitoring Assessment under the Pacific BioScapes Programme**

## Background

The European Union (EU)-funded Pacific BioScapes Programme, implemented by SPREP, aims to support the sustainable development of Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through improved management and use of marine and coastal ecosystems. The Programme is financed under the 11th European Development Fund and contributes directly to SDGs 14 and 15, as well as the Rio Conventions.

Spanning 13 Pacific Island Countries, the Programme supports 30 projects that strengthen biodiversity management, climate resilience, and the sustainable use of marine and terrestrial resources. It applies ridge-to-reef approaches and fosters partnerships from national to community levels, including with civil society and NGOs. Key goals include enhancing policy frameworks, improving decision-making, raising environmental awareness, and supporting pilot projects.

## Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan

Coral reefs across the Pacific are under increasing pressure from climate change, overfishing, and pollution. In response, SPREP and its Members and partners developed the Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan (PACRAP) 2021–2030. As part of this plan, Activity 1.1.7 of the Pacific BioScapes Programme focuses on enhancing coral reef monitoring and the integration of traditional knowledge (Action Areas 8 and 2 of PACRAP, respectively).

SPREP, in coordination with partners such as the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network Pacific regional node, led by CRIOBE (a French research center of excellence focusing on coral reefs), and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) is supporting countries to assess and strengthen their coral monitoring frameworks using appropriate, country-specific approaches. This effort aligns with regional and global priorities for coral reef conservation.

## Country Engagement and Coral Reef Assessment

We are pleased to announce that BMT has commenced its role as the consultant supporting the Coral Reef Monitoring Assessment under Activity 1.1.7 of the Pacific BioScapes Programme. Over the coming months, BMT will engage with selected countries to conduct in country stakeholder consultations with preliminary findings to be presented at a regional workshop convened in collaboration with the Australian Institute of Marine Science in August 2025.

The aim is to assess national coral reef monitoring efforts, identify needs, and support the development of fit-for-purpose and standardised monitoring approaches that reflect national capacities and priorities. Rather than imposing a one-size-fits-all model, this initiative seeks to build on existing efforts and deliver evidence-based decision-making tools for coral reef management.

While most national focal points are based within environment ministries or divisions, we wish to highlight that consultations will also involve a broad range of relevant stakeholders. This includes agencies such as Fisheries Departments, as well as non-state actors—including NGOs, community representatives, researchers, academic institutes and the private sector.

We share this for your awareness, to ensure that the context and scope of engagement are clearly understood as part of this inclusive process.

### **Your Input is Valuable**

We strongly encourage your participation in these national consultation processes. Your knowledge, experience, and insights are vital to the success of this assessment while also ensuring that the results and recommendations are locally relevant and actionable.

SPREP kindly requests your support and active inputs during the consultation phase. Whether you are involved in coral monitoring, policy, traditional knowledge systems, or community-based conservation, your contribution will help strengthen national and regional coral reef resilience.

The BMT team in conjunction with SPREP will contact you directly to coordinate your involvement in the consultations and provide more details about the process.

For further details or to engage in the process, please contact Ms. Belinda Norris, Pacific BioScapes Coastal and Marine Specialist via email: [belindan@sprep.org](mailto:belindan@sprep.org).

We look forward to your collaboration on this important and exciting initiative.

Yours sincerely,



Easter Chu Shing  
**Acting Director General**

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