

Sponsorship Opportunity to Attend the Fifth Biennial Caribbean Environmental Forum and Exhibition (CEF-5)

Background:

The Fifth Biennial Caribbean Environmental Forum & Exhibition (CEF-5) will be convened in Montego Bay, Jamaica from 21st – 25th June 2010. This event is an excellent opportunity for the exchange of good practices and lessons learned between professionals involved in managing the fragile water resources of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Pacific and Caribbean regions. In order to facilitate such exchange, SOPAC's EU IWRM Planning Programme and GEF Pacific IWRM Project will support **two individuals** from the **Pacific region** to participate in this SIDS Forum. National IWRM staff including Focal Points, Policy Officers, and Demonstration Project Managers are eligible for this support. Individuals interested in representing the Pacific IWRM initiative at this Forum are requested to submit an abstract to SOPAC's IWRM team by 5th April 2010. The authors of the two highest quality abstracts will be selected to attend the Forum. These individuals will be required to prepare a full paper and 20 minute PowerPoint presentation for the Forum in advance of their travel.

CEF-5 Theme:

"Coping with Copenhagen: Water, Waste, Energy, Health...." emphasizes actions and strategies to address key Caribbean environmental issues, against the backdrop of climate change.

Relevant Forum Session for Papers:

Integrated Water Resources and Coastal Areas Management (*e.g. drought mitigation, drinking and recreational water quality, rainwater harvesting, legislative and financing mechanisms, policy development, aquatic ecology, watershed management and coastal zone management*)

Ideas for Forum Abstracts/Papers:

- Good practices and experiences in IWRM, including cross-sectoral management, engaging the private sector, facilitating community participation in decision-making, and translating IWRM policy into action in small island contexts
- Community involvement in and support for IWRM, e.g., the role of communities (and sub-groups) in generating political support for the inclusion of IWRM and Water Use Efficiency (WUE) considerations in national and local development policies and laws
- New water resource management models and methods implemented or trialled by GEF IWRM demonstration projects, and their potential for replication by other SIDS
- National IWRM Policy and Planning: need for and relevance of Water Apex Bodies; planning for implementation; and the steps required to mainstream IWRM in your country

Abstract Selection Criteria:

- Relevance: to IWRM and WUE in the author's country and other Pacific and Caribbean SIDS
- Innovation: use of new and practical solutions to water and climate issues facing SIDS
- Learning: identification of barriers/challenges, approaches to overcome these and any lessons learned, and potential for replication
- Clarity: effective use of the English language to clearly communicate IWRM principles and learning

Submission of Abstracts:

All abstracts are to be submitted electronically to IWRM@sopac.org by COB April 5th, 2010. Abstracts must not exceed 500 words in length. Receipt of abstracts will be acknowledged electronically within 48 hours.

