



Chair of the ECCTAC Validation Workshop, Mr. Rodrigue Tiavouane, representative of the Front de Liberation Nationale Kanak Socialiste (FLNKS) of New Caledonia

**MSG Environment and Climate Change Technical Advisory Committee (ECCTAC) officials to meet in Nadi, Fiji to discuss key MSG environment and climate change issues**

The Melanesia Spearhead Group Environment and Climate Change Technical Advisory Committee will be convened in Nadi, Fiji on 23-25 September, 2013. The three day meeting will

be attended by senior environment and climate change officials of the MSG member countries and also regional and international partners International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), UNESCAP, SPREP, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), USP and UPNG, who have been providing technical support to members since the establishment of the ECCTAC.

The ECCTAC was established through a mandate of the Environment and Climate Change Ministers meeting (ECCMM) and subsequently endorsed by the MSG Leaders at the Special Summit in March 2012.

The three day-day meeting to be Chaired by Mr. Rodrigue Tiavouane, representative of the Front de Liberation Nationale Kanak Socialiste (FLNKS) of New Caledonia will be discussing the decisions made by the Leaders at the 19th MSG Summit in Noumea in June this year. One of the key issues that will also be discussed is the MSG Green Growth Knowledge e-Platform. This initiative is supported through funding by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation ACP-EU (CTA). The Secretariat also expresses its profound gratitude to CTA for funding this meeting, which will allow members to share their experiences and assess work undertaken on four key components of the "MSG Leaders Declaration on Environment & Climate Change" which was signed in March 2012 and these include: (1) Green Growth Framework, (2) Melanesian Blue Carbon Initiative, (3) Melanesian Terrestrial Commitment and (4) Melanesian Green Climate Fund.

The Melanesian Green Climate Fund is a key commitment that will set the foundation for most of the initiatives contained in the Declaration and will require the full support of member countries. The declaration calls for the fund to be resourced and by climate change mitigation and adapting funding and other innovative mechanisms including investments from the mining and extraction industries and private sector.

The Melanesian Blue Carbon Initiative is an important element of the Declaration which focuses on the low lying areas of our coast lines which are in dire need of protection and conservation. The lack of environmental data and information on Blue Carbon in Melanesia is a cause for concern because without such data, the MSG will not be able to develop clear policies and guidelines to better manage or monitor stored carbon along our coast lines.

The Melanesian Terrestrial Commitment refers to the conservation and management of forests, water catchments, river systems and other critical ecosystems that can be integrated in this framework to ensure sustainable land use practices in agriculture and development. These are

almost daily concerns in many of our countries because the majority of our people live off the land. With increasing exploitation of our resources, populations growth, natural disasters, pollution and so forth, the region would need to take more responsibility in engaging with our people, the land-owners and the resource extractors to be able to better manage and conserve our rainforests, rivers and ecosystems.

In June this year, the MSG Leaders endorsed the 5 goals for implementing the Green Growth Framework which was developed in an attempt to put the protection of our bio-diversity and integration of the pillars of sustainable development at the centre of development.

The outcomes of the ECCTAC will be presented to the third MSG Environment and Climate Change Ministers (ECCMM) when they next meet.

Authorized by

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