

Twenty Fourth SPREP Meeting

17th -19th September 2013
Apia, Samoa

AGENDA ITEM 9.1.1: Development of a Pacific Islands regional invasive species programme proposal for submission to GEF 6

Purpose of Paper

1. To advise Members of the significant opportunity under GEF 6 to develop a Pacific Islands regional invasive species programme and seek endorsement of Members for SPREP to develop a suitable proposal for submission to GEF 6.

Background

2. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund of the World Bank provides a funding mechanism for achievement of the Convention on Biological Diversity 2020 Aichi Targets.
3. The current GEF-5 period is from July 1, 2010 to June 30 2014 and the GEF- 6 replenishment covers the period from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018
4. In preparation for the new round the GEF Secretariat has produced a draft GEF-6 programming directions document (GEF/R.6/071). This document is the start of a process to define the overall programming directions for the next cycle, and takes into account the ongoing development of a “new longer-term vision for a more ambitious instrument (the GEF2020 Strategy) that can start to reverse some of the most risky trends to the global environmental commons”.
5. Of particular relevance to the Pacific islands region is the proposed Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy Program 5: *Avoiding Imminent Extinction in Island Ecosystems: a time-sensitive agenda*.

¹<http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/GEF.R6.07,%20Draft%20GEF-6%20Programming%20Directions,%20final,%20March%2008,%202013.pdf>

6. The proposed Program 5 states that “during GEF-6, given the high degree of threat that Invasive Alien Species (IAS) pose to islands, and the potential global biodiversity return on investment, support for the implementation of IAS management frameworks will be targeted solely to island states and islands. GEF will support the implementation of comprehensive prevention, early detection, control and management frameworks that emphasize a risk management approach by focusing on the highest risk invasion pathways.

7. Targeted eradication will be supported in specific circumstances where proven, low-cost and effective eradication would result in the extermination of the IAS and the survival of globally significant species and/or ecosystems.”

8. The proposed GEF 6 Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy Program 5 serves as a potential means to address the negative environmental, social and economic impacts of IAS to Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

9. The proposed program provides a specific opportunity to strengthen SPREP's regional invasives species management programme and assist in the implementation of *The Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific: a Pacific strategy for managing pests, weeds and other invasive species* (SPREP, 2009).

10. This new project would support a stronger regional invasive species programme, and develop further the existing Pacific GEF 4 funded IAS 10-country project, to extend its current activities past the life of the present programme and generate new in-country projects for Members that are implementing their National Invasive Strategies and Action Plans (NISAP's).

Recommendation

11. The Meeting is invited to:

- **direct** the Secretariat to develop a regional terrestrial and marine invasive species project for submission to GEF 6, in coordination with Members, partners, and other interested parties. This proposal would include:
 - Comprehensive prevention, early detection, eradication and control components that emphasize a risk management approach, focusing on priority pathways, risks and priority ecosystems and species.
 - Targeted eradications where proven, low-cost and effective eradication would result in the complete removal of IAS and the survival of globally significant species and/or ecosystems, as well as improved economic development through the removal of IAS that impact on agriculture, forestry and fisheries.
 - Strengthening SPREP's regional support infrastructure through greater technical support and expert advice,
 - the creation of standard operating procedures, and training to support countries to increase their capability and capacity in IAS management.