

Twenty-Fourth SPREP Meeting

17-19 September 2013
Apia, Samoa

AGENDA ITEM 9.1.2: Pacific Invasives Species Capacity Development Strategy

Purpose

1. To seek Member approval of the Pacific Invasive Species Capacity Development Strategy (PISCDS), which aims to strengthen and streamline capacity building activities regarding management of invasive species.

Background

2. The technical capacity of invasive species practitioners in the Pacific continues to be developed through a range of capacity development events and activities, including training workshops, learning exchanges, attachments, internships and mentoring.
3. The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) provided a funding grant to the Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN/SPREP) and the Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII) to review capacity development and develop the PISCDS through consultation with relevant invasive species stakeholders.
4. The review and PISCDS identified some serious gaps in capacity development efforts in the Pacific which are hindering implementation of the Pacific Islands Guidelines for Invasive Species Management.
5. The PISCDS will assist in the implementation of *The Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific*" (SPREP, 2009). It is a valuable document that will contribute to ongoing efforts to curb the negative environmental, social and economic impacts of IAS to Pacific Island Countries and Territories. The PISCDS identifies 13 key strategic recommendations for capacity development providers and recipients, and outlines opportunities to strengthen SPREP and SPC's regional invasives species management programmes
6. This initiative will contribute to implementation of the 2012 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Communique, which reaffirmed the importance of dealing effectively with invasive species at both national and regional levels and requested SPREP and SPC to increase their efforts in this area.

7. The Strategy would further support Pacific countries commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Aichi Target 9 – Invasive Species) and the review of the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans.

Recommendations

8. The Meeting is invited to:

- **approve** the Pacific Invasive Species Capacity Development Strategy (PISCDS), and to give support to building Pacific Islands capacity to manage invasive species; and
- **encourage** Members, partners and donors to support implementation of the PISCDS.

28 August, 2013