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The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Twelfth meeting of the Noumea Convention

Twelfth ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the convention for the protection of the natural resources and environment of the South Pacific Region and related protocols (Noumea Convention)

Majuro, Marshall Islands
 26 September 2014

Agenda Item 7.2_Annex 1: List of Prioritized Activities under the Operating Funds

1. A proposed list of activities was circulated to parties on 8th August, 2014. The Secretariat received prioritization from four Parties; Australia, France, Samoa and the USA. The Secretariat also received feedback from Vanuatu although they aren't a party to the Noumea Convention. There was a wide range in the activities prioritized by different parties, the Secretariat took this into account in developing the finalized list for current funding – as well as assessing all other potential funding sources that could potentially support these activities.

2. Total funding available under Noumea Convention operating funds was \$120,000 and the Secretariat was successful in identifying a further \$160,000 to fund additional activities in support of the Noumea Convention. As a result, five of the thirteen proposed activities can be funded at the current time.

LIST OF POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES SUBMITTED TO THE COUNTRIES

| Decision | | Activity | Justification | Cost (USD) |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|------------|
| Proposed activities not endorsed by members following COP11 (2012) | | | | |
| 1 | Alternate Funds identified | Develop guidelines and training materials on Environmental impact assessment for senior fish fisheries staff, especially on issues relevant to fisheries and aquaculture. Including impacts of development on fisheries and impacts of fisheries/aquaculture activities | Art.16: Environmental Impact Assessment Art.17: Technical and other assistance Art.14: Protection of Flora and Fauna | \$25,000 |
| 2 | | Draft regional environmental guidelines for mining | Art.13: Mining and coastal erosion Art.16: Environmental impact Assessment | \$20,000 |

| New Proposed Activities | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| 3 | FUND | Support to initiate, establish and expand protected areas in the Pacific Islands region. Following the completion of the BioRAP surveys in Vavau, Tonga, it is imperative to raise awareness and disseminate findings and outcomes of the survey to inform key national and local stakeholders and decision makers and establish a process for setting up protected areas in Vavau. Outcomes of this intervention will be widely shared and disseminated in the region. | Art. 14: Protection of Flora and Fauna Art. 17: Technical and other assistance | \$30,000 |
| 4 | Alternative Funds identified | Shark fin trade and by-catch: regional workshop to determine the status and draft plan of action as a follow on from the 2012 review of the SPREP regional marine species action plan. The workshop aims to determine the levels of key threats to shark populations (e.g. trade, bycatch, pollution), and draft a plan that harnesses initiatives (eg: declared shark sanctuaries) and resources in the region to ensure a cohesive approach to improving shark populations. | Art. 14: Protected of Flora and Fauna. | \$40,000 |
| 5 | FUND 50%, additional funds identified | Assessment of riverine and marine debris reduction strategies through improved integrated waste management. Review of regional and national legislation, Port State measures, port gear reception/ and recycling schemes, with recommendations for future action. | Art.6: Pollution from Vessels Art. 7: Land based sources Art.14: Protection of Flora and Fauna Art.16: Environmental impact Assessment | \$60,000 |
| 6 | Alternate funds identified | Identifying problem fisheries with high rates of gear loss (ADLFG – Abandoned, Drifting and Lost Fishing Gear) including use/development of technology to identify sources and hotspots for entanglement. Improve reporting procedures from fishing vessels, and identify hotspots and key issues. Assess impacts at the population level and investigate mitigation options. | Art.6: Pollution from Vessels Art.14: Protection of Flora and Fauna Art.16: Environmental impact Assessment | \$80,000 |
| 7 | FUND (2) countries | Development of a coordinated multi-sector and multi-agency replicable approach to enhance the protection of marine species | Art.6: Pollution from Vessels Art.14: Protection of Flora and Fauna | \$30,000 (for three Convention |

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|----|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| | | and habitats, through engaging and raising awareness on the threat and impact of marine invasive species in three Convention member countries. | | member countries) |
| 8 | FUND | Technical support for the sister sites: Cook Island MPA and New Caledonia Nature Park of the Coral to facilitate technical cooperation between the two Pacific marine protected areas through development of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - desk-top technical information; - needs' survey and propositions; - bilateral meeting on technical interests; and - cooperation project with action plan and technical recommendations. | Art. 14: Protection of Flora and Fauna | \$20,000 for the technical cooperation first meeting and action plan for 2 countries |
| 9 | Alternative Funds identified | Pacific ecotourism on wild marine species: taking advantage of the Regional Blue Days project funded by the French Polynesian Government and the Pacific Fund by inviting local professional during the Blue Days and working in 2 eco-touristic countries. | Art. 14: Protection of Flora and Fauna. | \$16,600 for a regional programme writing and fundraising |
| 10 | Alternate funds identified | Assessment of the utility of remote sensed data for broad and fine scale water quality monitoring in the Pacific region. | Art. 7: Land based sources Art. 14: Protection of Flora and Fauna Art.16: Environmental impact Assessment | \$40,000 (for 1 or 2 test countries) |
| 11 | FUND (2) countries | Update 1993 wetland inventories for up to 3 Pacific Island Countries (Ramsar Convention) | Art.14: Protection of Flora and Fauna | \$10,000 per country (required in 3 PICs) |
| 12 | Alternative funds identified | Development of guidelines and training on proper management of toxic and hazardous wastes/materials in storage facilities located in close proximity to the marine environment, including proper storage techniques/methods | Art. 7: Land based sources Art. 11: Storage of toxic and hazardous wastes | \$30,000 (for 3 to 4 countries) |
| 13 | | Support for carrying out of the assessment inventory surveys for the Freshwater species in Samoa | Art 14: Protection of Flora and Fauna. Art. 7: Land based sources Art.16: Environmental impact Assessment) due to impacts to freshwater species when rivers are affected from land based pollutions. they also | \$15,000 |

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| | | | dry-up as they don't have environmental flows allowances, | |
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JUSTIFICATION OF DECISION ON EACH ACTIVITY

Activity 1: Develop Guidelines and Training materials on EIA for Senior Fish Fisheries Staff

This activity was not endorsed at the 2012 COP in Noumea. The activity was a high priority for Vanuatu, and a low priority for other Parties. Some work has been done in other thematic areas and it is considered appropriate to look for other opportunities to fund this activity.

Decision: Do not fund at this time, seek alternative funding

Activity 2: Draft regional environmental guidelines for mining

This activity was not endorsed at the 2012 COP in Noumea. The activity was a priority for Vanuatu, and a low priority for other Parties.

Decision: Do not fund at this time, seek alternate mechanism

Activity 3: Support to expand the BioRAP surveys in Vavau to inform decision makers

This activity was the first priority for Samoa and the United States and ranked moderate for Australia. The activity outcomes will be shared widely and will benefit all Parties.

Decision: FUND at a level of \$30,000.00 from Noumea Convention Operating Budget

Activity 4: Regional workshop on Shark fin trade and by-catch to develop plan of action

This activity was moderate to low priority for all parties.

Decision: Do not fund at this time, seek alternate funding

Activity 5: Assessment of Riverine and Marine Debris reduction strategies

This activity was ranked second high priority by Australia and Samoa and ranked moderate for all parties. This activity will complement the literature research and pilot projects already approved by the 2012 COP in Noumea. The activity will also complement the initiatives from the Global Partnership on Marine Litter.

Decision: FUND at a level of \$30,000 from Noumea Convention Operating Budget

Activity 6: Identifying problem fisheries with Abandoned Drifting and Lost Fishing Gear (ADLFG)

This activity was ranked equal first priority by Australia and ranked moderate to high for Samoa, United States, and Vanuatu. Due to the high individual cost of these activities they are not suggested for current funding, but to seek other avenues to support these activities. Some work has and will be done by the marine litter project looking at modeling of current and hotspots for marine litter.

Decision: Do not fund at this time, seek alternate funding

Activity 7: Development of a coordinated multi-sector and multi-agency approach for marine invasives

This activity was ranked equal first priority by Australia and ranked moderate to high for Samoa, United States, and Vanuatu.

Decision: FUND \$20,000 from Noumea Convention operation funds for two countries.

Activity 8: Technical support for the sister sites: Cook Islands MPA and New Caledonia Nature Park

This activity was the first priority of France, and second priority for Samoa and the United States.

Decision: FUND at a level of \$20,000 from Noumea Convention Operating Budget

Activity 9: Pacific ecotourism on wild marine species, taking advantage of Regional Blue Days project

This activity was the second priority of France, and moderate to low by other Parties.

Decision: Alternate funds identified for this activity

Activity 10: Assessment of the utility of remote sensed data

This activity was ranked moderate to low by Parties and is considered important under the Convention, and as an example of developing water quality information. However, there are potential alternative source of funding.

Decision: Alternate funds identified for this activity

Activity 11: Update 1993 wetland inventories for up to 3 Pacific Island Countries (Ramsar convention)

This activity was ranked high for Australia and Samoa. Given current funding constraints and the priority given to wetlands work, this was seen as the most appropriate way to fund activities under the Convention. While activities will only take place within two countries, this is building to a regional effort supporting the Ramsar Convention actions in the region.

Decision: FUND \$20,000 from Noumea Convention operation funds to update two countries wetlands inventories.

Activity 12: Activity Develop guidelines and training on Hazardous and Toxic waste in close proximity to marine environment

This activity was ranked high Samoa and moderate to low by other Parties. Given current funding constraints and the activities under the GEF UOPs project, alternative funding can be sourced from other means.

Decision: Do not fund at this time, seek alternate mechanism

Activity 13: Support for carrying out of freshwater species surveys in Samoa

This activity was the first priority of Samoa, and considered important under the Convention, however most potential benefits are only for one party.

Decision: Alternate funds identified for this activity

BUDGET FOR NOUMEA CONVENTION OPERATING FUNDS 2015-2016

| | Activity | Justification | Cost |
|------------|---|--|-----------------|
| Activity 3 | Support to initiate, establish and expand protected areas in the Pacific Islands region. Following the completion of the BioRAP surveys in Vavau, Tonga, it is imperative to raise awareness and disseminate findings and outcomes of the survey to inform key national and local stakeholders and decision makers and establish a process for setting up protected areas in Vavau. Outcomes of this intervention will be widely shared and disseminated in the region. | Art. 14: Protection of Flora and Fauna Art. 17: Technical and other assistance | \$30,000 |
| Activity 5 | Assessment of riverine and marine debris reduction strategies through improved integrated waste management. Review of regional and national legislation, Port State | Art.6: Pollution from Vessels Art. 7: Land based sources Art.14: Protection of Flora and Fauna | \$30,000 |

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|--------------------|--|--|------------------|
| | measures, port gear reception/ and recycling schemes, with recommendations for future action. | Art.16: Environmental impact Assessment | |
| Activity 7 | Development of a coordinated multi-sector and multi-agency replicable approach to enhance the protection of marine species and habitats, through engaging and raising awareness on the threat and impact of marine invasive species in three Convention member countries. | Art.6: Pollution from Vessels Art.14: Protection of Flora and Fauna | \$20,000 |
| Activity 8 | Technical support for the sister sites: Cook Island MPA and New Caledonia Nature Park of the Coral to facilitate technical cooperation between the two Pacific marine protected areas through development of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - desk-top technical information; - needs' survey and propositions; - bilateral meeting on technical interests; and - cooperation project with action plan and technical recommendations. | Art. 14: Protection of Flora and Fauna | \$20,000 |
| Activity 11 | Update 1993 wetland inventories for up to 2 Pacific Island Countries (Ramsar Convention) | Art.14: Protection of Flora and Fauna | \$20,000 |
| | | Total | \$120,000 |

19 September, 2014

