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

Twenty Fifth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Majuro, Marshall Islands
30 September – 2 October 2014

Agenda Item 10.1: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Division - 2015 Overview

Purpose

1. To provide an overview of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Division work programme activities for 2015 consistent with the SPREP Strategic Plan

Summary of Key Activities for the Year

2. Island and Oceanic Ecosystems

- Implement major projects: GEF-PAS IIB, PACIOCEA, MACBIO, USAID Choiseul EbA
- Support implementation of the new GEF ABS regional project
- Provide technical support to PIC delegates at Ramsar COP12
- Develop the new Regional Wetlands Action Plan for the Pacific Islands (2016-2019)
- Coordinate and support implementation of the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Island region 2014-2020
- Coordinate and support key decisions arising from the CBD COP12 and continue to strengthen biodiversity MEA synergies and cooperation
- Assist PICs to define national conservation priorities (NBSAPs, SOCO, SoE, Ramsar, POWPA Action Plans for protected areas)
- Expand ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change projects and activities
- Continue to support implementation of Oceanscape Framework

3. Threatened and Migratory Species

- Work with PICTs and partners to implement 2013-2017 regional marine species action plan
- Expand PIC membership, and implementation, of CMS (and related MoUs and relevant COP 11 decisions) and CITES, in particular CMS/GEF programme on dugong and seagrass conservation
- Broaden TMS programme work to non-marine species
- Design and implement avian and marine recovery plans, assist PICTs to develop species legislation (e.g., whale sanctuaries, dugong coastal EIA links), continue turtle monitoring work
- Assist PICTs and NZDoC to implement the turtle ecotourism project
- Expand collaboration with other relevant agencies, including International Whaling Commission
- Provide support to the first recipient of the Lui Bell memorial postgraduate scholarship for marine species conservation.

4. Invasive Species

- Coordinate the Project Document for the Regional Invasive Species Project for approval to GEF6
- Continue implementation of the GEF-PAS Invasive Species project in participating countries
- Facilitate a Territorial Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan for Wallis and Futuna
- Collaborate with SPC and others to include environmental invasive threats in relevant policies and legislation
- Support biosecurity and invasive species management into protected area management programmes
- Further increase the number of PILN teams and sub-regional working groups
- Initiate “Invasive Species is Everyone’s Responsibility” region wide awareness campaign
- Provide technical assistance to invasive species eradication, control, biocontrol and restoration projects.

5. 2015 Challenges/Opportunities

- Secure commitment and support to endorse and implement outcomes of the 9th Pacific Island Nature Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas and the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Island region 2014 - 2020 (Papers 10.1.1 and 10.1.2)
 - Mobilize new and additional financial resources to implement priorities in the NBSAPs and meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets(Paper 10.1.3)
 - Implement key marine species conservation initiatives including the GEF / CMS dugong and seagrass conservation project, update of turtle take and prohibitive measures, proposed shark action plan and Pacific Year of the Whale campaign development (Paper 10.1.4).
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