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

## Twenty Sixth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Apia, Samoa  
22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015

### Agenda Item 10.1.1: Progress in Developing a GEF-6 Invasive Species Proposal

#### Purpose of Paper

1. To advise Members of the status of participation of GEF eligible countries in the GEF-6 Invasive Species Proposal.

#### Background

2. The 24<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting of Officials directed the Secretariat to develop a regional terrestrial and marine invasive species project for submission to GEF-6 (Agenda item 9.1.1).
3. Although it was proposed to not use country STAR allocations this was not possible as these allocations are required to be committed to allow SPREP to access Global Set Aside funds.
4. The project objective is to "Reduce the threats to terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity in the Pacific from IAS by modeling, testing and assessing the implementation, replication and sustainability of best practice components of a comprehensive prevention, early detection, control and management framework, using the Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific". There are five project outcomes included in the Project Identification Form: All countries have a comprehensive and effective administrative framework established and countries are enabled to manage invasive alien species; All IAS threats are identified and priority solutions identified for each country; Biosecurity risks are reduced, including the use of functioning Early Detection Rapid Response mechanisms, for the highest risk pathways and IAS; Eliminate the impact of priority IAS species identified in component two; A sustainable support service comprised of CROP agencies and partners is created to enable the four countries to respond to existing and potential IAS threats which is up-scalable to at least the Pacific region.
5. STAR allocations will implement invasive species programmes in participating countries while Set Aside funds will enable regional support to these countries, which is essential to deal with the regional dimensions of invasive species issues. This will ultimately benefit the whole region through improved resources for invasive species management in the Pacific.

6. To date four countries have committed a portion of their GEF-6 STAR allocation to the project: Nauru (US\$1 million); Niue (US\$1 million), Republic of the Marshall Islands (US\$1 million) and the Kingdom of Tonga (US\$1.5m).
7. It is anticipated that the Project Identification Form will be submitted for consideration by the GEF Council at their October meeting, following approval by the GEF Implementing Agency UNEP.
8. Fiji and Palau have included significant invasive species management components in their individual GEF-6 plans outside of this project.
9. Given the unanimous support for development of a large scale GEF-6 invasive species project at the 24th SPREP Meeting the Secretariat anticipated that more eligible Pacific island countries would commit to the proposal.

### Recommendation

10. The Meeting is invited to:
- **congratulate** the four countries that have committed to improving invasive species management nationally and regionally by taking up this opportunity;
  - **encourage** further Members to commit to the project; and
  - **encourage** all Members to consider how their individual invasive species initiatives can contribute to the overall success of invasive species management in the region by coordinating their activities with the project.

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27 July 2015