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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
22nd – 24th September 2015

Agenda Item 10.1: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Division - 2016 Overview

Purpose

1. To provide an overview of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Division work programme activities for 2016 consistent with the SPREP Strategic Plan

Summary of Key Activities for the Year

2. Island and Oceanic Ecosystems

- Continue implementation of major projects: GEF-PAS IIB, MACBIO, BMUB PEBACC
- Complete regional UNEP-GEF ABS project inception phase
- Monitor and report on implementation of the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas
- Convene joint Pacific regional preparatory meeting for the CBD COP13 and CITES COP17
- Develop and coordinate activities of the Pacific Voyage campaign targeting the 2016 IUCN World Conservation, CBD COP13 and other major events
- Finalise, publish and promote the Tuvalu BIORAP report
- Provide advice on MPA planning, management and implementation through marine spatial planning projects
- Support implementation of a Pacific region Sustainable Oceans Initiative workshop with the CBD SOI, AAMP, PIFS and CSIRO
- Provide technical input through the Marine Sector Working Group and Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC) to develop Pacific region input to the UN process on ABNJ-BBNJ

3. Threatened and Migratory Species

- Develop shark and ray action plan and support SPREP members to promote conservation and sustainable management of sharks and rays
- Implement activities under Year of the Whale to address actions to improve cetacean conservation
- Assist the Solomon Islands Government to prepare a Solomon Islands Dolphin Management Plan
- Support PNG in proposed review of legislation affecting cetaceans
- Support community based marine turtle monitor networks, especially through the NZDOC project

- Review by-catch of protected or threatened species in commercial fisheries by analysis of observer report forms
- Promote membership of CITES by PICs

4. Invasive Species

- Coordinate development of the Regional Invasive Species Project for approval to GEF-6 and submission of PIF to UNEP and GEF Secretariat
- Continue implementation of the GEF-PAS Invasive Species project in participating countries
- Continue region-wide Invasive Species Awareness campaign to raise the profile and outreach on the importance of "Invasive Species - Everyone's Responsibility".
- Improve knowledge management at the regional level to ensure information on invasive species is up-to-date and available.
- Increase the focus on inter-island biosecurity and management of established invasives in SPC Draft Harmonized Biosecurity Bill in collaboration with SPC and other CROP agencies
- Coordinate the Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP) and work with members of PIP to develop projects that address priorities identified by the Pacific Invasive Species Capacity Development Strategy
- Complete Pacific Invasives Partnership 2016-2017 Action Plan
- Facilitate establishment of PILN teams in Member countries that do not have cross-sector invasive species teams (focusing on Cook Islands, Nauru, Tuvalu and Papua New Guinea)

5. 2016 Challenges/Opportunities

- Secure further commitment for the GEF-6 Invasive Species Project and its endorsement by GEF (Paper 10.1.1 and 10.1.2)
 - SPREP will be well positioned to promote the conservation of threatened and migratory species across a wide range of fora, from coastal communities to global conventions. We seek the support of all Members to take advantage of these important opportunities (papers 10.1.2 and 10.1.3)
 - Development of the opportunities provided by SPREP's role in EDF-11 projects in RIP Priority 1 (ecotourism and marine species) and Priority 2 (fisheries by-catch, coastal fisheries and biodiversity).
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