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



Twenty Seventh SPREP Meeting of Officials

Alofi, Niue

19 – 21 September 2016

Agenda Item 9.1: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Division - 2017 Overview

Purpose

1. To provide an overview of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Division work programme activities for 2017 consistent with the SPREP Strategic Plan

Summary of Key Activities for the Year

2. Island and Oceanic Ecosystems

- Continue implementation of major projects: MACBIO¹, BMUB PEBACC², Biodiversity Blue Belt
- Commence implementation of UNEP-GEF ABS project
- Progress development of SPREP component of EDF-11 PEUMP project (also for Threatened and Migratory Species programme)
- Finalise the review of protected areas management effectiveness in PNG
- Monitor and report on implementation of the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas
- Establish regional support mechanism to assist member countries on the implementation of the roadmaps for Aichi Target 11
- Support Members with follow up actions to implement relevant CBD COP13 decisions
- Provide advice on MPA planning, management and implementation
- Support Member participation in the UN Oceans and Seas Global Conference
- Continue to 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
- Develop a spatial database for a marine regional biodiversity analysis for the Pacific islands region

3. Threatened and Migratory Species

- Convene meeting to develop template for including sharks and rays in the MSAP in 2018.
- Implement Year of the Whale activities: 'Whales in a Changing Ocean' conference in Tonga; Important Marine Mammal Areas workshop in Samoa
- Implement Hawksbill turtle campaign with WWF and regional partners
- Conduct training for Customs, Fisheries and other officials on identification of body parts of sharks and rays
- Implement EDF 11 funded by-catch mitigation programme if EDF-11 project commences in 2017

¹ Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries and Atolls (MACBIO)

² German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEPACC)

4. Invasive Species

- Coordinate development of Project Document for the Regional GEF 6 Project "Strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of invasive alien species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific".
- Complete the PIP 2017-2018 Action Plan and report to the PIRT
- Coordinate the Pacific Invasive Partnership (PIP) and work with members to support priorities identified by the Regional Invasive Species Database.
- Promote the establishment of a sub-regional invasive species working group for Polynesia
- Utilise "Stop the Little Fire Ant" School Challenge entries to generate further awareness of the issue
- Maintain the Invasive Battler Resource Base to ensure regional information is available to members.
- Promote the use of biocontrol and eradication as tools for improving ecosystem resilience in the Pacific islands.

5. 2017 Challenges/Opportunities

- The EDF-11 PEUMP project provides an excellent opportunity to address a number of inter-related issues: marine species conservation; integrated coastal management; and ocean issues, both within the specific SPREP component and the wider project implemented by SPREP partners (Paper 9.1.3 and previous EDF-11 agenda item).
- The Year of the Whale is an opportunity to highlight the conservation importance of whales and other cetaceans, but also the challenges in securing resources for meaningful species conservation, awareness raising and education (Paper 9.1.2).
- The challenges and opportunities of biodiversity conservation in the region continue and the Secretariat will continue to support its Members and work with partners in 2017 to improve the status of biodiversity (Papers 9.1.1 and 9.1.4).

Recommendation

6. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the 2017 work programme for the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Division.