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

## Twenty Eighth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Apia, Samoa  
19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017

### **Agenda Item 12.1: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Programme 2018-19 Overview**

#### **Purpose**

1. To provide an overview of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management work programme activities for 2018-19 consistent with the SPREP Strategic Plan.

#### **Summary of Key Activities for the Year**

#### **2. Regional Goal 1: Pacific people benefit from strengthened resilience to climate change**

##### **2.1 RO1.2: Minimise multiple pressures on vulnerable Pacific island ecosystems by implementing ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation**

- Continue implementation of the BMUB Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change project, implementing EbA demonstration projects in Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands.
- Continue development of the GCF proposal *Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Resilience to Climate Change Programme* in collaboration with the SPREP PCU and partner IUCN in 2018 with a view to commencing implementation in 2019 subject to GCF approval.

#### **3. Regional Goal 2: Pacific people benefit from healthy and resilient island and ocean ecosystems**

##### **3.1 RO2.1: Effectively manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems**

- Commence implementation EDF 11 PEUMP project by-catch mitigation programme
- Continue implementation of major projects: MACBIO and Biodiversity Blue Belt to assist Member countries with marine spatial planning and MPA management and surveillance.
- 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 and convene Members and experts to conduct a marine bioregions analysis for the Pacific islands region.
- Develop the Pacific regional coral reef database with GCRMN members and partners.
- Assist member countries to access training courses and guidelines in assessment and monitoring of coastal and coral reef habitats; and update the Pacific Regional Wetlands Action Plan to enhance capacity in conservation of blue carbon ] coral reef habitats.
- Complete ecosystem analysis and mapping for 2 countries in EDF-11 PEUMP.

### **3.2 RO2.2: Support the conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal, and terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity, consistent with regional and international commitments**

- Implement Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) measures through country engagement and existing national Aichi Target 11 roadmaps and conduct assessments through the EU-funded BIOPAMA Phase 2 project.
- Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal (PIPAP) tools developed and deployed including a barometer to measure Aichi Target 11 implementation progress, and in-country training to support their use.
- Establishing a process for protected areas data sharing agreements with countries (based on national processes and protocols).
- Convene annual meetings of the Pacific Island Round Table for Nature Conservation (PIRT), and prepare for 10<sup>th</sup> Nature Conference to be held in 2020 including review current Framework for Nature Conservation and development of new draft framework.
- Strengthen capacity of PICTs to implement the Nagoya Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) to enable better national and local management and control of genetic resources through implementation of the GEF5 funded Pacific Islands Regional ABS project in 14 PICTs.

### **3.3 RO2.3: Prevent the extinction of threatened species and support measures to sustain their conservation status**

- Finalise and roll out Marine Species Programme 2018-2022.
- Support Members in implementing Action Plans for: Whales and Dolphins, Dugong, Marine Turtles, Sharks and Rays.
- Promote establishment of shark sanctuaries with Members and investigate opportunity for a Polynesia Shark Sanctuary under GEF 7
- Support Members in the implementation of the Pacific Islands Year of the Whale Declaration and Voluntary Commitments made at UNOC
- Promote membership of the Convention on Migratory Species and implement, where funding is available, decisions taken at COP 12

- Continue to support Members with training and workshops related to improving their ability to implement and ensure compliance with CITES Regulations
- Develop additional and complementary programme to strengthen implementation of CITES in the Pacific islands region if USFWS proposal approved
- Support Members who are Parties to CITES in preparing for COP 18 and implementation of CMS obligations
- Promote best practice sustainable wildlife tourism in the region, including opportunities available through EDF-11

### **3.4 RO2.4: Significantly reduce the socio-economic and ecological impact of invasive species**

- Finalise PPG and begin implementation of the GEF6 project *Strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of Invasive Alien Species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific* including national STAR allocations of at least US\$ 4 million and an improved regional support service from an additional Global Set-Aside Fund of US\$ 2 million.
- Support the development and implementation of overseas territories invasive species initiatives including the OCT EDF11.
- Publish and mobilize Pacific invasive species data to international protocols through the Biodiversity Information Development Fund.
- 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.

## **4. 2018-19 Opportunities and Challenges**

- The EDF-11 PEUMP project, expected to commence in 2018, will enable SPREP to address a number of inter-related issues with SPREP partners: marine species conservation; integrated coastal and ocean management; and marine spatial planning (WP 6.7).
- The challenges for biodiversity conservation in the region are ongoing, and the Secretariat will focus on larger funding opportunities including the Green Climate Fund and the German International Climate Initiative, to enable more strategic and programmatic responses to these challenges.
- The Secretariat with Members will develop a comprehensive programme of whale conservation by building on the success of the Whales in a Changing Ocean Conference and the commitments made by governments and stakeholders through the Year of the Whale in the Pacific Islands Declaration (WP 12.1.1) and Voluntary Commitment #16006 to the UN Ocean Conference through the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan 2018-2022 (WP 12.1.2).

- Opportunities mainstreaming ecosystem-based adaptation and securing resilient coastal ecosystems will be greatly enhanced through development and implementation of the Pacific Islands Coastal Resilience Framework (WP 12.1.3).
- Additional resources through new projects including the EU-funded BIOPAMA Phase 2 and the GEF5 funded regional access and benefit sharing (ABS) project will provide opportunities for increased support to Pacific Island Members to conserve and sustainably use their resources consistent with regional and international commitments.

### **Recommendation**

5. The Meeting is invited to:
    - **note** the 2018-19 highlights for the Biodiversity Ecosystem Management Work Programme
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9 August 2016