
AGENDA ITEM 12.2.1:

Islands and Ocean Ecosystems Programme 2020-21 Overview

Purpose of Paper

1. To provide an overview of Island and Ocean Ecosystems work programme activities for 2020-2021 and review current and forthcoming opportunities.
2. To seek endorsement of the focus of the biennial work programme.

Summary of Key Activities to Address 2017-2026 Strategic Goals and Implement PIP 2020-2021

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

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

- Continue implementation of the German Government IKI funded Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) project, implementing EbA demonstration projects in Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. PEBACC will conclude in mid-2020 and the project is currently in its final year of implementation. Discussions are currently underway with different donors to secure funds to develop a second phase of PEBACC, including the France-EU-Australia-Canada-New Zealand funded Pacific Initiative on Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Resilience.
- EbA activities will also be implemented in Fiji and Vanuatu as part of the EU EDF-11 funded Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership programme KRA-5, the Bycatch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) component implemented by the SPREP IOE Programme.

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

4.1 RO2.1: Effectively manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems

- Implementation of EDF 11 PEUMP BIEM during 2020-2021 will result in:
 - implementing marine spatial planning in the Solomon Islands and Fiji
 - development of integrated ridge to reef ecosystem strategies and coastal zone management planning in Fiji and Vanuatu
 - development and integration of climate change adaptation strategies into coastal community plans
 - capacity development on Non-Detrimental Findings process and related issues for CITES Parties and partners
- A Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan will be developed and finalised in consultation with Members as a key outcome of the 2018-2019 Pacific Year of the Coral Reef.
- SPREP will contribute to development of CBD Post 2020 MPA targets through consultation with PICTS to determine support for the global 30x30 target to conserve 30% of the world's ocean by 2030. Funding has been provided by Pew Charitable Trusts.

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

- SPREP will continue to implement its component of the IUCN implemented EU-funded BIOPAMA Phase 2 project, including:
 - managing and updating the Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal (PIPAP);
 - providing protected area related GIS training for PICs;
 - providing in-country training to support the use of PIPAP visualisation and analysis tools;
 - providing technical assistance to review and update PIC protected area data in support of meeting global biodiversity targets.
- Convene the 10th Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in collaboration with the host, Government of Caledonia, in April 2020 including:
 - Reviewing the current Regional Framework for Nature Conservation and development of new regional framework;
 - presenting the findings of the 2nd State of Conservation in Oceania assessment;
 - presenting the second Pacific Islands Environment Awards.
- Continue to strengthen capacity of 14 PICs 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 GEF-5 funded Pacific Islands Regional ABS project.

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

- Implementation of EDF 11 PEUMP BIEM during 2020-2021 will result in:
 - addressing bycatch mitigation of threatened or endangered marine species at regional scale and at national level in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Vanuatu;
 - strengthening the regional turtle database (TREDS);
 - supporting regional science capacity through the Lui Bell Scholarship for marine conservation.
- Assist partner countries to develop and implement Marine Species Action Plans (MSAPs), including inclusion of MSAP priorities in National Environmental Management Strategies.

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

- The GEF6 funded project *Strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of Invasive Alien Species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific* will be implemented in Niue, RMI, Tonga and Tuvalu. The countries will be technically supported by the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS), initially funded by the project, to build capacity and implement activities to improve inter-island biosecurity and Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR), remove rodents from islands, restore ecologically valued areas and initiate biological control of weeds.
- The EDF-11 OCT PROTEGE project will be implemented in French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Pitcairn Island and Wallis and Futuna. The invasive species component will include activities to improve inter-island biosecurity and (EDRR), remove rodents from islands, restore ecologically valued areas and initiate biological control of weeds.

5. 2020-2021 Opportunities

- Implementation of the EDF-11 PEUMP programme will enable SPREP, through its implementation of KRA-5 - Bycatch and Integrated Ecosystem Management, to address a number of critical issues at national and regional levels in relation to marine species conservation; integrated coastal and ocean management; and marine spatial planning. The consortium-based nature of PEUMP will enable this work to be undertaken with programme partners SPC, FFA and USP, as well as IUCN, WWF and others.
- With the commencement of the GEF-6 project and the EDF-11 OCT programme SPREP can maintain momentum in its invasive species programme, including addressing invasive species issues in the French territories. The GEF-6 funding, although focused on only four countries for national work, has enabled the establishment of the regional Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS). PRISMSS will support Members with on-ground action to control invasive species, including through collaboration with key partners NZ Department of Conservation, BirdLife International, Island Conservation and others.
- Support for ecosystem focused programmes is growing and at the time of preparing this report SPREP is in discussion with the French Development Agency (AFD) and SPC in the design of the €28 million Pacific Initiative on Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Resilience, funded by the governments of France, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the EU. The focus of the initiative is 'nature-based solutions' and it is anticipated that the initiative will commence implementation late 2019 or 2020 (WP 15.2). In addition, SPREP has been identified as the implementing entity for the Pacific region for the €35 million EU ACP SIDS Support Programme (€12 million allocated to the Pacific region), focused on management of coastal, marine and terrestrial biodiversity and enhancing resilience to climate change. The programme is anticipated to start in 2020.
- The GEF-5 funded ABS project has been successful, providing important support to Members in this critical area of genetic resources protection. The project comes to an end in 2020 but there is much more to be done and SPREP is seeking endorsement of Members to support a second phase through GEF-7 funding (WP 12.2.2).
- At the time of writing other initiatives in the pipeline for biodiversity and ecosystem management include awaiting final approval from the German government BMU-IKI of a joint GIZ-SPREP €9 million Blue Carbon Ecosystems programme for Melanesia, and submission of a joint IUCN-SPREP \$50 million Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Resilience programme to GCF for six PICs. SPREP has also submitted new proposals to BMU-IKI, including in partnership with GIZ, Ramsar Secretariat, and the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund.

Recommendation

6. The Meeting is invited to:

1. **endorse** the 2020-2021 the Island and Ocean Ecosystems biennial work programme.

26 July, 2019