



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Board Meeting

2 – 4 September 2020

### Agenda Item 11.2.1: Island and Ocean Ecosystems Programme 2020-21 Update

#### Purpose of paper

1. To provide an update of Island and Ocean Ecosystems work programme activities for 2020-2021 and current and forthcoming opportunities.
2. **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*

- German Government IKI funded Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) project implemented in Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands concluded in mid-2020 (see 11.2.3). Further funding of €4 million has been secured from the Kiwa Initiative for PEBACC Phase 2 and SPREP has been awarded €1.05 million as part of the Kiwa management component (see 8.3).
- EbA activities will also be implemented in Fiji and Vanuatu as part of the EU EDF-11 funded Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership programme through KRA-5: Bycatch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM).
- The IUCN-SPREP \$40 million Melanesia-Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Resilience Programme has received preparatory grant funding from the GCF for programme development.
- SPREP is finalising the Description of Action for the €12 million EU ACP SIDS Support Programme.

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

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

- Implementation of EDF 11 PEUMP BIEM during 2020 has been slowed by COVID-19 travel restrictions but still resulted in implementing marine spatial planning in Solomon Islands and Fiji.
- Development of the Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan has been delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic but scheduled for completion in 2021.
- A consultation workshop was held in February 2020 with PIC representatives on development of CBD Post 2020 MPA targets through funding provided by Pew Charitable Trusts.

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

- SPREP continues to implement its component of the IUCN implemented EU-funded BIOPAMA Phase 2 project.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in collaboration with the Government of New Caledonia, scheduled for April 2020, had to be postponed to November as a virtual conference because of the COVID-19 pandemic (see 7.1).
- The GEF-5 funded Pacific Islands Regional ABS project is continuing to build capacity in PICs to implement the CBD Nagoya Protocol and SPREP has applied to UNEP and the GEF Secretariat for a 12-month no cost extension to the project.

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

- Activities are continuing in the EDF 11 PEUMP BIEM programme support CITES implementation in the region including capacity development on Non-Detrimental Findings process and related issues for CITES Parties and partners.
- Turtle Database and Conservation Officer has been appointed.
- Migratory Marine Species Conservation Officer has been appointed on secondment from the NZ Department of Conservation.
- Implementation of Marine Species Action Plans in PICs is being supported.

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

- GEF6 funded project *Strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of invasive alien species* and EU EDF-11 PROTEGE project are being implemented, although at a slower rate due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.
- NZ MFAT has provided NZ\$2.48 million to support implementation of the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS).

## Recommendations

4. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:

1. **note** the update on key implementation activities for the 2020-2021 PIP.

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18 August, 2020