



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

2 – 4 September 2020

### **Agenda Item 11.2.2: Development of the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS)**

#### **Purpose of Paper**

1. To advise Members of the newly formed Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) mechanism supporting practical implementation of invasive species management actions in the Pacific.
2. To encourage the use of the PRISMSS for invasive species activities in the Pacific.

#### **Background**

3. The 24<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting (Agenda Item 9.1.1) directed SPREP to develop a Pacific Islands regional invasive species programme proposal for submission to GEF-6. The proposal was to include strengthening SPREP regional support infrastructure through greater technical support and expert advice and creating standard operating procedures and training to support countries to increase their capability in IAS management.
4. The submission was successful and resulted in the approved project *“Strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of Invasive Alien Species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific”*. The project’s fourth component provides for establishment of a Pacific islands regional support framework for IAS management funded from GEF-6 global set-aside funds, which has enabled SPREP and its partners to establish PRISMSS.

#### **Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service:**

5. PRISMSS is a regional mechanism for scaling up invasive species management in the Pacific. It provides management support for on the ground invasive species actions through streamlining and coordinating on-the-ground activities and the engagement of invasive species management experts, each a lead in their particular field. Together the thematic PRISMSS expertise provides a comprehensive, cohesive, effective, efficient and accessible suite of management support.

6. Advice, training and operational support is available across five regional programmes:
  - Protect Our Islands (national and inter-island biosecurity and Early Detection Rapid Response)
  - Predator Free Pacific (removal of mammalian predators from islands)
  - War on Weeds (management of high priority weeds)
  - Natural Enemies – Natural Solutions (biological control of widespread weeds)
  - Resilient Ecosystems – Resilient Communities (priority area ecological restoration)
7. Further information can be accessed at [sprep.org/invasive-species-management-in-the-pacific/prismss](https://sprep.org/invasive-species-management-in-the-pacific/prismss).

**Summary of PRISMSS outcomes to date:**

8. A PRISMSS Associate was employed in 2019 at SPREP to coordinate and provide secretariat service. The Invasive Species Adviser (ISA) oversees the management of the PRISMSS and the PRISMSS Associate.
9. The first PRISMSS meeting was held in Apia in July 2019 to draft the PRISMSS Declaration of Intent (DOI).
10. The PRISMSS DOI was approved and signed by PRISMSS partners BirdLife International, Island Conservation, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research New Zealand, New Zealand Department of Conservation, Pacific Community, SPREP and Wellington Univentures- Pacific Biosecurity.
11. The PRISMSS Programme Management Course was held over a five-weeks in Apia in October-November 2019 and helped build the capacity of 18 Pacific invasive species coordinators from eleven PICTs in planning and managing a programme of work based on the PRISMSS five regional programmes PRISMSS partners developed the course material and delivered the training with the coordination and facilitation of PRISMSS partner NZDOC.

**PRISMSS Activities for 2020-2021:**

12. PRISMSS is currently assisting PICTs with the implementation of approximately US\$18 million worth of invasive species activities in the Pacific, the development of approximately US\$20million worth of activities is identified in the pipeline and several further projects are under development. Significant current projects include:
  - the GEF-6 project *Strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of Invasive Alien Species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific*,
  - the EU OCT EDF11 PROTEGE programme (invasive species component) and
  - the NZMFAT project *Climate Change and Invasive Species Management in the Pacific*.

13. The PRISMSS mechanism is currently supported by both the GEF-6 regional project and the NZMFAT project which seeks to achieve a sustainable fully functioning PRISMSS including provision for hosting PRISMSS partners at SPREP and the development of systems and processes to manage the mechanism.

**Recommendation:**

14. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
    1. **Note** the progress in the development of the PRISMSS; and
    2. **Encourage** Members and their invasive species coordinators to actively maintain communications with and utilize the PRISMSS.
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