



2nd Executive Board Meeting

2 – 4 September 2020

Agenda Item 8.2: Update on EU EDF-11 Programme Engagement

Purpose of paper

1. Update Members on progress in the development of SPREP programmes funded through EU EDF-11.

Background

2. SPREP is implementing three programmes supported by European Union EDF-11 ACP funding:
 - Pacific-European Marine Partnership programme (€45 million), which is managed and implemented by a consortium comprising SPC, FFA, SPREP and USP. SPC is responsible for overall management through a Programme Coordination Unit (PCU). SPREP is implementing KRA-5: Bycatch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM: €6.2 million). Scope of work covers: marine spatial planning; integrated ecosystem management and climate change adaptation; fisheries by-catch mitigation and threatened species conservation; and CITES Convention implementation. Gender mainstreaming and human rights based approaches are a central consideration in each aspect of the work.
 - Implemented by SPREP in collaboration with other partners, PacWaste Plus (€16.5 million) focuses on improved management of priority waste streams in four key result areas: (i) improved data collection, information sharing, and education and awareness; (ii) policies and regulatory frameworks developed and implemented; (iii) best practices, including enhanced private sector engagement and infrastructure development, implemented; and (iv) enhancing human capacity. The PacWaste Plus project has been designed to align with regional priorities identified under Cleaner Pacific 2025.
 - Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) (€12 million), being implemented jointly by SPREP, PIFS, SPC and USP. PACRES aims to ensure better regional and national adaptation and mitigation responses to climate change challenges facing Pacific ACP countries. SPREP is responsible for overall coordination of PACRES and funding for SPREP amounts to €4.5 million.
3. SPREP is also implementing the invasive species component ((€5.5 million) of the EDF-11 OCT programme ((€36 million) Pacific Territories Regional Project for Sustainable Ecosystem Management (PROTEGE). OCTs participating in the project are French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Pitcairn Island, and Wallis and Futuna. The programme, managed by a SPC PCU, addresses four thematic areas: 1) agriculture; 2) marine resources; 3) water and 4) invasive species.

Progress

4. *BIEM*: Since inception meeting in July 2019 SPREP has engaged with focal countries to prioritise and initiate activities for sustainable management of coastal resources and marine biodiversity. Pace of implementation has been impacted by COVID-19 travel restrictions and TC Harold. Progress includes: draft Marine Protected Area networks in the Solomon Islands and Fiji have been identified and Fiji and stakeholder consultations initiated; four coastal areas and associated catchments in Vanuatu identified to implement integrated 'ridge to reef' management and climate adaptation; expert contracted to determine regional extinction risk of turtle species; CITES Convention expert contracted to help signatories increase capacity to develop Non Detriment Finding documentation and other trading conditions for sea cucumber, sharks and rays, turtles and other Appendix II listed species; development of National Plans of Action for marine species initiated in PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
5. *PacWaste Plus*: Currently working with all countries to develop and commence implementation of specific in-country projects. Undertaking a series of regional assessments of waste characterisation, legislative assessment and gender and social inclusion to assist project design. Delays to implementation have occurred due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions, but the project should be implemented in the existing contract timeframe.
6. *PROTEGE*: The invasive species component implemented by SPREP is currently in the process of signing agreements with Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) partners and tendering for the implementation of activities. The recruitment of territorial invasive species coordinators is completed and Wallis and Futuna, French Polynesia and New Caledonia now have their coordinators in place and working towards implementation.
7. *PACRES*: Planning to scale-up pilot adaptation projects, including ecosystem-based solutions in Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu being finalised with some activities already underway. There have been delays to implementation and some meetings have been postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Convening the Post COP25 Analysis workshop as a virtual meeting in late June demonstrated the value of virtual meetings.

Recommendations

8. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
 1. **Note** the implementation status of EDF-11 ACP and OCT programmes including the impact of COVID-19 restrictions.

31 July, 2020