

**Agenda Item 9.2: Overview of Regional Goal 2 - Pacific people benefit from healthy and resilient island and ocean ecosystems**

**Purpose of paper**

1. To provide the Meeting with an update on implementation of Regional Goal 2 for the biennial period 2022 - 2023.

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

2. The EU funded €12 million *Pacific Biodiversity and Sustainable Land-Seascapes (Pacific BioScapes) Programme* agreement was signed by the EU and SPREP in December 2021 with a formal signing event held in Suva in June 2022. Activities have commenced implementation.
3. *Kiwa Initiative* technical assistance is provided to beneficiaries (national and local authorities, NGOs). After a slow start it is now fully delivering on the work plan. SPREP, SPC and IUCN Oceania are key partners in the Kiwa Initiative.
4. The €5.8 million *Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Phase 2 (PEBACC+)* project, funded by the Kiwa Initiative and French GEF, agreement was signed with AFD and implementation has commenced. It is being implemented in Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna.
5. *By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management* activities (KRA5) of the EU funded Pacific European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) programme were due to be completed by December 2022, with reporting completed by April 2023. Due to COVID related delays, a detailed costed proposal for an extension of activities to December 2024, with reporting completed by March 2025 has been submitted. We expect this to be formally approved by end-July 2022. EU has confirmed it is developing scope of PEUMP Plus, with a view to requesting existing PEUMP partners to submit proposals for work to begin following the end of PEUMP in March 2025.
6. Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan has commenced implementation through the Pacific BioScapes Programme.
7. SPREP participated virtually in the 22nd Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in May 2022 and provided on-site support to Pacific islands negotiators at the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction in New York.

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

8. SPREP continues to implement its component of the IUCN implemented EU- funded BIOPAMA Phase 2 project.
9. SPREP continues to provide secretariat support to the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT), focusing on implementation of the Pacific Framework For Nature Conservation And Protected Areas 2020-2025. This will be strengthened by supporting activities in the Pacific BioScapes Programme that will commence in 2023.
10. Continue to work with Members to support engagement in development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework leading to its adoption at CBD CoP15. A pre-COP Pacific meeting will be held 18-22 July if the COP is held in 2022. If it is postponed to 2023 then the pre-COP meeting will also be moved to 2023 and the meeting in 2022 may be an update meeting of outcomes from current CBD meetings (to be confirmed).
11. GEF ABS project continues to support Members to enable better regional and national management of genetic resources and convened a successful Dialogue on Traditional Knowledge for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Pacific in May 2022. The project will end in December 2022.
12. SPREP implemented component of the GEF IUCN implemented *Ensuring resilient ecosystems and representative protected areas in the Solomon Islands* has commenced in 2022.

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

13. Implementation of Regional Marine Species Action Plans (RMSAPs) is continuing through the ACPMEA3 programme and Pacific BioScapes Programme.
14. A range of activities continue to be implemented through the PEUMP BIEM Initiative to address by-catch of threatened species in commercial fisheries in Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.
15. The report *Review of the status of sea turtles in the Pacific Ocean 2021* was published in November 2021. More work on turtles is being undertaken in the Pacific BioScapes Programme to be implemented during 2022-2026.

**III. RO2.4: Significantly reduce the socio-economic and ecological impact of invasive species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate priority species**

16. Activities continue to be implemented in the GEF6 project *Strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of Invasive Alien Species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific*, EDF11 OCT PROTEGE programme and NZMFAT project *Managing Invasive Species for Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific* (MISCCAP): a PRISMSS-NZ collaboration for Pacific resilience. Further activities will be developed through the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS).

#### **IV. Challenges and Opportunities**

17. Now that national borders are opening across the Pacific in-country/territory delivery of RG2 activities is increasing. But it is anticipated that full implementation will not occur until 2023. However, as a result of adaptive approaches developed during the covid pandemic more diverse opportunities for implementation of activities now exist, such as expanding in-country presence and working more widely with partners.

#### **Recommendation**

18. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:

- 1) **Note** the update on implementation Regional Goal 2 activities for the biennial period 2022 to 2023.
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