

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 2/38/1 TO: SPREP National Focal Points
DATE: 27 February 2019
CIRCULAR: 19/18
SUBJECT: Commencement of By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Project (BIEM) - KRA-5 of the EDF-11 Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership

Dear Focal Points,

The purpose of this circular is to update you on SPREP engagement in the EU EDF-11 funded Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP).

As you are aware, the PEUMP programme was formally launched in the margins of the Our Oceans Conference in Malta in 2017 with a financing agreement signed by European Union Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Mr Neven Mimica, and the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Dame Meg Taylor. The total amount financed of €45 million is comprised of €35 million of EU EDF-11 funds and €10 million co-financing from the Government of Sweden. The PEUMP programme was in development from 2015 to 2018 through consultations with the EDF-11 Regional Steering Committee for the Pacific Regional Indicative Programme convened jointly by the EU and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, and regular programme design discussions with participating CROP agencies and partners.

The PEUMP programme became operational in September 2018 with the signing of agreements between programme implementing partners SPC, FFA, USP, SPREP and the European Union at the 49th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum in Nauru. The PEUMP programme will be implemented over 57 months and has a holistic, multi-sector approach to marine resources and aims to contribute to the region's environmental, economic and social development. The programme will focus on sound coastal and ocean governance; biodiversity protection and sustainable fisheries and marine resource use; a rights-based approach to encourage participation of men, women and youth in decision making; and mainstream gender equality and human rights.

The programme will implement activities that address: oceanic fisheries (SPC and FFA); tuna fisheries development (FFA); coastal fisheries (SPC); by-catch mitigation and integrated ecosystem management (SPREP); and capacity building and training (USP).

SPREP has received an allocation from the PEUMP budget of €6.2 million for implementation of Key Result Area 5, which comprises the following components: by-catch mitigation (region-wide and national implementation); marine spatial planning (Fiji and Solomon Islands); integrated coastal ecosystem management including climate change adaptation strategies (Fiji and Vanuatu). The marine spatial planning (MSP) component is being implemented by SPREP partner IUCN-The World Conservation Union through its Oceania Regional Office.

For clearer identity purposes, SPREP has named its KRA-5 component the By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) Project. SPREP is currently finalizing BIEM project implementation arrangements including recruitment of project staff, setting dates for inception workshops and in-country consultations on geographic focus areas for the integrated ecosystem management work. However, the MSP component implemented by IUCN is already underway.

SPREP will be communicating directly with relevant national focal points and thematic contacts on detailed implementation arrangements over the next six weeks.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kosi Latu', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Kosi Latu
Director General

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