



PEUMP

Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership Programme



By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative: Reducing By-catch and Improving Species Conservation

The BIEM Initiative is implementing by-catch mitigation and species conservation activities based on priorities identified by the Governments of Solomon Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Tonga. SPREP appointed TierraMar to coordinate the implementation of these activities and they are working with in-country partners to support the delivery of activities for the following Key Result Areas (KRAs):

Assessing the by-catch and extinction risk of endangered species (KRA 5.4)

Reducing the impacts of fishing on non-target threatened species is a significant part of the BIEM Initiative. KRA 5.4 focuses on investigating the historical levels and significance of by-catch of turtles, sharks, cetaceans and seabirds in oceanic fisheries in the Pacific islands region, collecting community turtle use data and conducting an extinction risk assessment. A consultant is currently developing an estimate of extinction risk for turtles in the Pacific islands, which involves both data analysis and community surveys.

Developing and implementing by-catch mitigation strategies (KRA 5.5)

By-catch of threatened marine species occurs in both coastal and offshore fisheries. In association with PEUMP partners, KRA 5.5 focuses on trialing a number of approaches to mitigating by-catch, as well as providing education, training and capacity building, and updating National Plans of Action for marine species. For by-catch mitigation technologies and methods such as tori lines, Hookpods, de-hookers and line cutters to be effective, they must be accompanied by increased training and education for fishers, skippers and observers. The BIEM Initiative has worked with the governments of Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Vanuatu to identify their by-catch mitigation needs and priorities.



By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative

Postgraduate level research grant (KRA 5.6)

The BIEM Initiative will contribute to capacity building for sustainable management of marine resources and conservation of threatened and endangered marine species by providing a research grant. The Lui Bell Scholarship Fund will provide funding for two young Pacific citizens to return to university to study marine science and improve their skills and knowledge.

Community monitoring and protection of endangered species (KRA 5.7)

Many communities in the Pacific islands play a direct and valuable role in endangered species management through monitoring and protecting breeding sites, controlling invasive species, reducing habitat destruction, enacting community management plans and conducting best-practice ecotourism activities. The BIEM Initiative supports community actions through a range of projects that support data management (including the regional Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDS)), community awareness, community management plans and regional learning exchanges.

Support for meeting national obligations for regulated wildlife trade (KRA 5.8)

Some Pacific island communities gather and export marine species that are regulated by the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Species such as corals, giant clams and sea cucumbers are now listed on CITES Appendix II, and require a Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) before any harvest can be permitted. In association with the CITES Secretariat, the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC) and the The Pacific Community (SPC), the BIEM Initiative has been supporting countries to make evidence-based decisions through an established NDF process about whether any future trade is permissible, and if so, at what levels. This has been particularly important because of the recent listing on Appendix II of several species of sea cucumbers, which have long been traded in the region.

Further information about the BIEM Initiative is available on the PEUMP programme website: <https://peump.dev/KRA/marine-biodiversity>.



SPREP Vision: A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods in harmony with our cultures
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