

Enhancing Capacity In the Pacific Region — Using Invasive Species and Biodiversity Data for Informed Decision Making

Programme: BID

Project ID: BID-PA2020-003-USE

Project lead organization: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Project implementation period: 1/7/2021 - 30/6/2023

Report approved: 12/7/2022

Narrative Midterm report

Executive Summary

The project team has been involved with other stakeholders and members of the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service. 'Predator Free Pacific' and 'Resilient Ecosystems Resilient Communities' are regional programmes for invasive species management run by the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS). The Secretariat of the Pacific Region Environment Programme (SPREP) is the coordinating agency of the PRISMSS and the lead technical partner for the Resilient Ecosystems Resilient Communities programme. Island Conservation is the lead technical partner for the Predator Free Pacific programme. These programmes required regional strategies to guide programme delivery and identify opportunities and priorities for potential investors. These strategies are now almost complete. The invasive species data for 4 Pacific Island countries was reviewed, analyzed and broken down to produce individual lists for islands, archipelagos and protected areas. These datasets have just started being published to GBIF.

This activity has been scheduled to run through the life of the project.

The upcoming Regional Data Processing Workshop will be useful to help develop capacity here at SPREP for the datasets that will be needed to support the development of these two strategies. We have developed a Cashflow forecast, Reporting Schedule, Operational Schedule, Project Budget and Risk Analysis, all of which contribute to monitoring and evaluation. In addition, we are collecting the metrics from the use of the Pacific Biodiversity Information Facility, which we look forward to analyzing and sharing with you.

We are not proposing any changes to the project at this stage.

Progress against milestones

Has your project published at least one dataset through GBIF.org?: Yes

Dataset published:

Dataset	DOI
Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species - Arno Atoll, Marshall Islands	https://doi.org/10.15468/nh6vf5
Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species - Enewetak Atoll, Marshall Islands	https://doi.org/10.15468/b4gfgj
Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species - Ebon Atoll, Marshall Islands	https://doi.org/10.15468/4cpyhr
Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species - Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands	https://doi.org/10.15468/xucnyt
Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species - Ailuk Atoll, Marshall Islands	https://doi.org/10.15468/tb7puu

Has at least one member of your project team received certification following the BID capacity

enhancement workshop?: Yes

Name of the workshop participant:Wayne Asera

Certification obtained: Advanced Badge

Report on Activities

Activity progress summary

Both the Predator Free Pacific Regional Strategy and the Resilient Ecosystems Resilient Communities Regional Strategy have been developed and are currently being finalized. The project team has been involved along with other stakeholders and members of the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service. The development of these documents has been an iterative process involving representatives from different agencies and it has been facilitated by an external consultant. The consultant was funded by cofinancing provided by external stakeholders. This allowed more time for the Project Team to contribute to this activity

GBIF data will be used to support prioritization of islands, atolls, archipelagos and protected areas for Predator Free Pacific activities and Resilient Ecosystems Resilient Communities activities. The development of these datasets is currently underway. The data for the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu is currently being published. The exercise will inform stakeholders where to focus their energy to extract the maximum utility for their efforts. In turn, these prioritizations will be used to support applications for funding to enable operational delivery.

Both the PFP and the RERC strategies were developed as high-level documents. The next stage of development involves using existing data to prioritize islands and areas for Predator Free Pacific and Resilient Ecosystems Resilient Communities activities at a national level. The process for achieving this is still being developed. We are working with David Bloom from Vertnet and Shyama Pagad from ISSG to help us to develop the process needed. In terms of this project the development is being co-financed by the GEF6 Regional Invasives Project and the Managing Invasive Species for Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific project.

The development of national prioritization as part of the strategies will lead to on the ground management actions becoming aligned to national, regional and global objectives such as those identified by the CBD.

The invasive species data is a critical part of the process. Shyama has been working to disaggregate the national lists by island, archipelago and protected area basis. This information will complement available occurrence biodiversity data. This process will help identify gaps in existing knowledge and will illuminate where further investment is needed.

The Regional Workshop is scheduled for the week of Monday the 14th of November 2022. If travel restrictions related to the covid 19 pandemic, make this event impossible the activity will be redesigned, and the engagement will happen virtually.

The Regional Workshop will have sessions dedicated to data use for decision making and will feature case studies of data previously published and how the data has been referenced in various published research. David Bloom will be leading the facilitation of our workshop.

The Country visits to promote Data Policy and SOPs for data management are scheduled for 2022. The visit to Tonga to institutionalise biodiversity data mobilization processes is set for the 1st week of August. Travel has been arranged for this trip. The visit to Vanuatu is scheduled for September. The visit to the Solomon Islands has been rescheduled for February. If travel restrictions related to the covid 19 pandemic, make these visits impossible the activity will be redesigned, and the engagement will happen virtually.

The Country visits to promote GBIF voting participation are also scheduled for 2022. A visit to Vanuatu is planned for September. The visit to Niue is planned for October. A visit to the Solomon Islands will happen in February 2023. A visit to the Marshall Islands is planned for March 2023. The visit to Tuvalu is planned for April 2023. We have initiated contact with the Government of Samoa about becoming a voting participant and will capitalize on the upcoming National Meeting. If travel restrictions related to the covid 19 pandemic, make these visits impossible the activity will be redesigned, and the engagement will happen virtually.

Country visits to promote Data Policy and SOPs and voting participation provide an opportunity to promote data use for decision making. We are working with the SPREP Inform project to deliver these

activities. Inform have an objective of promoting data use for decision making also. They have provided resources and contacts to support these activities and are aligned with State of Environment reporting to meet obligations under multi lateral environment agreements. We will use these opportunities to discuss case studies of data previously published and highlight how the data has been referenced in various published research.

Completed activities

Report on Deliverables

Deliverables progress summary

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Progress towards deliverables

Deliverables - Project planning phase

Promote data use for decision making through the Regional Data Mobilization Workshop

Description: Promoting institutionalization of biodiversity data use for decision making processes into Pacific organizations.

% complete: 2%

Status update: The Regional Workshop is scheduled for the second half of 2022. However, due to travel restrictions related to the covid 19 pandemic, this activity may be rescheduled to Q1 or Q2 2023

Sources of verification: Grant Letter

Promote data use for decision making while visiting countries to support new Pacific voting participants

Description: Promoting institutionalization of biodiversity data use for decision making processes into Pacific organizations.

% complete: 0%

Status update: The Country visits to promote GBIF voting participation are also scheduled for some time in 2022. However, due to travel restrictions related to the covid 19 pandemic, this activity may be rescheduled to Q1 or Q2 2023

Sources of verification: Grant Letter

Promote and participate in data use for decision making activities while visiting countries to support the institutionalization of Data Policy and Standard Operating Procedures

Description: Promoting institutionalization of biodiversity data use for decision making processes into Pacific organizations.

% complete: 0%

Status update: The Country visits to promote Data Policy and SOPs for data management are scheduled for some time in 2022. However, due to travel restrictions related to the covid 19 pandemic, this activity may be rescheduled to Q1 or Q2 2023

Sources of verification: Grant Letter

Deliverables - Project data mobilization phase

Predator Free Pacific Regional Strategy is developed by identifying data needs.

Dataset type: Checklist

Dataset scope: Invasive species checklists by islands, atolls, archipelagos and protected areas for the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tonga, Niue and Tuvalu

Number of records: 1,000

Data holder: SPREP

Data host institution: SPREP

% complete: 1%

Status update: Just getting started with the data mobilization

DOI:

Expected date of publication:

Resilient Ecosystems Resilient Communities Regional Strategy is developed by identifying data needs

Dataset type: Checklist

Dataset scope: Invasive species checklists by islands, atolls, archipelagos and protected areas for Tonga, Niue, RMI and Tuvalu

Number of records: 1,000

Data holder: SPREP

Data host institution: SPREP

% complete: 1%

Status update: Just getting started with the data mobilization

DOI:

Expected date of publication:

Deliverables - Project evaluation phase

Communications and visibility

As well as including the Project ID with published datasets, the following paragraph is part of the metadata, attached to each of the datasets published to date: "This data is published as part of a BID funded project being delivered by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. The project involves 21 participants from 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories and is designed to increase capacity for data mobilization and use for decision making."

I have reviewed the project webpage and do not have anything further to add at this stage.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation findings

As of the end of the Mid Term Reporting period:

The development of the Predator Free Pacific Strategy is ahead of schedule. Data related to this activity has commenced being published. As of mid May 2022, 32 new datasets have been published and there are many more to come in the near future

The development of the Resilient Ecosystem Resilient Communities Strategy is ahead of schedule. Data related to this activity has commenced being published.

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Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on project implementation

The operational schedule for this project has been affected by the pandemic, but all activities can be delivered prior to the end of the project.

All of the strategy development completed to date has been done using remote platforms.

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In conclusion, no significant changes to the project are proposed.

GBIF leads the Biodiversity Information for Development (BID), a programme funded by the European Union. The programme provides supplementary support for activities addressing the needs of regional researchers and policymakers through mobilization and use of biodiversity data.

