

Enhancing Capacity In the Pacific Region – Strengthening Processes for Invasive Species and Biodiversity Data Mobilisation.

Programme: BID
Project ID: BID-PA2020-004-REG
Project lead organization: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
Project implementation period: 1/7/2021 - 30/6/2023
Report approved: 4/7/2022

Narrative Midterm report

Executive Summary

This project has made steady progress to date:

We have developed an excellent project management team. The development of the team capitalizes on existing structures and personnel. It includes key players from the previous BID funded project. They bring experience, confidence and lessons learned along with a clear understanding of where the opportunities are, to add value to aligned initiatives. The team have been carefully recruited under various projects. It is a team with a culture of high performance, delivering high levels of productivity. It is well led and works in a very cohesive way.

On 10 November 2021, The Project Team delivered the Project Inception Workshop for the 21 project participants from 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories. This event was a great success. It was delivered via zoom. Much of the content was prerecorded and is currently available to participants for use in their National GBIF Workshops.

The 14 National GBIF Workshops have been delayed due to covid restrictions preventing people from gathering. However, the Workshops have recently commenced with events held in Tonga and the Solomon Islands at the time of the Mid Term Report.

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. All of the proposed activities can still be delivered prior to the end of the project.

Progress against milestones

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

Dataset published:

Dataset	DOI
Ornithology of Erikub Atoll in Marshall Islands	https://doi.org/10.15468/yevkjh

Has at least one member of your project team received certification following the BID capacity enhancement workshop?: Yes

Name of the workshop participant: Unity Roebeck

Certification obtained: Basic Badge

Report on Activities

Activity progress summary

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On 10 November 2021, The Project Team delivered the Project Inception Workshop for the 21 project participants from 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories. This event was a great success. It was

delivered via zoom. Much of the content was prerecorded and is currently available to participants for use in their National GBIF Workshops. This Workshop was designed to address a lesson learned in the Phase 1 project where National level participants were asked to facilitate National meetings without any prior knowledge of the subject matter. The Project Inception Workshop inducted attendees so that they are able to effectively deliver these meetings and identify data sets for publishing. An interactive tool called Mentimeter was used to highlight key take home messages and then quizz participants to assess how well the messages were understood. We were then able to resolve misunderstandings in real time by discussing the specific topic in more detail. The presentation, which includes results, is uploaded to support this report. The entire workshop was recorded and can be made available on request. I assume that the file size is too large to upload with this report.

The 14 National GBIF Workshops have been delayed due to covid restrictions preventing people from gathering. However, the Workshops have recently commenced with events held in Tonga and the Solomon Islands at the time of the Mid Term Report. The remaining national workshops will be held over the next couple of months.

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 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.

Completed activities

Activity: Inception Workshop - Introduction to GBIF

Description: A virtual workshop to introduce participants to the GBIF programme. This introductory event orientated participants to the world of data sharing and to understand the benefits of publishing data. It provided an overview of how data is published and how to access it.

Start Date - End Date: 10/11/2021 - 10/11/2021

Verification Sources: GBIF Inception Workshop (agenda)

Mentimeter results

<https://www.sprep.org/news/workshop-to-delve-into-biodiversity-data-sharing-and-why-it-matters>

Report on Deliverables

Deliverables progress summary

The datasets listed in the proposal are yet to be published. Publishing of this data will happen at the Regional Workshop. The Project Team is in possession of the data concerned. The Regional Workshop is our major publishing event where participants from around the Pacific will come together and learn how to publish data by doing so in a collegial environment with plenty of technical support on hand. However some participants were involved in the Phase 1 BID Funded projects. These participants will be encouraged to publish datasets identified in their National Workshops prior to the Regional Workshop.

The Inception Workshop was successfully delivered in November 2021.

Missions to institutionalize improved data management processes by the adoption of Data Policies and Standard Operating Procedures in Tonga, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands were planned for 2022. The visits to Tonga and Vanuatu will still go ahead as planned but the visit to the Solomon Islands has been rescheduled for February 2023 due to travel restrictions and political unrest. Meetings were held recently at SPREP to link the activities with the SPREP Inform project <https://www.sprep.org/inform>. The Inform project is co-financing this activity and providing templates and linkages with existing networks in country.

34 new datasets have been published across the 3 projects to date.

Although some of the published datasets are small, there are many more that will be uploaded in the second half of the project. The main publishing event will be the Regional Workshop originally planned for 14-18 November 2022. If travel restrictions related to the covid 19 pandemic, make these visits impossible the activity will be redesigned, and the engagement will happen virtually.

There are 3 new data publishers registered on the SPREP IPT during the reporting period. The main publishing event will be the Regional Workshop.

Missions to develop additional voting participants on the GBIF network were planned for 2022. Some of these missions are likely to happen, others will happen in 2023. Target countries include: the

Marshall Islands, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. We have started getting organised to deliver the actions needed - Maheva has provided some existing resources to support this activity. We will look to advance this in the short term, prior to travel, using existing networks.

New deliverables include the update of the Battler Series Publication - Share Invasive Species Data using GBIF - [https://brb.sprep.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Battler%20Series Share%20Pacific%20invasive%20data%20using%20the%20Global%20Biodiversity%20Information%20Facility%28updated%20version%20](https://brb.sprep.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Battler%20Series%20Pacific%20invasive%20data%20using%20the%20Global%20Biodiversity%20Information%20Facility%28updated%20version%20)

We are accumulating numerous datasets that will be published during the second half of the project.

Progress towards deliverables

Dataset deliverables

Feral Pigs of Niue

Dataset type: Occurrences

Dataset scope: Occurrences of feral pigs, as recorded by the Department of the Environment in Niue

Number of records: 200

Data holder: Department of the Environment, Niue

Data host institution: SPREP

% complete: 50%

Status update: We have the data. This dataset will be published at the Regional Workshop

DOI:

Expected date of publication: 2023-06-30

Sphagneticola trilobata in Nukunonu Tokelau

Dataset type: Occurrences

Dataset scope: Records of Sphagneticola trilobata in Nukunonu Tokelau

Number of records: 197

Data holder: Department of Environment; Tokelau

Data host institution: SPREP

% complete: 50%

Status update: We have the data. This dataset will be published at the Regional Workshop

DOI:

Expected date of publication: 2023-06-30

Follow up Records for Sphagneticola trilobata in Nukunonu, Tokelau

Dataset type: Occurrences

Dataset scope: Follow up records from 2019

Number of records: 9

Data holder: Department of Environment; Tokelau

Data host institution: SPREP

% complete: 50%

Status update: We have the data in a digitized format. This dataset will be published at the Regional Workshop

DOI:

Expected date of publication: 2023-06-30

Rodent Survey on Denneo and Bokinbotin Islands in Majuro RMI

Dataset type: Occurrences

Dataset scope: Results from a pre-eradication rodent survey on Denneo and Bokinbotin Islands in Majuro RMI

Number of records: 35

Data holder: SPREP

Data host institution: SPREP

% complete: 50%

Status update: We have the data in a digitized format. This dataset will be published at the Regional Workshop

DOI:

Expected date of publication: 2023-06-30

Ha'apai Islands Rodent Survey, Tonga

Dataset type: Occurrences

Dataset scope: 2020 pre eradication rodent survey from 4 small islands in the Ha'apai group: Tau; Tonumea, Nuku, Kelelesia

Number of records: 200

Data holder: Dept of Environment; Tonga

Data host institution: SPREP

% complete: 50%

Status update: We have the data in a digitized format. This dataset will be published at the Regional Workshop

DOI:

Expected date of publication: 2023-06-30

Turtle sightings in Vanuatu

Dataset type: Occurrences

Dataset scope: Sightings of turtles reported by community members during Dugong catch/by-catch questionnaire survey conducted in 2017/8

Number of records: 500

Data holder: Vanuatu Environmental Science Society

Data host institution: SPREP

% complete: 20%

Status update: VESS have the data in a digitized format. This dataset will be published at the Regional Workshop

DOI:
Expected date of publication: 2023-06-30

Protected Area Species Checklists

Dataset type: Checklist
Dataset scope: Checklists from the BIOPAMA Pacific Island Protected Area Portal
Number of records: 1,000
Data holder: SPREP
Data host institution: SPREP
% complete: 50%
Status update: We have the data in a digitized format. This dataset will be published at the Regional Workshop
DOI:
Expected date of publication: 2023-06-30

Other deliverables

Increase capacity in the Pacific for data mobilization

Description: More Pacific GBIF users with greater capability and understanding of how data sharing benefits all.
% complete: 100%
Status update: Successfully Completed
Sources of verification: Agenda - attached Mentimeter Results - attached SPREP story -

Events

Inception Workop

Dates: 2021-11-10 - 2021-11-10
Organizing institution: SPREP
Country: Hosted in Samoa - 14 Countries
Number of participants: 21
Comments: Great event
Website or sources of verification: docs attached

Communications and visibility

The Project Team includes a communications specialist. Jordan Schuster was recruited in 2021 as part of a cofinancing project. His role is to manage project communications through the project activities. Initiatives will utilise the SPREP regional media channels, SPREP website and social media. We have the logo's for the EU and GBIF and are familiar with the visibility requirements from the Phase 1 BID funded project.

SPREP has a separate Communications Team who manage the SPREP website. <https://www.sprep.org/> has a regional focus and is a recognised platform for sharing relevant information. The SPREP Communications Team have a web of networks through the Pacific. The project webpage provides another opportunity for project visibility. We have reviewed the page and have nothing further to add at this stage.

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

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We have developed an excellent project management team. The development of the team capitalizes on existing structures and personnel. It includes key players from the previous BID funded project. They bring experience, confidence and lessons learned along with a clear understanding of where the opportunities are, to add value to aligned initiatives. It is well led and works in a very cohesive way.

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analyzing and sharing with you.

We are not proposing any changes to the project at this stage. All of the proposed activities can still be delivered prior to the end of the project.

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.

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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.

