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: 19/11/2021

Narrative Early Progress report

Executive Summary

The development of the Predator Free Pacific Regional Strategy has commenced. The project team has been involved along with other stakeholders and members of the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service. Strategy development has not yet reached the point where data has been used to support prioritisation. However, the team are working towards this. This activity has been scheduled to run through the life of the project.
The Resilient Ecosystems Resilient Communities Regional Strategy is a step behind the PFP Strategy in terms of development.

The upcoming Data Processing Workshop will be useful to help develop capacity here at SPREP for the fir-for purpose 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.

Planning phase - User(s) consultation outcome(s)

Defining Data User Needs

These strategies will provide guidance on how to prioritise sites and species for management, in a systematic way. They will have a functional life that will last for the foreseeable future and provide an example of best practice in the application of biodiversity information in decision-making. Key policy questions include - how and what to prioritize for management? This includes species as well as protected areas. Biodiversity data is critical to support the development of these two key strategic documents. It is expected that some useful data will be found on GBIF, however, it is also expected that key datasets will be held by governmental and non-governmental partners that are not currently available. We are expecting to face some challenges finding, accessing, analyzing, utilizing and publishing these datasets to GBIF. We have learnt from experience that publishing data is beneficial for the Pacific as it is made secure and accessible. These fundamental aspects are of particular value in the Pacific.

A series of meetings is underway between potential data users, data holders and stakeholders. When the time comes to think about prioritisation we as a focus group, will complete a user needs assessment for the strategy development. The available data will be assessed by mapping the the biodiversity data information landscape. SPREP has existing MOUs and data sharing agreements with most of our key partners. These were reviewed in Phase 1. The focus group will identify data for mobilization, and an evaluation process.
SPREP Invasives Team has employed an IT specialist to manage the digitization and publishing of data identified during the planning phase. This may involve a validation exercise that is likely to lead to publishing of regional, national and local species checklists. The Data Mobilization activities provide an opportunity for focus group members and participants to develop the relevant skills needed. This exercise is likely to necessitate enhancing the quality of published and unpublished datasets -

georeferencing etc. The strategies will include data summary tables indicating population trends, species richness and community composition; mapping products such as species distributions or geographical data gap analyses; indicators informing Sustainable Development Goals or CBD targets; more complex map products (such as ecological niche models, protected area networks) and biodiversity assessments (e.g. Red Lists, KBAs etc.)

SPREP has well identified and existing solutions for integrating data into policy making processes. These activities will be integrated into existing aligned projects that provide communications plans, development pathways for materials using existing systems and processes. The country visits will enable the promotion of good practice into national policy

Defining Data Needs

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 exercise will inform stakeholders where to focus their energy to extract the maximum utility for their efforts. In turn, these prioritization will be used to support applications for funding to enable operational delivery.

Checklist data may be most useful in the first instance. However, occurrence and sampling event data may be utilized as the programs are developed and delivered.

We expect to reveal unpublished data as the prioritization process happens. We intend to publish any data that we encounter that has not previously been published

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We have established processes and infrastructure for mobilizing data. Data will likely be imported into a GIS and analyzed to support hypothesis and conclusions about the distribution and abundance of invasive species.

The SPREP Invasives Team has an IT Specialist. Wayne Asera has completed the course requirements for BID Pacific virtual data mobilization workshop and will take part in the upcoming Data Processing Workshop. Wayne uses GIS and is the right person to lead in the processing of data to support the development of the strategies.

The strategies will be made available online via the Battler Resource Base, which is hosted at SPREP. The strategies will be completed within the timeframe given.

Planning Phase Outcomes

We do not wish to make changes to our project at this stage. The project is just beginning at the time of this report.

Report on Activities

Activity progress summary

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The upcoming Data Processing Workshop will be useful to help develop capacity here at SPREP for the fir-for purpose datasets that will be needed to support the development of these two strategies.

The Regional Workshop is scheduled for the second half of 2022.

The Country visits to promote Data Policy and SOPs for data management are scheduled for sometime in 2022.

The Country visits to promote GBIF voting participation are also scheduled for sometime in 2022.

Progress on activities

Activity: Predator Free Pacific Regional Strategy is developed

Description: This programme requires a regional strategy to
guide programme delivery and identify
opportunities and priorities for potential

investors.
Start Date - End Date: 1/7/2021 - 30/7/2023
Verification Sources: The Predator Free Pacific Strategy is developed

Activity: The Resilient Ecosystems Resilient Communities Strategy is developed

Description: This programme requires a regional strategy to
guide programme delivery and identify
opportunities and priorities for potential investors
Start Date - End Date: 1/7/2021 - 30/6/2023
Verification Sources: The Resilient Ecosystems Resilient Communities Strategy is developed

Activity: Regional Workshop for Data Mobilization

Description: Promote data use for decision making through
the Regional Data Mobilization Workshop
Start Date - End Date: 30/6/2022 - 31/12/2022
Verification Sources: Results from training evaluation

Activity: Country visits to promote Data Policy and Standard Operating Procedures for Data Management

Description: Promote and participate in data use for decision
making activities while visiting countries to
support the institutionalization of Data Policy
and Standard Operating Procedures
Start Date - End Date: 1/1/2022 - 31/12/2022
Verification Sources: Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and Tonga endorse Data Policies and Standard
Operating Procedures for Data Management

Activity: Country visits to promote GBIF voting participation

Description: Promote and foster data use for decision making
while visiting countries to support new Pacific
voting participants
Start Date - End Date: 1/1/2022 - 31/12/2022
Verification Sources: Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Niue become GBIF
voting participants

Report on Deliverables

Deliverables progress summary

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Communities Regional Strategy is a step behind the PFP Strategy in terms of development.

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the fir-for purpose datasets that will be needed to support the development of these two strategies.

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The Country visits to promote Data Policy and SOPs for data management are scheduled for
sometime in 2022.

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Progress towards deliverables

Deliverables - Project planning phase

Predator Free Pacific Regional Strategy is developed by identifying data needs.
Description: Unpublished data is mobilized, analyzed and the data solutions are then integrated into
strategy development.
% complete: 0%
Status update: This phase has not yet begun
Sources of verification: N/A

Resilient Ecosystems Resilient Communities Regional Strategy is developed by identifying data needs
Description: Unpublished data is mobilized, analyzed and the data solutions are then integrated into strategy development
% complete: 0%
Status update: This phase has not yet begun
Sources of verification: N/A

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: 0%
Status update: This activity is scheduled for 2022
Sources of verification: N/A

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: This activity is scheduled for 2022
Sources of verification: N/A

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: This activity is scheduled for 2022
Sources of verification: N/A

Deliverables - Project data mobilization phase

Deliverables - Project evaluation phase