

31st SPREP MEETING OF OFFICIALS

5, 6, and 7 September 2023, Apia, Samoa

Agenda item 9.2.2: Restoring island resilience - Scaling up invasive species management

Purpose of paper:

1. To seek endorsement of the *Guiding Framework for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific* (Second Edition).
2. To seek Members' ongoing commitment to utilising the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) to assist with invasive species management and ensure national priorities are captured within the system.
3. To recognise invasive species management as an essential tool for restoring island resilience and climate change adaptation.
4. To seek Members' directive and support to develop invasive species focused regional climate change adaptation and resilience initiatives including new funding for invasive species prevention and management.

Background:

5. The *Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific: a Pacific strategy for managing pests, weeds and other invasive species* (SPREP, 2009) were produced at the request of Pacific PICTs Members of SPREP and The Pacific Community (SPC) and were endorsed at the 19th SPREP Meeting in 2008 and at the SPC Heads of Agriculture and Forestry meeting the same year.
6. The Guidelines are intended to help address the serious problem of invasive species in the Pacific and have been used to identify geographic and thematic gaps in invasive species management capability and progress within the Pacific islands region in managing invasive species.
7. The Guidelines were reviewed in 2021-2022 with the assistance of an expert focal group and two Pacific-wide country and territory consultations, resulting in an updated second edition of the Guidelines.
8. The 24th SPREP Meeting in 2013 (Agenda item: 9.1.1) directed the Secretariat to develop a regional terrestrial and marine invasive species project for submission to GEF 6, which included a support service for invasive species management to strengthen SPREP regional support through increased technical support and expert advice.

9. In 2015 a Guidelines Reporting Database (now known as the Pacific Invasive Species Indicators or PISI) was launched to track how successful Members and the region were at implementing the Guidelines annually. Gap analysis determined that on-the-ground active management of invasive species was very low and pointed towards the priority focus of the support service to be created under the GEF6 Regional Invasive Species Project.
10. In 2019 the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) was officially formed, initiated through the GEF6 Regional Invasives Project. It has now been substantially supported by the Government of New Zealand under the *Managing Invasive Species for Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific* (MISCCAP) project.
11. PRISMSS has a current active portfolio of over US\$15 million (excluding co-financing) which includes projects and activities funded by the European Union, Global Environment Facility and the Government of New Zealand.
12. The NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NZMFAT) funded MISCCAP project has facilitated the development of a system to store, retrieve and analyse data relating to Member PRISMSS requests, country information, PRISMSS programmatic information and information of interest to donors. System information and data has restricted access by country, PRISMSS Programme Technical Leads and the SPREP PRISMSS team. SPREP Member country PRISMSS requests are prioritised for donors who approach the PRISMSS with funding.
13. The NZMFAT funded MISCCAP project has also facilitated the development and implementation of an Invasive Species Regional Mainstreaming Strategy that has focused on restoring island resilience through invasive species management with an emphasis on climate change adaptation.
14. To facilitate the scaling up of invasive species management throughout the region it is intended to utilise the PRISMSS and develop regional climate change adaptation and resilience initiatives.
15. All the above elements of the SPREP Invasive Species Programme are coordinated and mutually support each other conforming to the structure and protocol as described in the *Guiding Framework for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific*.

Recommendation:

16. The Meeting is invited to:
 - 1) **Endorse** the *Guiding Framework for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific (2nd Edition)*.
 - 2) **Commit** to utilising the PRISMSS to assist with invasive species management in-country and ensure national priorities are registered within PRISMSS Business System.
 - 3) **Recognise** invasive species management as an essential component needed for restoring island resilience and climate change adaptation.
 - 4) **Direct** and **support** the Secretariat to continue to develop invasive species focused regional climate change adaptation and resilience initiatives.

13 June 2023