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REGIONAL BIOSECURITY, SANITARY, PHYTOSANITARY AND TRADE

Brief Concept Note

(Paper prepared by the Secretariat)

1. Programme/Project Summary	
Programme title:	Regional Biosecurity, Sanitary, Phytosanitary and Trade
Beneficiaries:	Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs)
2. Context	
<p>The Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO) and Regional Technical Meetings of Plant Protection (RTMPP) aim to maintain the Pacific region's Biosecurity, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) standards for the prevention of transboundary pests and diseases. Biosecurity readiness and SPS compliance initiatives by PPPO members follows the maxim of "prevention is better than cure". Climate Change and the movement of people are bringing a greater threat of exotic pests and diseases moving into the Pacific region. These require a higher level of vigilance and management to avoid invasive species becoming established and to instil a costly eradication program. A strong regional coordinated biosecurity and SPS system is therefore critical for the Pacific region.</p> <p>Under this Integrated Program (IP), biosecurity institutions in the Pacific will be capacitated to deal with important pests and diseases that impact negatively on the peoples' capacity for resilient livelihoods. They will act as the information, knowledge sharing, and coordination forum for the Pacific Region. This management structure will also look at non-compliance issues that trade relationships (exports and imports) are exposed to and, at the best-fit biosecurity pathways for pest and disease incursions, treatment regimes, and the related Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) to rectify any biosecurity issues. Data management will underpin the effectiveness of the PPPO to ensure a coordinated approach that does not become an impediment to trade, but instead, instils a level of assurance required for exporting and importing countries. The systems for the collection of data to be collected and analysed include surveillance of pests and diseases and Early Warning Systems (EWS). This data will be integrated through National Reporting Obligations (NRO) to international organisations managing global standards; these are, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).</p> <p>Funding support from the European Development Fund (EDF 11) for Biosecurity and SPS will ensure that most of the Member PPPO priorities are reflected and that country National Plant Protection Officers (NPPO) will be given the opportunity to address Biosecurity risks at strengthen pre-border, border and post border management. This funding is expected to support the</p>	

implementation of activities for SPS data collection and information, communication, and knowledge management.

3. Theory of Change

The overall goal is to strengthen biosecurity systems in the Pacific through the establishment of a functional sanitary and phytosanitary platform that will promote safe trade, rapid regional biosecurity responses to transboundary pests and disease threats at pre-border, border and post-border, and protect our unique regional endemic flora and fauna.

The funding for this Integrated Programme gives the PPPO Secretariat and the Biosecurity team in SPC LRD the ability to assist NPPO's on surveillance of pest and diseases, biosecurity surveillance and monitoring and to instill processes of early detection and response. These activities will directly build technical knowledge and capacity of national biosecurity units to address biosecurity issues at the pre-border, border and post-border relating to the PPPO and Animal platforms and the international platform on IPPC, OIE and Codex Food safety issues. The programme aims to work across biosecurity related issues affecting agriculture, environment and the public health sectors, and also coordinate Research & Development (R&D) on SPS/Biosecurity related issues, treatments, and systems that can increase the efficiency and effectiveness of safe trade in the Pacific region.

The three main programme outcomes are: 1: Climate-adapted agriculture production systems and value chains resilient to biosecurity threats; 2: National and regional Early Warning Systems operational and transboundary biosecurity risk management capacity developed, and 3: A strong and well-coordinated national and regional enabling environment effectively managing all biosecurity threats.

The programme aims to achieve the following outcomes for Pacific Islands and Territories:

- Technically strengthen and institutionalize Biosecurity Divisions/ Departments / officials capacities in daily biosecurity operations at the pre-border, border and post-border in the PICT's.
- Improve Biosecurity surveillance, early warning systems, diagnostics and emergency response of Biosecurity Departments/ divisions in the region to respond exotic biosecurity/ SPS threats.
- Availability to carry out an accurate stocktake of biosecurity expertise in specialized fields in the region related to entomologists, plant pathologists, bacteriologists, virologists, veterinarians, Aquatic biosecurity specialists, biosecurity specialists, epidemiologists, nematologists, and network these expertise to attend to specific needs or biosecurity/ SPS pest and diseases out breaks in the region.
- Strengthen biosecurity systems in-house to develop and maintain biosecurity integrity export systems pathways for various potential exportable agricultural commodities.
- Strengthened coordinated capacity at the regional and national level to respond to and control priority pests and disease outbreaks in plants, terrestrial and aquatic animals effectively and efficiently.

4. Readiness

Regional Biosecurity, Sanitary, Phytosanitary and Trade Integrated Programme aligns with the three overarching development goals in the SPC Strategic Plan:

1. Pacific people benefit from sustainable economic development
2. Pacific communities are empowered and resilient

3. Pacific people reach their potential and live long and healthy lives.

Specifically, within the LRD Business Plan, this programme contributes to the above three goals through the long-term outcome for:

- *Increased trade of diverse, safe and healthy agricultural products contributing to food security and sustainable livelihoods of Pacific communities*

in the LRD Business Plan will contribute to this long-term outcome through the following specific outputs:

- *Environmental food safety, biosecurity, SPS and other voluntary standards and certification strengthened*
- *Crop production systems, soil health and water management, pest and disease management and animal husbandry practices*

Strong functional links exist between the IP on SPS and biosecurity and LRD projects such as the Pacific Awareness & Response to Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (PARC) Project, Regional Plant Health Clinics, and the OneHealth project.

5. Scope of Work and Management/Implementation Arrangements

Financial: Initial funding to support the range of activities is expected from the EDF11 and other aligned initiatives. This is guaranteed over the next 4 years.

Human: SPC-LRD will expand their technical capacity in animal and plant SPS skills to a total of seven team members. There will also be intra and inter-Divisional collaboration, particularly with FAME, RRRT, and GEM Divisions.

Scientific/development research: At the outset, SPS/ Biosecurity surveillance and Early Warning Systems (EWS) will be researched to address high risk SPS/ biosecurity. The EWS will provide impetus for enhancing the Emergency Response Plans (ERP) to address these risks. Research will also be carried out on potential biosecurity systems approach identified for fresh fruits and vegetables that can be exported to New Zealand and Australia. Other research will include an assessment of the efficacy of various biosecurity treatments to address biosecurity threats and non-compliance issues thus giving the NPPO's of the importing country the biosecurity level of assurance needed.

Complementarity with other partners and donors:

The program will contribute to the **Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS)** – spearheaded by SPREP. It will also complement anticipated initiatives under an anticipated Regional adaptation programme to climate change related transboundary plant & animal pests and diseases and invasive alien aquatic species for Pacific Island countries and territories and to ongoing initiatives lead by ACIAR, ICM 2 project.

6. What evidence is there that SPC is best positioned to do this?

State SPC's comparative advantage in this area, including inter-sectoral linkages; state which other agencies are working on this challenge. State any potential partnerships with relevant organisations/agencies.

The PPPO Executive Secretariat is housed in the Biosecurity and Trade facilitation team (BATS) of the . This team continues to serve and provide technical services to its member countries on all regional and national biosecurity and Phytosanitary issues as well as respond to biosecurity threats and incursions that continue to threaten our regional endemic flora and fauna.

The PPPO and the Regional Technical Meeting of Plant Protection includes all the 26 National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPO) members as well as the Directors of the Agricultural Research Institutions in various South West Pacific (SWP) countries. This also includes its metropolitan members – Australia, New Zealand, France and United States of America. The PPPO Secretariat also links to other Regional Plant Protection Organizations in the Region and the world and reports to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

The BATS and Plant Health team within LRD, carry out National Plant Pest and Disease surveys in collaboration with its member countries. Results from these surveys are placed in the SPC Regional Pest List Database (PLD). The outcomes of these activities give benefits for member PPPO countries to do their own Import Risk assessments as well as market access export submissions.

Theory of Change

Regional Biosecurity, Sanitary, Phytosanitary and Trade

SPC/HOAFS 6/Working Paper 3.4

Page 5

LONG-TERM GOAL

Safeguarding Pacific People's Health, our Unique & Fragile Biodiversity & Enabling Prosperity through Safe Trade

IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS, POPULATIONS, INSTITUTIONS

Governments, having updated Biosecurity legal frame work that are linked to the regional and international institutions in addressing SPS/ Biosecurity threats at Pre-border, Border and Post-border that also enhances safe trade.

Civil Society Organisations and private sector are aware of the importance of Biosecurity and its role in protecting our unique endemic flora and fauna and linking this to safe trade.

Involvement of Communities, inclusive of youth, women and indigenous people on internal Biosecurity and movement of flora and fauna and prevention of pests and diseases.

IMMEDIATE TO MID-TERM CHANGES

Governments using updated biosecurity policies in line with international bodies and enhanced knowledge on Biosecurity SOP's, ERPS, and effective regulating pre-border, border and post border risks become readily compliant with SPS Biosecurity regional platforms.

Civil Society Organisations and private sector are engaged in Biosecurity joint capacity development and are more aware of biosecurity issues and also forging partnerships and engagements with the environment sector, Human Nutrition and health sector and Biodiversity issues at all levels.

Through increasing Biosecurity awareness Communities inclusive of youth, women and indigenous people have knowledge on better food choices, better access to nutritional/ high quality food, better access to information relating to trade and biosecurity issue, increase in access to better export markets and increase in the employment in the SPS sector.

OUTPUTS

Improved technical assistance provided to SPC member countries
Reviewed policies & legislations (Biosecurity, Animal/Aquatic, Chemical/Food Safety-Codex)
Reviewed & Developed SOPs (Pre-border, Border, Post-border; ERP)
Completed stocktake of each country's needs (e.g. Sanitary/Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation-PCE)
Reviewed National Reporting Obligations (NRO) e.g. regulated pest lists, pesticide list, PLD updates.

Increased awareness on Biosecurity with approaches that target exclusion of exotic pests and diseases that contribute and enhanced food security and nutrition, manage internal movement and prevent the spread of pests and diseases, increased partnerships on management of Pest Free Areas (PFA's), increase systems approaches that address biosecurity risks thus increasing safe trade and partnership with civil societies and Stakeholders.

- Support Groups and Extension Services identified and strengthened and linked with regional/global initiatives;
- Youth, women and indigenous people upskilled and mentored on relevant Biosecurity issues and its importance;
- Increased access to biosecurity/ SPS information relating to safe trade
- Increased access to better food choices, better nutritional and high quality safe foods.
- Increased access to better export markets and increase employment in the Biosecurity/SPS

CAPABILITIES

- Scientific and technical capacity (Biosecurity experts, Entomologist, Plant Pathologist, Veterinarians, Land use Forestry experts, Genetic experts on tissue culturing, IPM, Organics, Extension and Soil health experts Gender Mainstreaming, Climate Change, Economy etc.);
- Strong partnership and collaboration with research institutions and partner organisations involved in development of new methodologies and tools, e.g. FAO, IPPC, OIE, APPC, ACIAR, USP, FNU, NZ MPI, PHEL, USDA, DAWR, SPREP and NPPO's.);
- Well-established long term partnership with Pacific Countries through and the PPPO Exec Secretariat is housed in LRD, SPC; also through the PPPO and RTMPP platform of more than 30 plus years' and experience in the Pacific Region;
- Excellent understanding of SPS/Biosecurity issues in the region and developing interest in innovative technologies and approaches on Early Warning Systems (EWS), detection and Emergency Response Plans (ERP's).

ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS

Assumptions: Interest and willingness of the national stakeholders to support this programme and availability of funding; Program beneficiaries to be willing to actively participate in Biosecurity/ SPS capacity building activities; Access to scientific data to be adequate precise and timely to support market access requests and needed collaboration with other PPPO members on NRO's.

Risks: Change in management at the political and institutional levels will determine a change in priorities relating to Biosecurity/ SPS. Lack of resources (human/financial) to implement the programme; Natural Disasters (floods, droughts, earthquakes etc.); Political unrest;

