



Work Plan and Operational Budget 2014 – Pacific

- 01.06.2014 -

This work plan is based on the Programme Document 2012-2015, the available budget for the Pacific region and the decisions of the Pacific Steering Committee made on 30.11.2013 in Suva, Fiji.

Apart from the specific activities listed below, an intern at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional environment Programme (SPREP) to improve SPREP's capacities for supporting regional coordination and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol will be funded by the ABS Initiative under the framework of a financing agreement with SPREP covering the organisation of the regional workshops mentioned below. The intern position will be advertised in early 2014.

Work Plan 2014

1. Awareness Raising at International Level

Awareness raising on ABS will be supported in close cooperation with the SCBD, GEF SGP, IUCN and SPREP. So far the following meetings have been identified as appropriate fora for formal and informal discussions about the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol as well as side events on ABS in order to raise awareness and create commitment for the necessary national processes at the high political level:

- **UN SIDS Conference, 1-5 September 2014, Apia (Topic: Partnerships)**
SPREP is supporting the Samoan government in organising the conference, the Initiative, SPREP and SCBD will jointly seek to get ABS on the agenda.
- **CBD COP 12, 6-17 October 2014, Pyeongchang**
The ABS Initiative will organise side events at the COP.
- **World Parks Congress, 12-19 November 2014, Sydney**
Joint activities of the ABS Initiative and IUCN at the WPC are still to be discussed. ABS may be integrated in the stream on governance which will be co-lead by GEF SGP and SCBD.

2. Ratification and National Implementation

The Initiative's support to countries in the NP ratification and implementation process will be continued in 2014 in close collaboration with Natural Justice, the Fridtjof Nansen Institute and the University of New South Wales. Following up on the activities undertaken in 2013, support will be offered to

- **Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)** for the further ABS policy development process and initial training on ABS contract negotiation skills,
- **Cook Islands** for initial ABS policy development and adapting the existing ABS draft bill to the requirements of the Nagoya Protocol, and
- **Vanuatu** for the further ABS policy and regulatory framework development.

Based on a recent request but pending the availability of funding and suitable timing **Papua New Guinea (PNG)** and **Marshall Islands (RMI)** will be supported by the SCBD and the ABS Initiative in their national consultation processes towards ratification/accession to the Nagoya Protocol process.

3. GEF-NPIF: NP Implementation and Value Chain Establishment

The further development – and implementation once approved – of a GEF-NPIF ABS project involving the company **CIMTECH** and the **Cook Islands National Environment Service** will be supported and backstopped by the Initiative. This includes the provision of technical expertise e.g. on drafting the regulatory ABS framework (see above).

The development of a regional GEF NPIF project implemented by UNEP and executed by SPREP will be further supported upon request.

4. Amplifying ABS Processes

Continuing the activities of 2013, ABS will be further integrated into the GEF SGP country programmes. The first SGP funded ABS projects have been approved for **Vanuatu** and **FSM**. In the frame of the Vanuatu project, the Initiative considers conducting an awareness raising/capacity building workshop for the SGP partner organisations in order to increase their ABS awareness and understanding.

5. Regional Capacity Development and Training

Training course on ABS Contract Negotiation: 04-08 August 2014 (tbc)

The Initiative is currently developing its IPR training format into an ABS contract negotiation training which also addresses the management of multi-stakeholder processes. Feedback from workshop participants and during country visits suggested a high demand for this type of technical trainings in the Pacific. The logistics will be run by SPREP. The ABS Initiative and its partners will prepare and provide the input. The target group will be the ABS National Focal Points, as they need to be particularly aware of the key elements of ABS contracts.

Pacific Regional Workshop 2014: mid of November

The regional ABS Workshop will take place back-to-back with the World Parks Congress (WPC) in Sydney in mid-November. This enhances not only cost effectiveness but will also allow participants to attend the WPC. Responding to participants' feedback from the last regional workshop, the main topic will be the valorisation of genetic resources and business models of relevant sectors, with a particular focus on marine bioprospecting. Researchers and business representatives will be invited as resource persons. USP and Conservation International may be able to assist and present case studies from the region.

The invitation process for the regional workshop will be revised by ABS Initiative and SPREP; it was suggested to distribute invitations not only via governments in order to reach more NGO representatives.

6. Exploring Bioprospecting Potential

The ABS Initiative will conduct further research on marine bioprospecting in 2014. In the Pacific, a study will be conducted to assess countries' bioprospecting potentials, including the legal and economic framework as well as existing research capacities. The link to deep sea mining will be paid particular attention.

Operational Budget 2014

PACIFIC	Budget in Euro
Support to ratification	
Awareness raising at relevant international (e.g. UN SIDS Conference) and regional meetings	15.000
Sub-total: Support to ratification	15.000
National / regional implementation + value chain establishment	
Support to SPREP (intern position)	25.000
Initial support to selected countries	25.000
Sub-total: National / regional implementation	50.000
(Sub-)Regional capacity development and coordination for relevant international processes	
ABS Contract Negotiation Training, Nadi	100.000
5th Pacific ABS Workshop, Sydney/Canberra	85.000
Sub-total: (Sub-)Regional capacity development and coordination for relevant international processes	185.000
Sub total: PACIFIC	250.000

The existing financing agreement with SPREP amounting to € 145.000 Euro will be extended until the end of March 2015 and amended to cover organizational costs for the regional training course and workshop as well as the intern position.