

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	9410
Project Name:	Strengthening National and Regional Capacities to Reduce the Impact of Invasive Alien Species on Globally Significant Biodiversity in the Pacific
Countr(ies):	Regional, Tonga, Niue, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Strengthening National and Regional Capacities to Reduce the Impact of Invasive Alien Species on Globally Significant Biodiversity in the Pacific

Country

Regional, Tonga, Niue, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu

GEF ID

9410

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

SPREP, SPC, Ministries of Environment of participating countries

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/3/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 6th PIR

Objective

Reduce the threats from Invasive Alien Species (IAS) to terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity in the Pacific by developing and implementing comprehensive national and regional IAS management frameworks

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Satisfactory

Development Objective

Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

6,846,475.00

Cumulative Disbursement

4,447,856.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

3/26/2019

Agency Approval

3/25/2019

Implementation Start 5/23/2020	First Disbursement 7/31/2019
Expected MTR 10/12/2022	Actual MTR 10/31/2022
Expected Completion 12/31/2025	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

The most significant progress to date since the last reporting period has been: 1. The successful eradication of rodents in the Tuvalu Islands. 2. Cabinet endorsement of the Niue NISSAP, which now makes all four NISSAPs completed, with all having cabinet endorsement, an indication of political buy-in and nationally prioritised invasive species and sites for management. Part of the development of the NISSAPs for the four participating countries included the development of templates for NISSAP review and development, which other countries can utilise when developing or updating their respective NISSAPs. These templates are available on the Battler Resource Base (brb@sprep.org) and were employed in the development of Samoa's NISSAP (in draft) and a Territory Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan for Pitcairn Islands. 4. The project also delivered the Sixth Pacific Invasive Learning Network Meeting in August 2024. This was co-funded with other projects, including the EU-funded Protege Project, and the NZ MFAT-funded MISCAPP Project. The event gathered over 70 invasive species professionals and practitioners from 18 Pacific countries and territories. The outcomes of the 6th PILN Meeting included: - Identifying Possible sustainable solutions to the challenges of invasive species in the Pacific - Facilitating peer-to-peer learning through interactive sessions and allowing time for participants to exchange knowledge, ensuring everyone feels engaged and part of a collaborative effort. - Successful discussion of cross-cutting issues such as Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI), and Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Health and Safety, addressing the concerns of the 18 participating nations. 5. Delivery of a Study Tour between the three projects, the EU Protege Project, NZMFAT Funded RIR Project, which are aligned to PRISMSS, and working with other Pacific Island Countries. The study tour included several field trips that allowed participants to observe best practices in invasive species management and consider how these could be applied in their own countries and territories. The trips highlighted successful pest eradication and weed management initiatives. The study tour brought together invasive species management professionals and practitioners from across the Pacific region to share and learn from their successes, identify possible sustainable solutions to challenges, expand their knowledge, and establish meaningful connections. 6. Resilient Ecosystems, Resilient Communities Exchange Workshop Tonga The exchange workshop facilitated interactive sessions that empowered 25 participants from various departments and ministries to enhance invasive species management and included the first Pacific Battler of the Year recipient, Miss Lisa Fonua of VEPA, local plant experts from DOE and the Department of Forestry Eua, as well as youth participants from VEPA, DOE and students from the Tupou College

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

In the last reporting period, challenges experienced and identified by national executing agencies were the implementation deadline. To address this, PMU prepared an extension request to the implementing agency for an additional six months at no cost. This extension will allow for experienced delays in a few areas, which as of June 30th are now progressing well. Another experienced challenge from PMU is the prolonged delay of

fund disbursement from the implementing agency to the executing agency. The PMU has worked around these challenges, with the executing agency granting advances to the project to ensure that the project activity implementation was unaffected.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

At both the regional and national levels, key project stakeholders play a crucial role in governance. They are actively engaged through platforms such as Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings, PRISMSS partner meetings, and Technical Advisory Group (TAG) sessions. Stakeholder participation has been effectively facilitated, particularly through PSC meetings and bilateral country engagements for activity planning. The most recent PSC meeting was held in person during the GEF-6 RIP Regional Meeting in the Cook Islands, with broad representation from participating countries.

At the broader level of stakeholder engagement, the GEF 6 RIP has been working closely with PRISMSS aligned projects on invasive species mainstreaming activities, through cofinancing from these projects. Additionally, to mainstream invasive species management, we also received endorsement of the Guiding Framework for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific from the Pacific Community Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services in May 2025.

At the national level, TAGs focused on invasive species continue to operate in Tuvalu and Niue. However, TAG meetings in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and Tonga have been on hold since the last reporting period. Both countries have recommended integrating the TAGs into existing national committees comprising similar membership to streamline processes. TAGs typically include representatives from departments of Environment, Agriculture, Customs and Port Services, Local Government, Youth, Women's Affairs, private sector organizations, and community groups.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) and partners have conducted in-country visits to all four participating nations, significantly strengthening stakeholder relationships. These engagements underscore the project's commitment to meaningful and sustained stakeholder involvement. Proactive measures have been implemented to enhance engagement, including community outreach and public awareness initiatives. National agencies have led impactful outreach campaigns. Notably, Niue and Tonga have incorporated invasive species education into school curricula, while Tuvalu continues to run a successful radio program. Broader stakeholder engagement has occurred through the review, revision, and endorsement of National Invasive Species Strategies and Action Plans (NISSAPs), as well as the development of Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) plans across Niue, RMI, Tonga, and Tuvalu. Participants in these processes included national stakeholders, TAG members, and PRISMSS partners such as BirdLife International, the New Zealand Department of Conservation, Island Conservation, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, Pacific Biosecurity (Victoria University of Wellington), and the Pacific Community (SPC). At the regional level, the GEF-6 RIP supported the 6th Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN) meeting in the Cook Islands, bringing together over 70 participants from 18 Pacific Island Countries. PILN plays a vital role in strengthening the capacity of invasive species practitioners by facilitating rapid knowledge exchange, linking technical expertise, and accelerating on-the-ground action. While digital communication remains essential, face-to-face engagement remains the most effective way to build relationships and collective capacity across the region. In June 2025, the PMU conducted a regional workshop to introduce project partners to the process of the terminal evaluation, discuss priority actions to ensure maximum output delivery for the project, and most importantly, hold discussions on the knowledge sharing needs of countries as the project comes to a close to ensure outcome and impact sustainability.

D. Gender Equality

Rather than adopting a traditional action plan, the project has developed and is implementing a gender strategy. This strategy was designed to help project partners address and overcome barriers to gender equality by actively promoting the participation of both women and men in the GEF-6 Regional Invasive Species

Project (RIP) and broader biodiversity conservation efforts. Since its endorsement, the Gender Strategy has guided national coordinators in mainstreaming gender considerations into national Technical Advisory Group (TAG) memberships and ensuring the inclusion of women's groups in key project engagements, such as consultations for the development of National Invasive Species Strategies and Action Plans (NISSAPs) and planning for eradication activities. Gender and Inclusiveness has been a standard subject matter in project events including the PRISMSS Partners Meeting as well as the Pacific Invasive Learning Network Meeting 5 and 6. These sessions have been useful in helping countries and partners improve inclusive practices at community, national and regional programme planning. In parallel, PRISMSS established under the GEF-6 RIP has supported a research initiative titled 'Understanding Human and Invasive Species Relationships for Building Climate-Resilient Communities.' This research, conducted in collaboration with Ministries of Environment and local communities in Niue, Samoa, and Tonga, aims to explore the cultural values, perceptions, and practices influencing invasive species management across the Pacific. An important outcome of this work is the forthcoming Pacific Protocols Toolkit, which will present best practices for engaging Pacific Island communities in invasive species initiatives. One of the toolkit's primary goals is to strengthen the role of women in invasive species management. It is expected to be launched in the first half of 2025. The project also ensures the collection of sex-disaggregated data across its activities wherever applicable and upholds equal access and participation for both women and men. Gender equity has further been integrated into staffing processes at the project management level, informing recruitment practices and leadership roles.

E. Knowledge Management

As the project implementation progresses, the number of outputs, in the form of publications, also increases. All significant project activities have been effectively communicated through engaging stories. The most considerable knowledge management outcome of this project has been the update of the Battler Resource Base. This resource repository shares knowledge about common invasive species issues in the Pacific. On the battle resource base, practitioners can find information and case studies that help their governments to improve invasive species management. Another key learning under this component has been the development of templates, which other countries not directly part of the GEF 6 RIP. This includes the development of National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan Templates, which are accompanied by a NISSAP review template and a consultation template. Similarly, we developed Early Detection and Rapid Response Toolkit Templates that countries can use to establish EDRR plans and strengthen biosecurity.

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	Minor amendments Minor amendments on finance (budget plan) were made in consultation with EA when no cost extension (NCE) was applied.

Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Late Island	-18.8080	-174.6383	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Late Island Rat Eradication

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mu'omu'a	-18.79308	-174.11048	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Muomua Island Rat Eradication

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Fua'amotu	-18.79426	-174.00608	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Fua'amotu Rat Eradication

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Falefatu	-8.58003	179.11636	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Falefatu Island Rat

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Tepuka	-8.46372	179.07988	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Tepuka Island Rat Eradication

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Toloo Reserve	-21.2322	-175.1594	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Site led restoration activities Tonga

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Eua	-21.38445	-174.91177	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Site led restoration activities Tonga

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mt Talau	-18.64797	-173.99967	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Site led restoration activities Tonga

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Fualopa	-8.5004	179.077	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Site led restoration activities Tuvalu

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	9410-PIR-UNEP-2025-IAS in Pacific