



PEUMP

Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership Programme



Sweden
Sverige



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

**Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership Programme (PEUMP)
By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) –
Strengthening turtle conservation and management in the
Pacific**

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What is the BIEM Initiative?

- Key Result Area 5 of the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) programme. Funded by the European Union and the Government of Sweden.
- By-catch mitigation and species conservation activities based on priorities identified by the Governments of Solomon Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Tonga.
- Led by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). SPREP has sub-contracted the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and TierraMar Ltd (TierraMar) to lead the delivery of some elements of the work.





BIEM Components	Geographic Scope	Activity Coordinator
5.1 Marine Spatial Planning	Fiji, Solomon Islands	IUCN
5.2 and 5.3 Integrated 'ridge to reef' management and climate change adaptation	Fiji, Vanuatu	SPREP
5.4 Assessment of endangered species extinction risk	Regional	TierraMar
5.5 Development and implementation of by-catch mitigation strategies	Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Vanuatu	
5.6 Capacity development through research grants to Pacific Island citizens	Regional	
5.7 Support for community monitoring and protection of endangered species	Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu	
5.8 Capacity development on Non-Detrimental Findings process for CITES parties	Pacific parties to CITES	



Assessing the risk of turtle extinction in the Pacific

- Assessing the extinction risk of the six species of turtles present in the Pacific Region to inform regional and national conservation and management approaches.
- Understanding threats to turtles in the Pacific, using existing and new data.
- When comparing turtles added to the system and turtles removed, is there a net increase or net decrease? A model is being developed for the project.

Community Turtle Use Surveys – Fiji, Tonga, PNG

- Sociocultural surveys of community turtle use to understand reasons as well as trends over time.
- Data collected will be incorporated into turtle risk extinction assessment. Vanuatu and Solomon Islands already have data available.





Monitoring of turtle nesting habitat in Vanuatu, Fiji, PNG, Tonga

- Weather stations and sand temperature data loggers deployed to key turtle nesting beaches to monitor sand temperature profiles and rainfall events.
- Variability of sand temperatures will be used to model the predicted sex-ratios of turtle hatchlings.
- SPREP and WWF are working in partnership to implement the 'Cool Turtle' project in the Pacific. This data will also be incorporated into the regional turtle risk assessment.

National review of marine turtle management and conservation in Vanuatu

- Review of the current state of turtle management and conservation in Vanuatu. Identification of gaps and to make recommendations
- Looking at available data including turtle population, by-catch, tourism impacts, community knowledge, harvesting and protection practices.





Asia-Pacific Marine Turtle Working Group – Genetics Training Workshop Series

- Collaboration between SPREP, Lamave, WWF-Pacific, WWF Coral Triangle and WWF Australia.
- Training workshops will support enhanced in-country capacity to develop and carry out genetic research studies. There is also a need to standardize methods and collaboration between groups to ensure work can be compared and combined for effective analysis.



Support for CITES parties for obligations related to turtles.

- Working with TRAFFIC, capacity building workshops to support CITES obligations, including for turtles.
- Regional workshop in August proposed.



Regional Port-based Extension Programme

- Working with WWF Pacific, improving uptake of by-catch mitigation measures for Species of Special Interest in the Pacific longline fleet through a port-based extension programme focused in Fiji and Vanuatu
- Includes capacity building and training for crew and observers as well as deployment of turtle mitigation device kits to vessels.

Hookpod mitigation device trial

- Pilot study for Hookpods in Fiji-based longliners to reduce bycatch of turtles and seabirds.

Regional Learning Exchange for turtle monitors and rangers

- Planning to bring together turtle monitors from each country for training in the latest techniques and equipment and discuss results and any potential actions arising from extinction risk assessment. It will be an opportunity to share and exchange knowledge and experiences.





National Plan of Action for Turtles - Solomon Islands, Vanuatu

- Supporting in the review, update, finalisation, printing, launch of NPOA – Turtles based on the needs and priorities identified by the government representatives.

Turtle Moratorium and National Awareness Campaign - Tonga

- Support for a moratorium on the catch, consumption and sale of turtles and an awareness raising campaign through radio, TV, media and school activities

Turtle Pledge and strengthening turtle conservation and management - Fiji

- Activities to respond to the results of the turtle use surveys including community education, national awareness campaign and turtle pledge, working with chiefs to address priorities determined.





Community turtle management plans - Vanuatu

- Working with communities to develop community management plans for turtles nesting at Bamboo Bay and Wiawi on Malekula Island

Regional Turtle Conservation Actions in response to extinction risk assessment

- Development of regional and national turtle conservation and management actions to address priorities identified in regional extinction risk assessment working with governments, NGOs, researchers and communities.

Support for updating TREDIS

- The Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDIS) is being updated by SPREP. Includes provision of support and training (virtual due to Covid-19).