

## Submission to the Cabinet Development Committee

- 1. Project Name:** GDP 435718 'Rat Eradication (Aleipata Islands)
- 2. Purpose of Submission:**
  - 2.1. The purpose of this submission is to inform and update the Cabinet Development Committee (CDC) on the implementation of the abovementioned project.
  - 2.2. The project is joint initiative of MNREM and SPREP with several key regional partner donors which include the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) managed by Conservation International (CI), the Australian Regional Natural Heritage Program (ARNHP), and with support from other regional partners such as the Pacific Cooperative Island Initiatives (PCII).
  - 2.3. At this stage MNREM has signed two Letters of Agreements (LOAs) with SPREP for two funding for the project one lot of funding from funds left at SPREP for the restoration of the Aleipata Islands and one lot of funding from CEPF. Other consultancies are also being hired under SPREP in full collaboration with MNREM for the implementation of certain technical aspects of the project. Additional funding is being sought from ARNHP.
- 3. Project Objective(s):**
  - 3.1. Complete the Aleipata Island Restoration Program (AIREP) which will include the management of invasives; the rehabilitation of species and ecosystem and the education and training of MNREM and the Aleipata MPA communities on an improved co-management of the Islands of Nu'utele and Nu'ulua (Namu'a & Fanuatapu);
  - 3.2. Conduct Aleipata village consultations and national stakeholder consultations for the formulation and implementation of AIREP; which will include the
    - 3.2.1. Eradication of rats and yellow crazy ants through aerial baiting using helicopters;
    - 3.2.2. Rehabilitation of the islands Friendly Ground Dove (Tuaimo) and management of invasives; and
    - 3.2.3. Monitoring of the Islands Ecosystems.
- 4. Executing Agency:** Ministry of Finance
- 5. Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Meteorology
- 6. Duration:**
  - 6.1. This project was started in 1999 as part of the GEF-World Bank IUCN Marine Protected Area Aleipata Project. When the latter was completed in 2002 and was handed over to MNREM – only monitoring surveys were completed on the two target islands of Nu'utele & Nu'ulua.
  - 6.2. It was in 2004 that a consultant was approached by MNREM to help itself pick up the project through the formulation of AIREP, the seeking of funds and the implementation of its activities up to this point in time.
  - 6.3. The project is expected to be completed by February of 2007.
- 7. Project Funding (Aid & Local Budget):**
  - 7.1. Original Cost: This project is funded gradually as each of its stages are being well understood in detail for implementation. The current funding now stands at \$123,235 USD.
    - 7.1.1. External Funding – SPREP LOA w/ MNREM \$33,000 USD; SPREP LOA w/ MNREM \$70,235 USD; SPREP \$20,000 USD (Hiring consultant for AIREP with Community Consultations).
    - 7.1.2. Local Funding – Salaries of the Team of MNREM & MOF staff who are administering the implementation of the project activities.
  - 7.2. Additional Costs: An additional funding has been sought through SPREP from ARNHP of \$120,000 USD for implementing the eradication of the rats and yellow crazy ants through aerial baiting by helicopter.
- 8. Current Implementation:**
  - 8.1. The following project milestones/outcomes have been achieved:
    - 8.1.1. Draft AIREP now with village communities of Aleipata MPA for endorsement
    - 8.1.2. Contracts for Project Technical Adviser, EIA Consultant, Friendly Ground Dove Consultant, and Yellow Crazy Ant Consultant.

- 8.1.3. Surveys of the Islands Forest Ecosystems
- 8.1.4. Surveys of the Sea Turtle Nesting Places
- 8.1.5. Surveys of Rats
- 8.1.6. Surveys of the Friendly Ground Dove
- 8.1.7. Surveys of the Yellow Crazy Ants
- 8.1.8. Consultations with villages of Aleipata MPA on AIREP.

**9. Outstanding Issues:**

9.1. The following milestones are yet to be completed:

- 9.1.1. Final AIREP endorsed by Aleipata MPA villages and Government
- 9.1.2. Final Ground Dove Rehabilitation Plan approved by Aleipata MPA & Government
- 9.1.3. Final Yellow Crazy Ant Plan approved by Aleipata MPA & Government
- 9.1.4. EIA of the Rat & Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Operations
- 9.1.5. Helicopter Aerial Baiting
- 9.1.6. Monitoring of the Islands immediately before, during and after the Helicopter Aerial Baiting

**10. Project Implications for Samoa:**

- 10.1. The project contributes to the implementation of critical components of the Marine Protected Area Aleipata Management Plan that was formulated by the MNREM and Village communities of Aleipata District from 1999 – 2003 and were approved by both parties (MPA District Committee & Minister of MNREM) in 2004.
- 10.2. The Aleipata islands of Nu'ulua and Nu'utele, where the project is implemented, is one of the two sites in Samoa now by the international conservation community as hotspots of global biodiversity value requiring urgent conservation.

**11. Signed by:**



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Tu'u'u Ieti Taule'alo

Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Meteorology

**12. Date: 11 August 2006**