

Submission to the Cabinet Development Committee

- 1. Project Name:** GDP 435718 'Rat Eradication (Aleipata Islands)
- 2. Purpose of Submission:**
 - 2.1. This is the second report to update the Cabinet Development Committee (CDC) on the implementation of the abovementioned project.
 - 2.2. The project was expected to be completed by February of this year with funding from the Australian Regional National Heritage Programme. Unfortunately the funding application to the ARNHP to implement the rat eradication and yellow crazy ant control using a helicopter was not successful.
 - 2.3. The Ministry is looking at other potential options to fund the current implementation components of the project this year. In the meantime there are still remaining funds to complete remaining arrangements listed under section 9 of the report.
- 3. Project Objective(s):**
 - 3.1. Eradication of rats and control of the yellow crazy ants through aerial baiting using helicopters;
 - 3.2. Rehabilitation of the islands Friendly Ground Dove (Tuaimo) and management of invasives; and
 - 3.3. Monitoring of the Islands Ecosystems.
- 4. Executing Agency:** Ministry of Finance
- 5. Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
- 6. Duration:**
 - 6.1. The project's remaining arrangements is scheduled to be completed on August this year 2007.
 - 6.2. The submission for funding will also be completed but actual approval may take beyond August of this year depending on the approval processes of the requested donors.
- 7. Project Funding (Aid & Local Budget):**
 - 7.1. Total remaining external funding from SPREP LOA w/ MNRE to complete preparations of the rat eradication & yellow crazy ant control is:.
 - 7.2. Local Funding – Salaries of the Team of MNRE & MOF staff who are administrating the implementation of the project activities.
- 8. Current Implementation:**
 - 8.1. The following are ongoing project milestones/outcomes:
 - 8.1.1. EIA approval by the village communities of Aleipata district
 - 8.1.2. Bait trials to determine concentration of bait to use in the actual rat eradication & yellow crazy ant exercise
- 9. Outstanding Issues:**
 - 9.1. The main outstanding issue is funding required to carry out the actual helicopter drop of bait on the islands; the monitoring and evaluation of the exercise's results and further quarantine activities to prevent re-introductions of targeted invasives.
- 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

MNRE and Village communities of Aleipata District from 1999 – 2003 and were approved by both parties (MPA District Committee & Minister of MNRE) 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 designated by the international conservation community as hotspots of global biodiversity value requiring urgent conservation.

11. Signature of Executing Agency



Tu'u'u Dr. Ieti Taule'alo
CEO, Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment

12. Date

04 May 2007