



## PRESS RELEASE

### FIJI INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES PROJECT - BAF UNDERTAKES CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER, 2019

The Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) in collaboration with UNDP is undertaking a week long consultative workshop, in Taveuni, on the Fiji Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Project.

This is part of the ongoing Global Environment Facility (GEF) 6 funded project called “Building Capacities to Address Invasive Alien Species to Enhance the Chances of Long-term Survival of Terrestrial Endemic and Threatened Species on Taveuni Island, Surrounding Islets and Throughout Fiji”. The GEF 6 project was officially endorsed in May 2018.

As part of the ongoing project, BAF along with key stakeholders and the Government envisage to improve the chances for long-term survival of terrestrial endemic and threatened species on Taveuni Island, surrounding islets and throughout Fiji by building national and local capacities to manage IAS.

The week-long workshop, which was officially launched on Monday 18 November, 2019 will focus on forging, greater collaboration with key stakeholders in order to enhance efforts towards the GEF 6 project in eradicating the Giant Invasive Iguana (GII) and other IAS in Fiji.

The workshop is also an opportune time to also discuss and look at ways of improving the border control – IAS prevention and surveillance in Taveuni, Qamea, Laucala and Matagi. Panel discussions will be taking place during the week to allow the stakeholders to ponder on the roles of agencies and their experiences to date and the way forward.

In formally opening the workshop, BAF Acting Chief Executive Officer Mr. Surend Pratap said it is a platform for discussions to place on the significance of IAS, managing and addressing them and roles of Government Ministries and statutory bodies including BAF in executing needed activities in a timely manner.

Mr. Pratap said it is envisaged that the workshop will enhance the collaboration between the agencies and the eradication work of the GII and other IAS will progress with more effectiveness going forward.

The key stakeholders attending the workshop include personnel from: UNDP, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji, Fiji Police Force, Fiji Revenue and Customs Services, National Fire Authority and Fiji Airports Ltd.

The workshop will conclude on Friday 22 November, 2019.