

29 September to 3 October 1997
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia



6th South Pacific Conference

on

NATURE CONSERVATION

&

PROTECTED AREAS

VOLUME I

CONFERENCE MEETING REPORT





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Volume 1

Conference Meeting Report

Compiled and Technically Edited by Sue Miller and Joanna Sim, SPREP



Foreword

The Sixth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas held in Palikir, Federated States of Micronesia, on 29 September – 3 October 1997, continued the series of nature conservation Conferences held in New Zealand (1975), Australia (1979), Western Samoa (1985), Vanuatu (1989) and Tonga (1993).

Government, non government agencies, local communities and SPREP working in the Pacific islands region had made significant progress for nature conservation in the four years since the Fifth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in Tonga, particularly in community-based conservation initiatives. The Pohnpei Conference recognised that it was timely that lessons learnt of *what has worked and what has not* were drawn out to benefit the conservation and sustainable use of the region's biodiversity.

Four key nature conservation TOOLS were focused on during the Pohnpei Conference with the overall objective of producing a "TOOLBOX" of practical, solution-orientated guidelines for use. TOOLS focused on were:

- Protected Areas - marine protected areas and community-based conservation areas
- Enterprise Development as a Conservation Incentive
- Conservation Trust Funds
- World Heritage Convention

This was the first time the Conference series had been held in Micronesia and this provided a special opportunity to celebrate and focus on conservation initiatives in the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, Northern Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands and Palau during the Micronesian Celebration.

In addition the Pohnpei Conference provided the opportunity to review the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region and set priorities for the coming four years. The Pohnpei Conference has called upon the international conservation community to "*share responsibility for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the regional and international actions of the Action Strategy*". SPREP will convene a roundtable meeting of these organisations with the hope to foster greater coordination, closer partnerships and more effective action for conservation in the region.

There was a tremendous feeling of goodwill and cooperation amongst all present and an amazing energy that pervaded the entire Conference week. In the weeks following the Conference SPREP received feedback that reinforced my own belief that the Pohnpei Conference is an achievement that will reap success for Nature Conservation actions for the Pacific in the new millennium.

The Pohnpei Conference innovative design began as Sue Miller and Barry Hoggs' dream of doing a Conference in a more 'Pacific style' that maximised participation from within the region. The key to success was the - faces of the Conference - the Pacific Team of Facilitators. I acknowledge with gratitude this team's hard work and dedication.

The Conference reports comprises three volumes:

- Volume 1 Conference Proceedings
- Volume 2 Conference TOOLBOX
- Volume 3 Conference Papers

The Conference Proceedings include the Opening and Closing Plenary, Resolutions, Recommendations and summarises all work done during the meetings. Volume 2, the Conference TOOLBOX, summarises work done before and during the Conference on the focus TOOLS for Conservation: protected areas (marine



protected areas and community-based conservation areas), enterprise development, conservation trust funds and the World Heritage Convention). Volume 3 comprises the Conference Papers presented to the Sixth Conference.

On behalf of all Conference delegates I wish to express our sincere appreciation to the partner agencies and sponsors of the Pohnpei Conference, and especially to the Government and peoples of the Federated States of Micronesia for hosting the Conference.

To all Conference participants - your dedication and sheer hard work made the Conference both a productive and very enjoyable event. I congratulate you on setting a new standard for meetings in the region.

The more than 170 participants to the Sixth Conference, by far the largest yet, indicates that the importance of, and interest in, nature conservation issues has grown in the region in recent years. Unfortunately this increase in activity is also an indicator of the increased need for nature conservation work due to unsustainable resource use, habitat degradation and biodiversity loss becoming all too common across the region.

From Tonga to Pohnpei the Sixth Conference built on the previous Conference through revision of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas and kept faith with the strong emphasis of community involvement and partnerships in conservation initiatives. In the four year journey from Pohnpei to the Cook Islands, the venue of the Seventh Conference, I urge you to keep that faith and renew your energy and commitment for the work ahead.

Tamari'i Tutangata

Director

South Pacific Regional Environment Programme



Acknowledgements

SPREP gratefully acknowledges its Partner Agency for the Pohnpei Conference – NZODA – New Zealand Official Development Assistance.

SPREP also gratefully acknowledges its key sponsors for the Pohnpei Conference: the UNDP/GEF/AusAID South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme, the World Heritage Fund, the Government of Australia and The World Conservation Union (IUCN).

SPREP sincerely thanks the Government and peoples of the Federated States of Micronesia and particularly the State of Pohnpei for their gracious hosting of the Pohnpei Conference. SPREP also thanks the traditional leaders of the State of Pohnpei, particularly the Iso Nahnken, for their tremendous support for the Conference. SPREP notes with deep appreciation the untiring hard work of the FSM Organising Committee, particularly FSM's Department of Resources and Development, Department of External Affairs, Pohnpei Visitors Bureau, and the Pohnpei office of The Nature Conservancy. Furthermore SPREP thanks FSM Committee members Francis Itimai, Okean Ehmes and Bill Raynor for their personal commitment to the success of the Pohnpei Conference. SPREP also gratefully acknowledges the participation and sponsorship of the private sector in Pohnpei, via the Pohnpei Tourism Association.

Approximately 70 percent of participants were funded by their own agency or secured their own funds to attend the Pohnpei Conference. These agencies and funding sources are too numerous to mention here, however, SPREP gratefully acknowledges this tremendous network of support.

SPREP acknowledges with deep appreciation the Conservation TOOL Facilitator Team and their respective agencies whose commitment ensured the success of the new 'Pacific-style' Conference; Russell Nari (Environment Unit, Government of Vanuatu), Noah Idechong (Palau Conservation Society), Francis Tarihao (Solomon Islands Development Trust), Emensio Eperiam (Pohnpei Historic Preservation Office, State Government of Pohnpei, FSM), Wep Kanawi (TNC), Isoa Korovulavula (SPACHEE), and SPREP officials Joe Reti, Lucille Apis-Overhoff, Michael McGrath, Sam Sesega, Tiare Holm, Sue Miller, and consultant Barry Hogg.

SPREP thanks Sebastian Anafel (FSM) and Seva Tabua (Fiji) for their expert leadership as Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the Pohnpei Conference. SPREP notes with appreciation the work of Audrey Newman (TNC) and Sam Sesega (SPREP) as co-Chairs of the Action Strategy Review Committee. SPREP also thanks Seva Tabua, Chair of the Resolution Committee. SPREP thanks the coordinators of the Sixth Conference Special Sessions; Jeremy Harrison (WCMC) and Tom Moritz (IUCN) who organised the South Pacific Conservation Areas Resource Centre Technical Session and Mick Clout (IUCN), Jean Yves Meyer (French Polynesia) and Lu Eldredge (Bishop Museum) for the Invasive Species Technical Session and Dianne Russell (BCN) for the NGO Partnership Session. SPREP thanks the Chairs of the Pohnpei Conference Paper Sessions; Bill Raynor (TNC), Dianne Russell (BCN), Seva Tabua (Native Land Trust Board, Fiji) Trevor Sankey (UNESCO), Bing Lucas (IUCN), Kathy Fry (FSP) and Chris Bleakely (GBRMPA). SPREP thanks Wren Green and David Sheppard from IUCN for convening the Pacific Regional meeting of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) during the Conference. SPREP also thanks the Pohnpei Watershed Project and particularly Bill Raynor for organising the pre-Conference field trip to this community-based conservation area.

SPREP thanks the delegates from Nauru, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Guam, Palau, Northern Marianas, Yap, Kosrae, Chuuk and Pohnpei and the cultural groups from Kiribati, Yap and Pohnpei who provided an unique insight into the conservation issues and culture of Micronesia through special presentations, music, song and dance. SPREP also thanks Okean Ehmes (FSM) for organising the Micronesian Celebration.



SPREP thanks Patrick Delhaye, Françoise Martineau and Emy Watt from Language Professionals Ltd for translation and interpretation services.

SPREP especially thanks Conference delegates; Nina Eejima (FSM), Dion Ale (Samoa), Toni Tipama'a (Samoa), Chris Bleakely (GBRMPA) and Kathy Walls (NZ) for volunteering and helping the Conference Coordination Team with all the last minute preparations that kept the Conference running smoothly.

Finally, SPREP wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Sixth Conference Consultant Dr Barry Hogg. Dr Hogg was a key part of the innovative and successful participatory design of the Sixth Conference's format and trained the Sixth Conference Facilitator Team, even while recovering from treatment for cancer. Unfortunately Dr Hogg could not come to FSM to see the success of the work he helped to create due to his illness.

Obituary

During preparation of these Conference reports Dr Barry Hogg passed away October 1998. Our deepest condolences extend to Barry's family and friends – he will be sorely missed.

Also, the Pacific lost a great friend and supporter when Mr Bing Lucas died suddenly in December 2000. Bing was a tireless worker for conservation and protected areas throughout the world, yet the Pacific always held a special place in his heart. As mentor, adviser and friend, Bing was always ready to serve.

Our deepest condolences to the families of Barry and Bing and to their many friends.

SPREP Conference Team

The SPREP Conference Team was led by SPREP's Director Mr Tamari'i Tutangata and consisted of Mr Joe Reti, Ms Ruta Couper, Ms Saronia Stanley, Ms Saunoa Matau, Ms Tiare Holm, Ms Lucille Apis-Overhoff, Mr Micheal McGrath, Mr Sam Sesega and Ms Sue Miller (Conference Coordinator).



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Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
BCN	Biodiversity Conservation Network
CBCA	Community-based Conservation Area
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CTF	Conservation Trust Fund
EDCI	Enterprise Development as a Conservation Initiative
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
FFA	(South Pacific) Forum Fisheries Agency
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
FSP	Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ICPL	International Centre for Protected Landscapes
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
ISSG	Invasive Species Specialist Group
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NEMS	National Environmental Management Strategies
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NZODA	New Zealand Official Development Assistance
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SPACHEE	South Pacific Action Committee for Human Ecology and Environment
SP-CARC	South Pacific Conservation Areas Resource Centre
SPBCP	South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SSC	Species Survival Commission
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WHC	World Heritage Centre
WHF	World Heritage Fund
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature



Introduction

The Sixth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas was hosted by the Federated States of Micronesia in the State of Pohnpei from 29 September – 3 October 1997.

The Sixth Conference was innovative in its participatory design and format with many individuals and agencies contributing significant time and energy to the pre-Conference process to ensure success. The Conference was well led by a trained team of Pacific Facilitators who represented the talent, skills and commitment of Pacific Island nationals in conservation and environment work. The facilitated Working Groups discussing lessons learnt and best practice were suited to a more ‘Pacific-style’ Conference.

The Conference focused on profiling and sharing lessons learnt in using four key TOOLS for conservation; Protected Areas, Enterprise Development, Conservation Trust Funds and the World Heritage Convention. A TOOLBOX of user-friendly guidelines for using these TOOLS in the Pacific islands region was produced (see Volume 2).

As in previous Conferences this meeting was an umbrella for a range of meetings and technical sessions. In addition to its main objective of producing the Conference TOOLBOX and beginning the review of the Action Strategy the Sixth Conference facilitated:

- an introduction to New Zealand’s new Environment Strategy,
- input to the region’s GEF Strategic Action Programme for International Waters,
- the first IUCN WCPA’s Pacific Regional Meeting,
- input to the development of a new regional invasive species programme,
- input to the development of an IUCN/WCMC/SPREP proposal for a conservation area resource centre
- discussions on how to partner best with NGOs,
- honouring the 1997 Pacific Year of the Coral Reef,
- launch of the ICPL/SPREP training and education programme for protected area managers,
- presentation of forty-two Conference papers,
- agreement on nineteen important resolutions for action on various conservation issues, and
- celebration of the culture and conservation initiatives of Micronesia.

These outputs are important ones for the region and testify to the crucial role that this Conference series plays as a watershed for both review of progress and setting future priorities. In addition to these outputs is the opportunity for delegates to mingle, talk, laugh, share experiences and celebrate their successes of the last four years of working in the difficult and often poorly resourced field of nature conservation. This role must not be overlooked in designing future Conferences.

The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in partnership with the host country, the Federated States of Micronesia, organised the Sixth Conference. New Zealand Official Development Assistance (NZODA) was SPREP’s Partner Agency and major sponsor of the Sixth Conference. Other key sponsors were the GEF/UNDP/AusAID South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme, the World Heritage Fund, the Government of Australia, and The World Conservation Union (IUCN).

Sue Miller

Sixth Conference Coordinator



Sunday 28th September 1997

Pre-Conference Field Trip

A field trip to the Pohnpei Watershed Project was organised by The Nature Conservancy (Pohnpei) and the Pohnpei State Department of Resource Management and Development. The Pohnpei Watershed Project is a community-based conservation area initiative. The field trip included a sakau ceremony, discussions and lunch in local villages and hiking through the area.

Monday 29th September 1997

Opening Plenary

Opening Ceremony

The Conference was held at the Supreme Court Building, Palikir, Federated States of Micronesia from the 29th September to the 3rd October, 1997. More than 170 delegates representing Governments, international governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and other institutions and individuals participated in the 'Pohnpei Conference'.

The Conference Opening Session was honoured by the presence of the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, The Honourable Jacob Nena, The Governor of Pohnpei States, The Honourable Del Pangelinan, the Iso Nahnken en Weisohn Nett, Iso Salvador Iriarte, the Paramount Chief of Yap, Charles Chieng and Tamari'i Tutangata, Director of SPREP.

Netatua Prescott (Tonga) Chairperson of the Fifth Conference called the meeting to order and invited Father Greg Muckenhaupt to lead the opening prayer and benediction.

Pohnpei State Governor Del Pangelinan welcomed all Conference delegates to Pohnpei and to the Federated States of Micronesia. He noted that this was a large and auspicious gathering of people not only from the Pacific but also from as far away as Europe, North America and the Caribbean, which suggested that the commitment to conserve nature is a common bond. Governor Pangelinan emphasised the pride that Pohnpei had in hosting the Sixth Conference, especially as this was the first time the Conference series had been held in the North Pacific. He wished all participants a successful and productive week.

Tamari'i Tutangata, Director of SPREP also welcomed all participants to the Pohnpei Conference. He last attended this Conference series in 1985 whilst working for the South Pacific Commission and he briefly outlined the background and achievements of past Conferences. In doing so he specifically acknowledged the commitment of Bing Lucas who had attended all Conferences to date. He further noted growth of interest in this Conference, noting the Pohnpei Conference was the largest to date and the importance of the enormous wealth of experience and wisdom that this Conference series has brought together over the years. Mr Tutangata pointed out that the region has come a long way since the first Conference in 1975, however, the problems and issues were still here and present larger threats today than 22 years ago.

Mr Tutangata thanked President Nena, Governor Pangelinan and FSM's traditional leaders for their warm welcome and support of the Pohnpei Conference. He noted that feedback from previous Conferences highlighted the need to "draw out lessons learnt, to more fully involve people from the region and to have less formal papers". SPREP had listened to this feedback and designed the TOOLS theme to cater for a more participatory, discussion-orientated forum.



He gratefully acknowledged the main donors to the Conference; the Government of New Zealand, the Global Environment Facility through the UNDP/AusAID South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme, the World Heritage Fund and The World Conservation Union (IUCN). He also thanked TNC, BCN, WCMC, and IUCN's WCPA and ISSG for their support of the Sixth Conference. He looked forward to the week at hand, especially the new style format. Finally, he thanked the Government and people of the Federated States of Micronesia and the State of Pohnpei for their warm welcome.

The President of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Honourable Jacob Nena officially opened the Conference by warmly welcoming all delegates to the Federated States of Micronesia. Although not an environmental specialist he has dreamed of reversing the trend of environmental damage experienced in FSM. It was thus with great pleasure that he was able to attend this important Conference noting that the task at hand was to come up with practical issues and solutions. President Nena emphasised the importance of Pacific island states working together at the regional and global levels to add value to national initiatives and to leverage support for conservation work. He reflected on the importance given to environmental issues by the recent South Pacific Forum and their support to SPREP as the region's environment agency. He wished participants success in developing the TOOLBOX and welcomed all again to Pohnpei.

Iso Salvador Iriarte, the Iso Nahnken en Weisohn Nett, also welcomed all delegates on behalf of traditional leaders and people of the island of Pohnpei. He emphasised the commitment and role that traditional leaders have for the environment of Pohnpei and FSM. He called on all present to help the men and women of Pohnpei to understand how to protect their lands, water and sea – indeed everything on and in these areas. Iso Nahnken committed to use his power and influence to support the implementation of actions recommended by the Conference and urged all to work hard and well during the coming week.

Toaripi Lauti (Tuvalu) thanked the President, Governor and the Iso Nahnken for their warm welcome, for hosting the Conference and for their inspiring speeches on behalf of all those present. He noted the excellent arrangements that were in place for the Conference and thanked the Director of SPREP and his staff together with the FSM Conference Committee.

Meeting Arrangements

Sebastian Anafel, Secretary, Department of Resources & Development (FSM) was unanimously elected as the Conference Chairperson. Seva Tabua, Native Lands Trust Board (Fiji) was elected as Vice Chairperson. Outgoing Fifth Conference Chairperson, Netatua Prescott thanked the FSM Government, donors and the SPREP Secretariat for their support. She reminded the Conference that the new Chairperson will remain in that position until the opening of the next Conference.

The provisional agenda was adopted (Annex 1). A List of Participants is given in Annex 2.

Sue Miller, SPREP Conference Coordinator briefly outlined the working arrangements for the meeting. She noted that the detail of objectives and outputs for the Conference or “how the Conference works” was the subject of a special presentation. She outlined the role and function of the main Conference bodies; the Resolution Drafting Committee, the Action Strategy Revision Committee, the Meeting Report and general arrangements for working hours, breaks and meals.

Opening Statements

Representatives from IUCN, UNESCO and BCN made brief Opening Statements.

The IUCN delegate, David Sheppard conveyed warm greetings from the Director General of IUCN, David McDowell. He noted IUCN's commitment and participation in the series of nature conservation Conferences and the development of this series into the pre-eminent conservation event in the region. He outlined IUCN's mandate in environmental and conservation work and its efforts to support practical



links between the conservation of nature and sustainable development. He hoped that the Pohnpei Conference would inspire and help build a larger role for IUCN in the region focusing on country priorities, adding value to existing work, and complementing and supporting the work of SPREP.

The UNESCO/World Heritage Centre delegate, Trevor Sankey conveyed the greetings of his Director, Bern von Droste and confirmed the commitment of UNESCO/WHC to promoting the work of the Convention in the Pacific. In this regard he noted with pleasure the Sixth Conference TOOL focus on the World Heritage Convention. He briefly outlined other UNESCO programmes such as Man and the Biosphere, People and Plants initiative, Diversitas programme, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and UNESCO's planned "Focus on the Pacific" to be held at the UNESCO General Conference in Paris in November. He encouraged all delegates to brief their UNESCO National Commissions on the outcomes of the Pohnpei Conference.

The BCN representative Dianne Russell, gave warm greetings to the Conference and outlined BCN's work in the Asia-Pacific region. BCN is a network of agencies funded by USAID and focused on evaluating enterprise development approaches for community-based conservation initiatives. Monitoring and on-site research were key components of the programme. They had six sites in the Pacific and were proud to sponsor some of the local community representatives to the Pohnpei Conference.

The Sixth Conference Chairperson, Sebastian Anafel thanked agency representatives for their warm words of support and adjourned the Conference for the official photograph and morning tea.

Conference Introduction

Keynote Presentation: "TOOLS FOR CONSERVATION"

The Conference TOOLS Facilitator Team: Russell Nari, Noah Idechong, Francis Tarihao, Emensio Eperiam, Wep Kanawi, Isoa Korovulavula, Joe Reti, Lucille Apis-Overhoff, Michael McGrath, Sam Sesega and Tiare Holm gave the Keynote Presentation "TOOLS FOR CONSERVATION". This was an innovative presentation of all four Conference TOOLS using music from the region. They focused on providing a commonsense working definition of each TOOL and background information on its use in the region to stimulate discussion. Participants also received full versions of the Discussion Stimulant Papers as part of the preparation for the week's TOOL Working Group session. Volume 2 Conference TOOLBOX contains full versions of the TOOL Discussion Stimulant Papers. Conference TOOLS were:

- TOOL 1a Protected Areas – Marine Protected Areas
- TOOL 1b Protected Areas – Community based Conservation Areas
- TOOL 2 Enterprise Development as a Conservation Incentive
- TOOL 3 Conservation Trust Funds
- TOOL 4 World Heritage Convention

Sue Miller, Conference Coordinator then outlined Conference Objectives and Outputs, the format for TOOL Working Groups and associated tasks, the process proposed for the revision of the Action Strategy and formulation of Conference resolutions.

Conference Objectives were:

1. To profile and share experiences in using four key TOOLS for conservation; Protected Areas (marine protected areas and community-based conservation areas), Enterprise Development as a Conservation Incentive, Conservation Trust Funds, World Heritage, and to develop user-friendly guidelines for using these TOOLS in the Pacific.
2. To provide a special focus on Marine Protected Areas in honour of the Pacific Year of the Coral Reef and input into the development of the GEF Strategic Action Programme for International Waters within the context of marine biodiversity conservation.



3. To provide a celebration of culture and conservation initiatives in Micronesia.
4. To clarify future directions for biodiversity conservation in the Pacific islands region, including the revision of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation.

Conference Outputs were

1. A “TOOLBOX” of guidelines to use the four key conservation TOOLS in the Pacific islands region.
2. Appropriate input to implementing the region’s GEF Strategic Action Programme for International Waters.
3. An agreed process and framework for developing a Revised Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific islands region.
4. Sixth Conference Resolutions and a process for implementing them.

Ms Miller outlined the process for reviewing the 1994-1998 Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific islands region and for Conference resolutions. Delegates had the opportunity to join one of these Conference committees to assist in those tasks during the week.

Ms Miller emphasised that except for the plenary sessions the Conference will operate in 3-4 smaller Working Groups focusing on discussion style format. Working Groups would each have two TOOL Facilitators who will present an initial overview to stimulate discussion. Working Groups would be run in a fun and very interactive way to maximise participation.

Finally, Ms Miller noted that this was a very new, more participatory-style Conference, based on feedback from previous Conferences. She urged all to keep faith and try this new format and to give constructive feedback on it for further Conferences in the series. She wished Conference delegates an enjoyable and productive week noting that the Conference Team was available to assist delegates with every aspect of Conference participation.

NZODA Environment Strategy

A special lunchtime session was held to profile New Zealand’s new Environment Strategy and support available for the region. Roger Cornforth, NZODA’s Environment Adviser led the session and provided copies of the strategy to interested delegates.

From Tonga to FSM

Joe Reti (SPREP) outlined major regional conservation achievements and arising issues since the Fifth Conference. He also gave situation updates on the objectives and actions recommended in the 1994-1998 Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific islands region and an update on implementing the Fifth Conference Resolutions.

Mr Reti noted that while there was no doubt that there have been many successes, most notably in the establishment of a large number of community-based conservation areas, it was important to learn lessons from these initiatives to provide a solid foundation for work in coming years. A full copy of the paper “From Tonga to FSM” (Miller and Reti, SPREP) is given in Annex 3 and of the Fifth Conference Resolution Report in Annex 4 (Miller, SPREP).

Signing of the ICPL – SPREP Memorandum of Understanding

Bing Lucas, representative of the International Centre for Protected Landscapes (ICPL) and Tamari’i Tutangata (SPREP) together welcomed and signed the Memorandum of Understanding between ICPL and SPREP for a joint programme of training and education for protected area managers and workers in the region. In signing the MOU Mr Lucas noted this an opportunity for a creative and cooperative partnership between ICPL and SPREP, where ICPL could link its global experience and expertise with Pacific experience and needs and can help with the “how” of conservation in the region. A copy of the signed MOU is given in Annex 5.



Action Strategy Review – Group Discussion

The general approach, framework, key gaps and new issues for the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific islands region were discussed and a process agreed by Conference participants for its review during the Conference. Delegates agreed to an Action Strategy Review Committee and tasked it to undertake a participatory process during the Conference to review the mission and objectives of the existing strategy and to propose a follow up process for completion of the new strategy for the Conference Plenary to consider.

Following discussion and agreement, the first meeting of the Conference Resolution and Action Strategy Review Committees were held. Day 1 concluded with “Summarising the Day” to prepare delegates for the work to come in the TOOL and other Conference sessions. Logistics of TOOL Working Group Sessions were outlined.

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia hosted a cocktail function in honour of the Sixth Conference.

Tuesday 30th September 1997

In honour of the 1997 Pacific Year of the Coral Reef a full day TOOL Working Group Session (4 concurrent groups) was held on Marine Protected Areas on Tuesday 30th September.

TOOL 1a Protected Areas – Marine Protected Areas

TOOL 1a focused on lessons learnt and best advice from experience gained in establishing and managing of marine protected areas. In the last twenty-five years more than sixty-five marine protected areas (MPAs) have been established in the Pacific islands region, with varying degrees of success. They ranged in type from strict ‘no-access’ nature reserves, single species ‘no-take’ zones, to the more recent community-based conservation area initiatives. This TOOL Working Group produced priorities and next steps for Marine Protected Areas in the Pacific islands region (see Volume 2 TOOLBOX). The Working Group also inputted into the development of the region’s GEF Strategic Action Programme for International Waters.

Wednesday 1st October 1997

Two separate TOOL Working Group Session (4 groups each) were held on Wednesday focusing on Enterprise Development as a Conservation Incentive and Community-based Conservation Areas.

TOOL 1b Protected Areas: Community Based Conservation Areas

TOOL 1b continued the focus on Protected Areas, specifically community-based conservation areas. During the past five years there was significant progress in both the establishment and initial management of Community-based Conservation Areas. This progress occurred through a range of partnerships with local people, government agencies, NGOs and SPREP. This Working Group looked at the experience gained from using this participatory, process-driven tool and produced guidance for Community-based Conservation Area Partnerships (see Volume 2 TOOLBOX).

TOOL 2 Enterprise Development as a Conservation Incentive

This TOOL focused on Enterprise Development, or sustainable income generating activities, which have been increasingly used to try to meet cash income expectations of local people involved in conservation initiatives. This tool has often been included as part of Conservation Area development and has been linked to building incentives for local people to conserve and sustainably use their resources and to share benefits from these initiatives. The TOOL Working Group used the experience gained with income generating initiatives to produce guidance focused on best current advice for Enterprise Development as a Conservation Incentive (see Volume 2 TOOLBOX).



Thursday 2nd October 1997 Day Summary:

Two concurrent TOOL Working Group Sessions were held on Thursday morning focusing on the use of Conservation Trust Funds and the World Heritage Convention.

TOOL 3 Conservation Trust Funds

TOOL 3 focused on the use of Conservation Trust Funds as a financing tool for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The Discussion Stimulant Paper was used to outline the experience in using Trust Funds at the local, national and regional level in the Pacific islands region. The Working Group will use this experience as well as expert knowledge to guide the TOOLBOX on issues and next steps for Conservation Trust Fund use in the region (see Volume 2 TOOLBOX). The Working Group also inputted into the development and implementation of a Regional Trust Fund aimed at supporting biodiversity conservation and sustainable development initiatives in the Pacific islands region.

TOOL 4 World Heritage Convention

TOOL 4 focused on the World Heritage Convention (1972) which promotes the conservation of cultural and natural heritage of 'outstanding value' through site listing and international support. The Discussion Stimulant Paper was used to outline the experience in using this convention in the Pacific islands region. Working Groups discussed experience gained and provided advice on the best use of this convention tool in the region (see Volume 2 TOOLBOX).

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) – First Pacific Regional Meeting.

IUCN convened its first Pacific regional meeting of the WCPA during the extended paper sessions on Thursday lunchtime. The meeting had four objectives:

1. inform delegates about past and present IUCN (The World Conservation Union) activities in the Pacific region, and about IUCN in general;
2. identify a few priority activities that could form the basis of an 'IUCN Pacific Programme'. These needed to be based on regional needs and existing IUCN strengths. A questionnaire was circulated to 35 Pacific conservation NGOs before the Conference to get an indication of conservation issues, organisational needs, and issues where they felt IUCN input could be useful;
3. identify a possible regional structure that would be helpful for implementing the priority activities and also for providing necessary links to the IUCN structure regionally, and to IUCN's headquarters in Gland, Switzerland;
4. encourage Pacific island organisations and individuals to join the IUCN family, either as members, or to help with the work of the IUCN commissions, which are global networks of volunteers with skills and experience relevant to IUCN activities

Over thirty Conference delegates attended the lunch-time session. IUCN was represented by its three regional councillors - Gai Kula (PNG), Diane Tarte (Australia), Wren Green (NZ) - as well as Bing Lucas and Tom Moritz (WCPA - World Commission on Protected Areas), David Sheppard (IUCN Headquarters), Mick Clout (SSC - Species Survival Commission). Jeremy Harrison also attended from WCMC - World Conservation Monitoring Centre, based in Cambridge, UK. The meeting was chaired by Gai Kula. A full report of the meeting is given in Annex 6.

Technical Session – Invasive Species

SPREP in partnership with IUCN's Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) convened a Technical Session, which aimed to develop a regional project concept for invasive species problems and issues for biodiversity conservation in the Pacific islands region. Introductory presentations were given by Dr Mick Clout (ISSG Chair), Dr Lu Eldredge (Bishop Museum) and Dr Jean Yves-Meyer (French Polynesia). Following a brief general discussion, a short survey of delegate's perceptions on their country's most serious invasive species problems was held and these are listed below. Overall brown tree snake was the



number one most feared potential introduction followed by *Miconia calvescens*, tilapia and giant African snail. The initial feedback indicated that rats and *Bufo marinus* were region-wide problem species. The Technical Session-Invasive Species also drafted a resolution, which was subsequently adopted by the Conference Plenary (Resolution 10 Invasive Species).

The Technical Session concluded that national quarantine services currently have an agricultural/disease focus only and biodiversity concerns are not often included. The exceptions to this were Hawaii, New Zealand and Australia. In addition there was low awareness and poor knowledge in most countries of potential and existing invasives, their distribution and the threats they pose. There was also often little enforcement of quarantine regulations.

Existing and Feared Potential Invasive Species Introduction in Pacific Island Countries and Territories

Micronesia

Federated States of Micronesia

Kosrae : Existing problems with *Bufo marinus*, monitor lizard, rat, *Trochus*, certain grass species and Japanese vine. Fear introduction of brown tree snake, fishpond/aquaculture species e.g. green snail, tilapia, pearl oyster etc.

Pohnpei: Existing problems with cats, rats, Norway rat, deer (impact on upland forest vegetation), *Bufo marinus* (impact on native insects), *Euglandina* (impact on native snails), *Wedelia trilobata* (competes with native vegetation), *Paraserianthes falcataria* (competes with native vegetation), *Spathodea campanulata* (competes with native vegetation), and *Chromolaena odorata* (competes with native vegetation) and giant African snail. Fear introduction of brown tree snake.

Chuuk: Existing problems with African snail, Polynesian rat, and thorny weeds. Fear introduction of brown tree snake.

Yap: Existing problems with rodents including a giant Chinese rat. Fear introduction of brown tree snake and giant African snail.

Palau

Existing problems with rats, cats, monkeys and cockatoos. Fear introduction of brown tree snake and tilapia.

Guam

Existing problems with brown tree snake (impact on native avifauna and herpetofauna), *Platydermus monokwari* (flatworm impact on native snails), Palmbrava (*Heterospatha sp.* competes with native ravine forest), *Leucaena* (still regarded as an attractive ornamental), *Chromolaena sp.* (competes with native plants), mealy bugs (attack endemic *Serianthes nelsonii*), pigs, sambar deer, *Bufo marinus*, *Gonaxis* apple snail, rats and cats. Fear introduction of *Miconia*.

Polynesia

Wallis and Futuna

Existing problems with liana, giant African snail, fire ants and rats. Fear introduction of *Miconia*.



Tonga

Existing problems with pigs, cats, and mice. Concern about aquaculture introductions including clams, *Trochus*, tilapia? as well as kauri timber trees and pines. Fear introduction of *Miconia*.

NZ Chatham and subantarctic islands

Existing problems with possums (Chathams - associated with vegetation destruction), Norway rat (Campbell - kills invertebrate predators, also megaherb destruction), pigs (Chatham, Campbell – impacts on ground invertebrates, birds, vegetation), cats (Chathams, Campbell – impacts on ground-nesting seabirds), Clean guava (Chathams – squeezes out indigenous vegetation on peat domes/ wetlands), gorse (Chathams – squeezes out indigenous vegetation on peat domes and wetlands), pasture grasses, herbs and rushes (Chathams and subantarctic islands – threat to herbfields).

Australia

Existing problems with rabbits (cause plant extinctions, animal declines), red fox (causing small mammal extinctions), *Bufo marinus* (replaces native frogs, kills predators), European carp (“river rabbits” causing major habitat modification, trout (“river fox” cause extinction of native freshwater fish), rubber vine (tropical climber), *Mimosa* (problem in tropical wetlands). Fear mustelid introductions.

Niue

Existing problems with a thorny plants species, fue kula (creeper), ornamental creepers, Honolulu rose, sunflower plant, rats, *Mikania*. Fear introduction of African snail.

Melanesia

Vanuatu

“have lots but no idea!”

Solomon Islands

Existing problems with fire ants, unknown ant species, cats, dogs, *Bufo marinus*, Polynesian rat, ship rat. Fear introduction of carnivorous snails.

Papua New Guinea

Existing problems with tilapia, *Bufo*?, water hyacinth, pigs, dogs and cats.

New Caledonia

Existing problems with tilapia, red ants, red claw crayfish, acacia, deer (impact on endemic flora), wild pigs (particularly threatened flightless kagu)

Technical Session – South Pacific Conservation Areas Resource Centre

WCMC (Jeremy Harrison) and IUCN (Tom Moritz), in partnership with SPREP, convened a Technical Session to discuss the merits of a proposed South Pacific Conservation Areas Resource Centre. This was part of a global initiative led by IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas. It was recognised that a great deal of work was being carried out by a range of organisations in the area of community-based conservation in the region. It was also recognised that there was no formal mechanism for exchanging information and experience, especially at the community level. Most information exchange was carried out on an *ad hoc* basis, frequently on the basis of personal contacts. A need was seen to facilitate a greater sharing of information and other resources between conservation area projects and the various organisations involved in community-based conservation.

The primary areas where increased information sharing would be useful were identified as,

- Community-based research and planning as the basis of effective conservation,



- Development and implementation of effective community environmental awareness strategies,
- Mechanisms for community-based resource management, and
- How to establish economically and socially sustainable income-generating activities that provide support for conservation activities.

Following discussions the Technical Session developed a draft resolution to support a South Pacific Conservation Areas Resource Centre aimed at facilitating the sharing of information, experiences and resources amongst all conservation area projects and organisations active in the field of community-based conservation in the Pacific islands region. This was subsequently adopted by the Conference Plenary as Resolution 7 – Pacific Islands Conservation Network.

Friday 3rd October 1997

NGO Partnership Session

An open discussion session was held to discuss developing partnerships, focusing on the cross-cutting issue of capacity building, with non government organisations for conservation initiatives in the region.

Participating NGOs gave a brief update on capacity building initiatives. The session then looked at capacity building recommendations from the Action Strategy and discussed areas of success, problems and needs and gaps in the current Action Strategy. The Session concluded with a brief discussion on other issues raised by participants.

Closing Plenary

The Sixth Conference Chairman Sebastian Anafel welcomed all delegates to the Closing Plenary of the Sixth Conference on Nature Conservation in the Pacific islands region. He noted that this final session had a number of Conference outcomes to finalise including:

- the revision of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific islands region,
- input to the GEF Strategic Action Programme for International Waters in the Pacific islands region
- the Sixth Conference TOOLBOX
- Sixth Conference Resolutions, and
- to agree the host country for the Seventh Conference on Nature Conservation in the Pacific islands region.

Revision of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific islands region

Audrey Newman and Sam Sesega, co-Chairs of the Action Strategy Review Committee reported on the findings of the group and its recommendations for the strategy's revision (Annex 7 Plenary Paper No. 1). The Committee reaffirmed the mission and six objectives of the strategy and also confirmed the continued emphasis on community-based conservation and its focus on the most critically needed actions. The Action Strategy Review Committee noted that the most significant issue for the strategy's use is lack of adequate monitoring and evaluation.

The Co-chairs presented the proposed title, mission, objectives and process for completion of the 1999-2002 Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific islands region and the process for its completion (Annex 7). Five substantial revisions were recommended to :

- develop key actions addressing the issue of intellectual property rights and ownership of access to genetic resources,
- identify and encourage ratification of conventions that may facilitate or support conservation in the region



- increase emphasis on prevention and control of invasive species (both marine and terrestrial),
- improve measures of success for capacity-building and
- describe practical methods for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the Action Strategy.

The Committee further recommended that all regional and international organisations with active programmes for nature conservation in the region agree to share the responsibility for implementing monitoring and evaluating the regional actions of the Strategy. They further recommended that SPREP convene a meeting of these organisations as a working group to foster greater coordination, closer partnerships and more effective action for conservation in the region.

The Conference fully endorsed all recommendations from the Action Strategy Review Committee as presented in Annex 7 and thanked the committee for its thorough work.

GEF Strategic Action Programme for International Waters of Pacific Islands

The Director of SPREP, Tamari'i Tutangata gave a brief update on the development of the GEF Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for International Waters of Pacific islands. He emphasised that the SAP is a strategy document and did not include project proposals. He noted that the SAP has been submitted to the South Pacific Forum for their endorsement in the week following the Conference.

Ms Sue Miller, Conference Coordinator outlined the Conference's input to the SAP process in the form of results from the TOOL discussions on marine protected areas and community-based conservation areas. She noted that this was consistent with the SAP, which identified Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as a high priority within SAP's focus on Integrated Coastal and Watershed Management.

Presentation of the Draft TOOLBOX

The Conference Team of Facilitators presented the draft TOOLBOX compiled from the Working Group Sessions. It was noted that this represented substantial outputs from the Working Groups., however, limited time prevented full compilation and review of these results. Following discussion the Conference adopted the draft TOOLBOX and agreed for the Secretariat and Facilitator Team to complete compilation and analysis of the Working Group outputs. The TOOLBOX as adopted by the Conference is given in Annex 8 . A final compilation of TOOLBOX material from the Conference is given in Volume 2 of the Conference Report. This compilation used Working Group outputs combined with the original Discussion Stimulant Papers and is presented as a 'snapshot' of the region's views, understanding and lessons learnt from each of these TOOLS at the time of the Conference.

Conference Resolutions

Conference Chairman Sebastian Anafel called on the Chair of the Conference Resolution Committee Seva Tabua (Fiji) to present the draft Sixth Conference Resolutions for adoption. Resolutions were amended as necessary and adopted one by one. The Resolutions are given in Annex 8.

Closing Statements

Closing Statements were made by the following delegates (see Annex 10):

- Kathy Fry, Foundation of Peoples of the South Pacific
- Sofia Bettencourt, World Bank
- Roger Jaensch Wetlands International – Oceania
- Seva Tabua, Government of Fiji
- Peter Taylor, Government of Australia
- Prof. Randy Thaman, University of the South Pacific



- Dion Ale, CASOs – Conservation Area Support Officers
- Navu Kwapena, Delegation of Papua New Guinea

Venue for Next Conference

Moses Biliki, representing the Government of the Solomon Islands, thanked participants, donors and organisers for a highly successful Sixth Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas that has delivered outputs well beyond expectations. Mr Biliki offered the Solomon Islands as the host country for the next Conference. The Chairman warmly accepted the offer on behalf of the Conference. In supporting the Solomon Islands as the host country for the Seventh Conference the Government of the Cook Islands noted their interest in hosting a future Conference.

*Due to unforeseen circumstances, and following thorough consideration of a number of factors, SPREP decided to postpone the Seventh Conference from September 2001 to July 2002 with the venue changed to Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

SPREP Closing Statement

Mr Tamari'i Tutangata, Director of SPREP, thanked all participants and donors to the Conference and acknowledged the tremendous spirit of giving at the Conference. He particularly acknowledged, with thanks, the support from the President and Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia. He noted that it was very gratifying to learn about the support for conservation efforts in the region. Mr Tutangata welcomed the participation of the private sector in the Conference and felt this was a good sign for partnerships needed for conservation in the region. Finally, he thanked the SPREP staff for their hard work and urged all to use the conservation TOOLBOX.

Chairman's Closing Statement

Conference Chairman Sebastian Anafel congratulated Conference participants on the outputs achieved during the week, confirming that these were of great importance to the region and were particularly useful outputs for the Federated States of Micronesia. He also thanked the Conference donors, organisers and those behind the scenes that ensured the smooth operation of the week's proceedings. He acknowledged the support from the Federated States of Micronesia, at the State and Federal levels, and the support from NGOs and the private sector in Pohnpei. The Chairman thanked his co-Chair, and the Chairs of the Resolution Drafting and Action Strategy Committees. He warmly thanked the SPREP Director and staff for their hard work before and during the Conference. He also congratulated the Team of Facilitators for their excellent role during the Conference. Mr Anafel thanked all participants for the privilege of chairing the Sixth Conference and entrusted the TOOLBOX to SPREP as the caretaker for conservation issues in the region. The Chairman finally thanked, in advance, and extended his appreciation to, the Government of the Solomon Islands for their offer to host the Seventh Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.

Chairman Anafel formally closed the Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas and encouraged all to immediately attend the Micronesian Celebration.



Micronesian Celebration

Delegates from Micronesian countries and territories (government and NGOs) provided an insight into the conservation issues and culture of Micronesia through special presentations, music, song and dance. This included:

- Pohnpei traditional chant “Ngiis” which explained the origin and beginning of Pohnpei
- Conservation initiatives –Nauru
- Conservation initiatives – Marshall Islands
- Conservation initiatives - Kiribati
- Dance – Kiribati Community on Pohnpei
- Conservation initiatives – Guam
- Conservation initiatives – Northern Marianas
- Conservation initiatives – Palau
- Dance - Yap State, FSM
- Conservation initiatives – Yap State, FSM
- Conservation initiatives – Kosrae State, FSM
- Conservation initiatives – Chuuk State, FSM
- Conservation initiatives – Pohnpei State
- Pohnpei Traditional Paddle Dance

SPREP Hosted Closing Function, The Village, Pohnpei

End of the Sixth Conference



Annex 1 Sixth Conference Agenda

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1

Sixth Conference Agenda

Sunday 28/9/97:	Pre Conference Field Trip
Monday 29/9/97:	Opening Plenary
Tuesday 30/9/97:	TOOL Working Group Sessions
Wednesday 1/10/97:	TOOL Working Group Sessions
Thursday 2/10/97:	TOOL Working Group Sessions, Action Strategy Follow-Up, Invasive Species Technical Session
Friday 3/10/97:	NGO Partnership Sessions, Closing Plenary, Micronesian Celebration
Saturday 4/10/97:	Post Conference Field Trips

Government, non government agencies, local communities and SPREP working in the Pacific Island region have made significant progress for nature conservation in the four years since the Fifth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, particularly in community-based conservation initiatives. It is timely that lessons learnt of *what has worked and what has not* are drawn out to benefit the conservation and sustainable use of the region's biodiversity.

With this in mind, four key nature conservation TOOLS will be focused on during the Sixth Conference, with the overall objective of producing a "TOOLBOX" of practical, solution-orientated guidelines for use. These will be built from the collective experience of '*what has worked, what hasn't and why*' in the Pacific islands region.

TOOLS focused on in the Sixth Conference will be:

- Protected Areas - marine protected areas and community-based conservation areas
- Enterprise Development as a Conservation Incentive
- Conservation Trust Funds
- World Heritage Convention

In honour of the 1997 Pacific Year of the Coral Reef a one day special focus on Marine Protected Areas is developed, as part of the Protected Area Tool. This special marine focus will also provide the opportunity to input into the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Strategic Action Programme for International Waters in the Pacific islands region within the context of marine biodiversity conservation. It is recognised that Marine Protected Areas include community-based conservation area approaches.

This is the first time the Conference has been held in Micronesia. It provides a special opportunity to celebrate and focus on conservation initiatives in the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Palau.

From Tonga to Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia the Sixth Conference will build on the previous conference through revision of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas and keep faith with the strong emphasis of community involvement and partnerships in conservation initiatives.



Annex 1 Sixth Conference Agenda

Conference Objectives

1. To profile and share experiences in using four key TOOLS for conservation: Protected Areas (marine protected areas and community-based conservation areas), Enterprise Development as a Conservation Incentive, Conservation Trust Funds, World Heritage, and develop user-friendly guidelines for using these TOOLS in the Pacific islands region.
2. To provide a special focus on Marine Protected Areas in honour of the Pacific Year of the Coral Reef and input into the development of the GEF Strategic Action Programme for International Waters within the context of marine biodiversity conservation.
3. To provide a celebration of culture and conservation initiatives in Micronesia.
4. To clarify future directions for biodiversity conservation in the Pacific islands region, including the revision of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation.

Conference Outputs

1. A “TOOLBOX” of guidelines for using the four key conservation TOOLS in the Pacific region.
2. Appropriate input to the implementation of the region’s GEF Strategic Action Programme for International Waters.
3. An agreed process and framework for the development of a Revised Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific region.
4. Sixth Conference Resolutions and a process for implementation of those resolutions.

Working Style

Except for the plenary sessions (Monday and Friday) the Conference will operate in 3-4 smaller Working Groups focusing on discussion style format. Each Working Group will have no more than 30 people and will divide into smaller groups of no more than 10 for discussion purposes. These Working Groups will each have two Facilitators who will present an initial overview to stimulate discussion. Working Groups will be run in a fun and very interactive way to maximise participation.

Saturday 27 September

1:00 - 5:00pm **Working Group Facilitators session at Conference Venue, Palikir**

Sunday 28 September

Field trip to Pohnpei Watershed Project

This will visit Pohnpei Watershed Project - a community-based conservation area initiative. It will involve a short hike, lunch in a village, a sakau ceremony and a discussion with local villagers on this project. Organised by TNC, Pohnpei State Department of Resource Management and Development and SPREP. Participants must register for this field trip using the SPREP Registration Form as numbers may be limited.

Monday 29 September

8:00 - 10:00 **Opening Plenary Session**

Prayer
Governor’s Welcome to Pohnpei State, FSM



Annex 1 Sixth Conference Agenda

SPREP Director's Welcome Address
FSM President's Opening Address
Pohnpei Traditional Leaders Welcome
Agency Opening Statements (agencies must register and provide written text, 3-5mins)
Meeting Arrangements - election of Chair (FSM), Agenda, Resolution Drafting
Committee, Action Strategy Committee, Conference report
Official Photograph

10:30-12:00 Conference Introduction

Keynote Presentation on Conference Theme
"TOOLS FOR CONSERVATION"

How this conference works

Conference Objectives and Outputs
Working Group TOOLS and Tasks
Action Strategy Revision
Sixth Conference Resolutions
How we plan to run the conference, what's in it for participants, the big picture

12:00-2:00 Lunch (completion of registrations) and lunchtime sessions

1:00-2:00 NZODA Environment Strategy

2:00-3:00 Action Strategy Review

"From Tonga to FSM..." & 1993 Resolutions Follow Up

A presentation with a report on:

Action Strategy Implementation
1993 Resolutions Implementation
Links to SPREP Action Plan

Finalisation of Action Strategy Revision process during conference

3:00-5:00 Smaller group discussions on:

Action Strategy Review - general approach, framework and key gaps/new issues. This will feed directly into Action Strategy Review Committee.
Resolution Committee - first meeting.

5:00-5:30 In the smaller groups - Summarising the day

Preparing people for the work to come. Setting out the logistics of the Working Groups.

7:00-9:00 Federated States of Micronesia Government Hosted Function

Tuesday 30 September

Working Hours 8:30 - 12:30, 2:30 -5:30

Working Group Sessions

8:30-12:30 Four concurrent Working Groups on TOOL 1a

"TOOL 1a" Protected Areas - Marine Protected Areas

The conservation and wise use of the coastal marine environment of Pacific Islands is fundamental to the well being of our people. In the last twenty-five years more than sixty-five marine protected areas (MPAs) have been established in the Pacific islands region, with varying degrees of success. They have ranged in type from strict 'no-access' nature reserves, single species 'no-take' zones, to the more recent community-based conservation area initiatives. These areas often include coastal land which can be key



Annex 1 Sixth Conference Agenda

for successful catchment management. A recent GBRMPA/IUCN/World Bank global assessment of both existing and proposed MPAs has renewed the focus on this conservation tool. To take advantage of both past experience, new opportunities for support and in honour of the 1997 Pacific Year of the Coral Reef, this Working Group will produce Priorities and Next steps for Marine Protected Areas in the Pacific islands region. The Working Group will also input into the implementation of the region's GEF Strategic Action Programme for International Waters within the context of marine biodiversity conservation. It is noted that this session will lead into the issues of community-based conservation areas (TOOL 1b).

12:30-2:30 Lunch and Lunchtime Paper Sessions

**12:45-2:20 TOOL 1 Paper Session - Protected Areas (marine, community-based)
TOOL 2 Paper Session - Enterprise Development as a Conservation Incentive**

2:30-5:30 TOOL 1a Working Group Session continued.

Wednesday 1 October

Working Hours 8:30 - 12:30, 2:30 - 5:30

Working Group Sessions cont.

8:30-12:30 3-4 concurrent Working Groups on TOOL 1b

“TOOL 1b” Protected Areas - Community-based Conservation Areas

During the past five years there has been significant progress in both the establishment and initial management of Community-based Conservation Areas. This progress has occurred through a range of partnerships with local people, government agencies, NGOs and SPREP. This Working Group will look at the experience gained from using this participatory, process-driven tool and produce Guidelines for Community-based Conservation Area Partnerships. These Guidelines will be practical; “what has worked - what hasn't”. They will contain key advice, based on lessons learnt, for all stakeholders (e.g. local communities, government agencies, NGOs and donors), in the establishment and initial management of these protected areas. Results from the Marine Protected Area Working Group will also be applied to developing these guidelines.

12:30-2:30 Lunch and lunchtime paper sessions

**12:45-2:20 TOOL 3 Paper Session Conservation Trust Funds
TOOL 4 Paper Session World Heritage Convention**

2:30-5:30 Four concurrent Working Groups on TOOL 2

“TOOL 2” Enterprise Development as a Conservation Incentive

In the past five years Enterprise Development, or sustainable income generating activities, has been increasingly used to try to meet cash income expectations of local people involved in conservation initiatives. This tool has often been included as part of Conservation Area development and has been linked to building incentives for local people to conserve and sustainably use their resources and to share benefits from these initiatives. This Working Group will use the experiences gained with income generating initiatives to produce guidelines focused on Best Current Advice for Enterprise Development as a Conservation Incentive. These Guidelines will be practical “what has worked - what hasn't” advice, for those involved in trying to make money and achieve conservation at the same time. Benefit sharing of such activities in these initiatives will also be reviewed.



Annex 1 Sixth Conference Agenda

Thursday 2 October

Working Hours 8:30 - 12:30, 2:30 -5:30

Working Group Sessions cont.

8:30-12:30 1-2 Working Groups on TOOL 3 concurrent with 1-2 Working Groups on TOOL 4

“TOOL 3” Conservation Trust Funds

Internationally Conservation Trust Funds are now being used more frequently as a financing tool for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. There has been limited experience in using Trust Funds at the local, national and regional level in the Pacific islands region. The Working Group will use this experience as well as expert knowledge to produce Guidelines on Issues and Next Steps for Conservation Trust Fund Use in the region. This Working Group may also input to the development and implementation of a Regional Trust Fund aimed at supporting biodiversity conservation and sustainable development initiatives in the Pacific islands region.

“TOOL 4” World Heritage

The World Heritage Convention (1972) promotes the conservation of cultural and natural heritage of ‘outstanding value’ through site listing and international support. There has been limited experience and use of this promotional support tool in the Pacific islands region. Only Fiji, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands are Convention members. However, there may be potential for the World Heritage TOOL to support Conservation Area development. This Working Group will use experience gained and expert advice to produce Potential Uses of World Heritage in the Pacific islands region and Next Steps.

12:30-2:30 Lunch and Lunchtime Sessions

**12:45-2:20 IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Pacific region meeting
General Conference Paper Session
Second Part of TOOL 1 Paper Session**

2:30-4:00 Concurrent Sessions on Action Strategy Follow up and a smaller Technical Sessions on Invasive Species and on a South Pacific Conservation Areas Resource Centre.

Action Strategy Follow Up

Presentation of Action Strategy Committee work followed by Working Group discussions to finalise the process and framework for the Revised Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific region.

Technical Session – Invasive Species

A small technical meeting will be held aimed at further developing a regional project concept for invasive species problems and issues for biodiversity conservation in the Pacific Island region in conjunction with the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group.

Technical Session – South Pacific Conservation Areas Resource Centre

A small technical meeting will be held aimed at further developing the WCMC/IUCN/SPREP initiative for a South Pacific Conservation Areas Resource Centre.

4:00-5:30 Final Action Strategy Review Committee meeting, Final Resolution Committee Meeting, Working Group Facilitators meeting to finalise draft TOOLbox.



Annex 1 Sixth Conference Agenda

Friday 3 October

Working hours 8:30 - 12:30, 1:30 - 6:00

NGO Partnership Session

This NGO Partnership Session aims to learn from, reinforce and build effective working arrangements between NGOs, Government Agencies, Donor Agencies, Intergovernmental Organisations and Local Communities involved in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use initiatives in the Pacific region.

11:30-12:30 Final Plenary Session

Revision of Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific Region - draft presentation and agreement on follow up process

GEF Strategic Action Programme for International Waters in the Pacific region - agreed marine biodiversity conservation input.

12:30-1:30 Lunch

1:30-3:30 Final Plenary Session cont.

Presentation of **Draft TOOLbox**

Agency/Participant Statements (register interest)

Presentation and adoption of **Conference Resolutions**

Other matters, venue for next conference....

Close of Plenary and adjourn to Micronesian Celebration

4:00 - 6:00pm

“Special Micronesian Celebration”

Celebration of culture and conservation initiatives in Micronesia

An opportunity to learn about the particular successes and experiences of conservation in Micronesia, as well as experiencing and enjoying their cultures and music and seeing how their way of doing things works for conservation.

7:30pm SPREP Hosted Evening Reception

Saturday 4 October

Field Trip Options, to be paid for by participants, are outlined in Delegates Conference Update 1. All participants must register for field trip options as places are limited. Payment will need to be paid in cash at Conference Secretariat office by Tuesday 30 September to confirm tour.

- Option 1 Nan Madol Tour \$30 USD per person
- Option 2 SCUBA diving \$65 USD per person
- Option 3 Mangrove Tour \$30 USD per person
- Option 4 Fishing (Trolling) \$50 USD per person
- Option 5 Snorkelling - Picnicking \$30 USD per person
- Option 6 Hiking (Sokehs) \$15 USD per person



Annex 2 Sixth Conference Participants List

ANNEX 2 Sixth Conference Participants List

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ANNEX 3

From Tonga to FSM

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I. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to provide a regional update on implementation of the 1994-1998 Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific Region and follow up on Conference Resolutions decided at the Fifth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas held in Tonga in 1993.

From Tonga to FSM... this paper summarises progress and raises key issues for nature conservation initiatives in the region. There is no doubt that there have been many successes, most notably in the establishment of a large number of community-based conservation areas in the region. However, it is critically important that the lessons learnt from these initiatives are captured to provide a solid foundation for work in coming years.

By looking back over the last four years of conservation work we can together learn from each other to build a stronger basis for further work and to produce a focused, achievable 1999-2002 Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific Region. This revised Action Strategy will need to take into account new issues, for example biosafety, and to reflect changing priorities at the local, national and regional levels.

II. Background

The first Action Strategy for Protected Areas in the South Pacific was produced by the region in 1985 during the Third South Pacific National Parks and Reserves Conference held in Western Samoa. The Strategy was subsequently revised in 1989 in Vanuatu at the Fourth Conference in the series. In Tonga (1993) delegates to the Fifth Conference whilst “recognising the value of the comprehensive approach taken by past strategies, agreed that a simpler and more focused approach was needed.” Delegates adopted the following Mission Statement and six major objectives:

1994-1998 Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific Region

Mission Statement:

To protect the rich natural heritage of the South Pacific forever through the conservation and sustainable management of its natural resources and biodiversity for the benefit of the peoples of the South Pacific and the world.

Major Objectives for 1994-1998

Objective 1

To develop National Environmental Management Strategies, or equivalents, for all countries and territories within the region and to begin implementing priority conservation and sustainable resource management actions in at least half of the countries and territories.

Objective 2

To develop and advocate appropriate funding mechanisms for the sustained support of conservation and sustainable resource management activities at the local, national and regional levels.



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Objective 3

To identify and address the most urgent threats to the region's biodiversity and protect the region's plant, animals and ecosystems for future generations.

Objective 4

To involve communities in co-operative natural resource management that recognises and strengthens local resource owner's rights and uses environmentally sound customs

Objective 5

To strengthen local expertise and technical ability in planning and implementing sustainable natural resource management programmes for marine and terrestrial environments through programmes of training and extension that use local expertise wherever possible.

In using this framework the Fifth Conference directed a drafting team to:

- set measurable objectives for the next 4-5 years,
- to prioritise key actions to accomplish these objectives
- to identify how (or by whom) these actions will be implemented, and,
- develop a way to regularly measure progress toward these objectives.

In keeping with the theme of the Fifth Conference the Action Strategy places a strong emphasis on the role of local communities and traditional knowledge in conservation initiatives, the importance of long-term funding mechanisms, the conservation of marine systems, the prevention of biodiversity loss and monitoring of objectives and actions implemented. The Strategy strongly promoted the use of community-based conservation areas "as the most promising approach for broad-based conservation in the Pacific". The resulting 1994-1998 Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific Region was adopted by the SPREP Intergovernmental Meeting in 1994 and was widely distributed throughout the region. It is important to emphasise that the Action Strategy is a strategy for use by all those involved in conservation initiatives in the region. It is also linked to SPREP Work Programme Areas in the SPREP Action Plan (1996-2001).

III. Progress with the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific Region 1994-98

A regional update of progress with implementation of the Action Strategy is given below. In addition, a summary of key implementation issues is also given from a regional perspective. The Sixth Conference will continue this review process through completion of the 'measures of success tables' and their associated objective/action implementation, an update on NEMS biodiversity actions outlined and on a country/territory basis.

Objective 1. National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS)

To develop National Environmental Management Strategies, or equivalents, for all countries and territories within the region and to begin implementing priority conservation and sustainable resource management actions in at least half of the countries and territories.

Situation Update

Reported by Neva Wendt, SPREP.

As reported in 1993 at the Fifth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, fifteen Pacific Island countries had completed or initiated NEMS or an equivalent planning process at that time. This process was in response to an increasing awareness in the region that environmental



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management and development are integrally linked and that adverse impacts from development projects can often be mitigated or avoided with advance environmental planning. Most of the NEMS were developed with broad participation by government agencies, education institutions, non-government organisations, the private sector and the community and they were endorsed by the national government. The NEMS identified strategies and Programme Profiles (specific projects) which would serve to put the strategy into action and these Programme Profiles have been incorporated into SPREP's Work Programme.

A significant feature of the NEMS and their associated Programme Profiles, is the strong emphasis each country has placed on biodiversity conservation, especially involving community participation, appreciation of traditional natural resource management systems, and improved environmental awareness and education. As part of the Action Strategy Review Process country delegates and NGOs are requested to provide information on progress with these in-country priorities.

Similarly a strong emphasis was also placed by countries on nature conservation and protected areas in the Legislation /Policy/ Institution Reviews (undertaken as part of the NEMS process), especially relating to the need for comprehensive nature conservation legislation and adequate enforcement procedures, involving traditional land-owners and assistance with implementing obligations under those International Conventions which relate to nature and species protection.

Objective One of the Action Strategy identifies local, national and international key actions which we were all called upon to strive to achieve between 1993 and today. Many of these Key Actions, such as:

- maintenance of, and support to, the inter-agency committees (or bodies such as the NEMS Task Teams);
- efforts to integrate NEMS with National Development Plans;
- institutional support through training and technical assistance to Environment Departments, especially through Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);
- development of environmental and conservation legislation;
- assessment of natural resources (using Geographical Information Systems) and associated State of the Environment (SOE) reporting; and
- assistance to countries with the process of becoming Parties to international and regional conservation conventions such as the Convention on Biodiversity, the Apia Convention, the World Heritage Convention and CITES,

have formed part of the Capacity 21 Project (an institutional strengthening programme which was created for six countries to assist the capacity building activities identified in their NEMS) and are part of SPREP's other Work Programme areas - noting that the NEMS (outlining nationally endorsed country priorities) form the basis for all SPREP Work Programme activities and our associated fund-raising efforts.

As we assess what progress each of us have made towards implementing our priorities as outlined in NEMS, we need to bear in mind that prioritisation of activities is an evolving process - what was our priority for specific activities in nature conservation identified under the NEMS back in 1993 may not still be our priority. Funding from elsewhere may have been received and other priorities may have emerged.

Finally, it is pleasing to note that since 1993 seven Pacific Island countries (FSM, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Niue) have ratified or acceded to the Convention on Biological Diversity. A total of eleven Pacific Island countries are now party to this convention.

Regional and international actions progress up date

(refer to Action Strategy document)



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- **Action 1.10 recommends to secure and coordinate regional and international funding and expertise for the development and implementation of the NEMS**

NEMS priorities are incorporated into SPREP's Work Programme and are well covered by SPREP's Action Plan objectives. In the last four years two significant programmes have assisted implementation of NEMS priorities, the Capacity 21 project and the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme.

- **Action 1.11 recommends providing technical assistance and training to countries to undertake environmental programmes, especially environmental impact assessment and monitoring.**

This is an ongoing activity in every SPREP Programme Area. Furthermore, SPREP's EIA project continues to provide training and technical support to build in-country capacity in using EIA and monitoring techniques.

- **Action 1.12 recommends to encourage multilateral and bilateral donors to recognise and support NEMS priorities, including the use of EIAs and sustainable resource practices, in their project design and execution.**

This is an ongoing activity at SPREP for those NEMS activities that remain a high priority to the country concerned.

- **Action 1.13 recommends assisting remaining seven territories in preparing NEMS**

Since 1993 the 'NEMS' project further assisted Nauru and Tuvalu in completing NEMS. Territories were not eligible for this support, however, many have undergone similar, although often more sectorally based initiatives.

Summary Progress achieved and Issues arising for Action Strategy Revision

Support to implementation of in-country NEMS activities remains a high priority within SPREP's work programme. Capacity 21 has significantly assisted this for six Pacific island countries and programmes such as the SPBCP have assisted implementation of NEMS biodiversity priorities e.g. the establishment of community-based conservation areas. However, it is recognised that issues and priorities change and further implementation of NEMS needs to take account of this. Progress with NEMS implementation needs to be assessed at the country level. The development of new strategic processes e.g. BSAP (Biodiversity Strategic Action Programme), a new phase of Capacity 21 and other initiatives will contribute to the overall objective of developing and implementing national environment strategic processes.

Objective 2: To develop and advocate appropriate funding mechanisms for the sustained support of conservation and sustainable resource management activities at the local, national and regional levels.

Situation update

The situation described in the Action Strategy remains valid today in 1997. Short-term project-based donor programmes are still the most common form of outside funding support to conservation initiatives. Initiatives such as Trust Funds, special taxes e.g. environment departure taxes, community-based sustainable income generating activities e.g. handicrafts, ecotourism, all indicate that agencies, both government and non government, are addressing or beginning to address this issue within the region.

Regional and International key actions update:

- **Action 2.7 Work with countries to secure support from multilateral and bilateral donors for: implementing national conservation priorities, establishing trust funds, support to conservation and sustainable resource management business ventures.**



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Providing support to secure resources for these outputs remains an ongoing commitment by SPREP and other non government and intergovernmental agencies. Major support for national conservation priorities has come into the region in the form of the SPBCP. SPREP has begun investigation into a regional trust fund (see Sixth Conference agenda and documents) which will require consultation and feedback from government and NGOs in the region to move forward. SPREP also continues to work with key donors in the region e.g NZODA, AusAID and the development of the NZODA Environment Strategy reflects considerable common interest, approaches and priorities for support in nature conservation.

- **Action 2.8 Provide technical and financial assistance to local communities and resource owners to launch sustainable, nature-based businesses.**

Considerable assistance has been provided to conservation area communities and opportune resource-based businesses initiatives (e.g. handicrafts, whale watching) to investigate and establish nature-based businesses in the region e.g. Profitable Environment Protection, TNC, WWF-SP and SPBCP programme initiatives. A key issue facing initiatives, which have had early success, is benefit sharing within communities. Many initiatives are too new to determine success or otherwise, however, small business failure is high in most countries often due to market factors largely outside the control of the business operators. Training and feasibility assessment in business enterprise at a scale appropriate to the expressed needs and capacity of local communities will continue to be a high priority need and first step in these initiatives.

- **Action 2.9 Provide technical assistance and material to assist countries and territories in establishing appropriate funding mechanisms to support conservation programmes.**

This action is part of the core services of SPREP to its members in assisting implementation of the SPREP Action Plan. In addition, many international NGOs and IGOs e.g. IUCN, TNC, WWF, FSP, UNDP, UNEP, ESCPAS, convention secretariats and others often work in partnerships to assist countries gain funding and establish support for conservation programmes. This is an ongoing activity. Considerable difficulty is often experienced in accessing financial support at the regional level for territories due to their ineligibility for current major sources of funds e.g. GEF.

- **Action 2.10 Investigate the potential for regional contracts with pharmaceutical, industrial and other biotechnology firms, incorporating appropriate criteria for protection of intellectual property rights.**

Regional contracts have not been investigated with the biotechnology sector, however, some nationally/locally based initiatives have taken place e.g. USP/BCN initiative with pharmaceutical companies and local communities for bioprospecting. This complex issue needs to be viewed in terms of not just protection of intellectual property rights but also access and ownership of genetic resources. Refer to narrative under Objective 4 Action 4.10. It is likely that regional contracts are not the recommended way to move this issue forward, rather regional guidelines on interactions with the biotechnology sector are required. Countries and communities have sovereign and traditional rights to these resources and these are not easily reconciled into regional contracts. In addition the variation in the presence, absence and effectiveness of copyright and patent laws in the region would hinder development of such contract including at the national level (see 4.10).

- **Action 2.11 Provide a critical review of sustainable income generation projects developed around the world suitable for conservation areas in the Pacific.**

Not done.

- **Action 2.12 Compile sample statistics on the contribution of nature-based businesses to local and national economies and their contributions to achieving nature conservation and environmental goals for presentation at the Sixth Conference (NGOs)**

Not implemented.



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Summary Progress Achieved and Issues Arising for the Action Strategy Revision

Considerable new resources have been secured in the region by SPREP, other intergovernmental agencies and NGOs to support conservation priorities at the local, national and regional levels. Key issues arising include the need to co-finance and have multi donor initiatives, particularly to mix the coverage of activities where certain donors are restricted in their activities and areas they can fund. Securing resources for territories in the region is difficult due to their ineligibility for many multilateral sources of funds e.g. GEF. However, many territories in the region have similar priorities for conservation initiatives and a similar lack of resources to address these. Actions outlined in the Strategy remain important guidance for the near future.

Objective 3 To identify and address the most urgent threats to the region's biodiversity and protect the region's plants, animals and ecosystems for future generations.

Situation Update

Since 1993, a number of countries have carried out resource inventories and surveys not only to assess the status of their biodiversity but also to identify resources under threat and the causes of such threats. Many of these surveys have resulted in proposals for the establishment of conservation area projects as a means of protecting threatened and endangered species and ecosystems

The SPBCP has been in the forefront of regional efforts to identify and address urgent threats to the region's biodiversity along with WWF-SPR, BCN, TNC and others. New initiatives such as NZODA's Pacific Environment Strategy will also complement current efforts.

The 1995 Year of the Sea Turtle campaign proved to be most successful in raising public awareness of the plight of this important resource in the Pacific region. Fiji, as a result of its national campaign had imposed a moratorium on the harvesting of sea turtles and other countries had indicated a desire to follow Fiji's example. Countries in the Indian Ocean have also agreed to declare 1998 as the Year of the Sea Turtle in that region. This follows on from the excellent work done by Pacific island states. The 1997 Pacific Year of the Coral Reef is also showing good results with a large number of countries now actively involved in national campaigns to save coral reefs in the region. It is particularly pleasing to note that so far, the Pacific region leads the rest of the world in implementing activities related to the International Year of the Coral Reef. Other programmes relating to the conservation of avifauna and marine mammals are also being implemented through the SPREP work programme, but there is certainly a need to do more in these areas. SPREP is also anticipating the development of a programme on invasive species in the near future.

Overall, progress under this objective of the Action Strategy is considered satisfactory although it is recognised that threats to the region's biodiversity in the next few years are expected to continue and likely increase. Co-operative effort by all the stakeholders will be vital if these threats are to be adequately addressed and/or avoided.

The Action Strategy identified local, national, regional and international key actions to achieve this objective. A brief summary of action taken follows, including updates on local and national actions.



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Local and National Key Actions update:

- **Action 3.1 Establish at least one model conservation area under community management to demonstrate biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and community economic development.**

Under the SPBCP, 14 conservation area projects have been established in 11 countries in the region. Three other areas have recently been approved. A number of these areas have incorporated income generating activities, such as ecotourism, within their projects while others are investigating options for sustainable development.

- **Action 3.2 Identify immediate, major threats to the endangered, threatened or vulnerable ecosystems and species and implement management, protection and education projects to address or avoid them.**

Actions are continuing, however, not much progress has been made in the establishment of other forms of protected areas such as sanctuaries, strict reserves and ex-situ conservation. The likely reasons for this are (a) lack of funding support for these types of protected areas and (b) the inappropriateness of these types of protected areas to Pacific island situations.

- **Action 3.3 Integrate population and conservation programmes to promote better understanding of population trends and resource needs, land use planning at the local level for projected population growth, and sustainable resource use.**

Socio-economic surveys of communities involved in CA establishment have recently been undertaken although to a large extent, these have not been integrated into conservation programmes. More work will need to be done in this area.

- **Action 3.4 Review and modify current laws, regulations and policies that currently allow unsustainable resource use.**

Only a small number of countries have developed EIA regulations to minimise or prevent adverse impact of development on natural resources. It is noted however that some countries are now in the process of developing biodiversity strategies which, it is hoped, will result in the review, revision and modification of existing laws that allow unsustainable use of resources. It is also worth noting that community by-laws are proving to be most effective in regulating and controlling use of natural resources at the local level.

- **Action 3.5 Develop a prioritised list of introduced plant and animal pests that threaten the country's biodiversity.**

Plans are underway to develop an invasive species programme for the region. Such a programme will address the key issues recommended here.

- **Action 3.6 Identify indicator species or other measures for monitoring the condition of marine and terrestrial resources in at least one conservation area.**

Surveys recently carried by conservation area projects will help them identify indicator species. The SPBCP is also in the process of developing criteria (including social and economic criteria) for measuring success of CA projects.

Regional and International Key Actions Update

- **Action 3.7 Building on the SPBCP, work closely with countries to develop a series of conservation areas that demonstrate protection of biodiversity, ecologically sustainable use of natural resources, and community economic development.**

As earlier stated, conservation areas supported by the SPBCP have as a key component the establishment of income generating activities. They are intended to serve as models for the integration of biodiversity conservation and economic development. Time will tell whether these will be successful or not.



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- **Action 3.8 Develop specific regional strategies and national management plans for endangered, threatened or vulnerable ecosystems and species.**

Regional strategies for marine mammals, avifauna and turtles already exist and have been variously implemented in the last 10 years. An Action Plan for Wetland Conservation has been developed and approved by Pacific island countries. With assistance from UNDP, a number of countries are currently preparing Biodiversity Strategies. Only a small number of countries have prepared national management plans for threatened species and ecosystems.

- **Action 3.9 Work closely with resource development agencies and the private sector to design and test sustainable approaches to major resource extraction activities outside conservation areas.**

Conservation Area Coordinating Committees (CACCs) established by SPBCP-supported CA projects include representatives from development agencies such as forestry, fishers, agriculture and tourism who are assisting local communities in the design of activities within the CAs. Testing approaches developed by these groups on activities outside CAs have yet to be done.

- **Action 3.10 Identify potential and established introduced plant and animal pests in the region and work with countries to develop and implement effective prevention and control programmes.**

As earlier indicated, an invasive species programme will soon be developed for the region with assistance from the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group. AusAID has provided funding assistance for this purpose.

- **Action 3.11 Provide technical assistance in developing laws, regulations and policies that protect biodiversity.**

Assistance has been provided on a request basis mainly under the SPBCP although there has not been a great deal of requests relating to the development of laws and regulations. There is a need to provide greater assistance to territories who are not eligible for SPBCP support.

- **Action 3.12 Develop standard, repeatable survey methods for monitoring terrestrial and marine resources of high ecological value.**

A training workshop for conservation officers under the SPBCP on monitoring and evaluation, which included survey methods, was conducted in 1996. However, no attempts have been made to standardise such methods.

- **Action 3.13 Develop methods to strengthen the social, cultural and demographic analyses in environmental impact assessment to detect and address potential impacts on affected populations and their natural resources.**

Not implemented.

Summary of Progress Achieved and Issues Arising for the Action Strategy Revision

Overall progress since 1993 appears satisfactory although more work remains to be done, Model Community-based conservation areas that aim to integrate conservation and development are in place in several countries. Regional strategies for the conservation of marine mammals, sea turtles and avifauna are being implemented and a regional invasive species programme is being developed. Work is underway to develop and use standardised monitoring techniques for marine and terrestrial resources and several communities have imposed traditional bans on commercial harvesting of certain species.

Identification of new areas of high biodiversity value for conservation purposes remain an important priority for the revision of the Action Strategy. The provision of technical and financial support for existing and new CA projects will also need to be continued. Intellectual Property Rights and Biosafety



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issues also need to be addressed and so does the need to better integrate population issues into conservation area planning and design.

Objective 4 Local Communities and Customs - To involve communities in co-operative natural resource management that recognises and strengthens local resource owner's rights and uses environmentally sound customs

Situation Update

Over the past four years both government and NGO conservation have sought to work more with local communities in co-operative conservation programmes. This is well shown in community-based conservation areas established in the region during this time.

As noted in the Action Strategy a key constraint experienced is the limited extent of project planning, business and management skills among local communities. Many training and skill-based programmes are seeking to address this on a project by project basis. However, the need for up-skilling is not only for local communities, but equally for those government and non government agencies that seek to work with these communities.

Another key constraint is that the time frame of community decision-making processes is often significantly longer than that of donor project horizons. This is well shown in the time needed to establish meaningful commitment and partnerships with local communities for conservation area establishment.

Regional and international actions progress up date

- **Action 4.9 Recommended involving local communities as a prerequisite for funding by donors.**
In the last four years this approach has certainly been trialed. For example a requirement for SPBCP Conservation Area support is demonstrated commitment by local communities involved to the concept and process of establishing their community-based conservation area before further establishment and management support is given. In this experience resources were given for initial concept development to both government and NGO agencies so that they could consult and build a partnership with local communities. However, full implementation funding required demonstrated community commitment. This process-driven flexibility is recommended to allow agencies to establish working relationships with local communities rather than a prerequisite for project funding. This requirement should be a prerequisite in project design and for implementation of community-based conservation initiatives where the process of partnership building is well demonstrated.

- **Action 4.10 Recommended supporting the development of legal mechanisms for protecting intellectual property rights of indigenous people and resource owners.**
In the last four years:
 - NGO agencies, such as the Pacific Resource Concerns Centre, have held forums to address IPR issues,
 - Some organisations e.g. the University of the South Pacific are working alongside local communities and the private sector to address access and use of local knowledge and genetic resources,
 - international forums, particularly the CBD, are addressing this issue and many Pacific island countries are party to these processes, and
 - SPREP has begun to address this complex issue in joint initiatives with the Foundation of International Environment Law and Development under the Convention on Biological Diversity. This project is focused on providing legal capacity building on issues important to Pacific Island Parties to the Convention.



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Effective protection of intellectual property rights is a large and complex issue. Lessons learnt in the limited work carried out in this region include:

- need to jointly address IPR and access to and ownership of genetic resources at the same time (bioprospecting)
- limited capacity and knowledge in PICs to address this issue at national and local levels
- the difficulty in addressing this issue in countries where there is no effective copyright and patent laws
- difficulties in defining exactly who owns what knowledge
- unhelpful international decisions and practices e.g European Union decision on ownership and use of genetic material, USA company patents on genetic materials.

There appears to be no PIC that has successfully implemented an effective legal mechanism to protect local community rights or national rights in this regard. However, in a few countries e.g. the Solomon Islands, research-permitting processes are being amended to help protect such rights.

- **Action 4.11 Recommended support for the collection of traditional knowledge and regional information base on customary resource management.**

In the last four years, issue and project based collection of this type of information e.g. in traditional fisheries (USP), turtle resources (SPREP) has been undertaken. However, no regional information base has been developed. It is suggested that this is perhaps more effectively carried out using an issue-based approach and designed with end use in mind. Significant opportunities exist to document customary resource management in community-based conservation areas as part of the process of sustainable resource management. In all cases local owner agreement for knowledge documentation, use, access and acknowledgement should be negotiated to protect local owners of such knowledge.

Summary Progress Achieved and Issues Arising for Action Strategy Revision

In the last four years initiatives to involve local communities have been trialed and used in PICs. It is fair to say that for the most part the need to involve local communities and to support the use of environmentally sound customs is well recognised across the region. However, we are all learning lessons of how to practically achieve this involvement and the use of this approach needs to be extended beyond a 'trial' or 'pilot' basis.

Significant time is needed to build meaningful working relationships with local communities and this is often years longer than donor project time frames. Government and NGO agencies are thus often finding themselves caught in trying to meet and match the needs of donors who fund them and the communities they are working with.

All partners in these conservation initiatives need training and skill building, not just local communities. Learning is a two way process between the agencies and communities they are working with. In particular, the need for facilitation skills training in government and NGO agencies is recognised.

Protection of Intellectual Property Rights needs to be addressed as a higher priority issue under the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This issue needs to be addressed jointly with the ownership of access to genetic resources. It is recommended that perhaps this issue should be addressed as an objective in its own right in the Action Strategy.



Objective 5 Training and Extension - To strengthen local expertise and technical ability in planning and implementing sustainable natural resource management programmes for marine and terrestrial environments through programmes of training and extension that use local expertise wherever possible.

Situation Update

In the last four years significant training and new positions in conservation initiatives have been undertaken by government, NGOs and agencies such as SPREP, however, the situation as described in 1994 is largely unchanged. Pacific islands do not have sufficient capacity to implement sustainable development. Environment and conservation agencies are still under-staffed and under-resourced. In addition many national environment agencies have had, e.g. Cook Islands, FSM States, or are likely to have staff reductions, due to changes in domestic government funding and support. It often appears that accessing funds for implementing projects is relatively successful, however, donors are reluctant to support staff positions and there are usually too few trained staff in-country who have the capacity to implement a project. This often results in reliance on outside consultants for short-term work.

In 1994 it was noted that "virtually no effort has been made to harness the community's traditional skills and capacity for conservation and sustainable development". The early success of community-based conservation area programmes e.g SPBCP, TNC, WWF supported CAs, are starting to 'harness' these skills and capacity and to use these as a basis for conservation activities.

Regional and international actions progress up date:

- **Action 5.6 Recommends assisting with the assessment of country training needs.**

Agencies such as SPREP, SPC, TNC, WWF, USP, CI and many others continue to assist both the assessment of training needs and implementation of these needs, largely on a project, programme or issue basis. Individual initiatives are too numerous to list here. Training on this basis is largely task focused and short term to meet the needs, for example, of implementing a project and are largely aimed at those adults already in jobs in government or NGO agencies. This certainly is a valid approach but does not substitute for a longer term focus on training needs in these areas for future generations i.e. targeting school age children and those focused on technical and university based training.

- **Action 5.7 Recommends to provide financial and technical support for priority in-country training identified in the training needs assessment and identified in national actions.**

See report on Action 6. Ongoing.

- **Action 5.8 Recommends to conduct regional training courses on identified priority skills required for the effective implementation of terrestrial and marine conservation programmes.**

See report on Action 6. Agencies such as SPREP, USP, SPC and others are well known for regional workshops and training courses. SPREP's SPBCP has, for example, held regional training initiatives to support community-based conservation areas in the region .e.g. ecotourism, monitoring and evaluation, conservation area support officers etc. Increasingly, it is recognised that capacity exists for more targeted, local in-country training programmes that 'learn by doing'.

- **Action 5.9 Recommends to assess the feasibility of establishing a training centre and/or mobile training units within the region to build national resource management and biodiversity conservation skills, and if feasible, support establishment.**

To SPREP's knowledge, this has not been implemented.



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Summary Progress Achieved and Issues Arising for Action Strategy Revision

Capacity building by strengthening local expertise and technical ability remains an ongoing need in implementing sustainable natural resource management programmes in the region. In the last four years local capacity has increased e.g. through community conservation area programmes and associated training, however, this remains a high priority ongoing need in both existing and future initiatives. In a broader sense a more strategic, long-term career-orientated focus is needed to encourage today's youth to train in conservation work. Priority for development of such programmes would be to provide these in the region. Increased opportunities also exist to use experienced local expertise in training. In particular those in-country staff in government and NGO agencies that have been responsible for the establishment and initial management of community-based conservation areas.

Objective 6 Environmental Awareness, Information Sharing and Partnerships - to improve environmental awareness and information sharing and to build working partnerships at the local, national, regional and international levels in support of conservation activities.

Situation Update

The trend of increased involvement of NGOs and in environmental awareness, information sharing and partnerships for conservation work continued strongly in last four years. Outreach, especially through community-based conservation area programmes, to resource owners, local communities and others also increased. However, in looking across the region it is fair to note that this is largely at a pilot scale i.e 1-2 CAs per country .

Involvement of the private sector in conservation initiatives is still very limited in most countries and territories. Joint programmes with business sectors such as small-scale tourism e.g. whale watching, CA tourism show signs of success, however, wider private sector involvement in conservation initiatives remains extremely limited in the Pacific islands region.

In the last four years the region also experimented with its first two regional conservation awareness campaigns; the 1995 Year of the Sea Turtle and the 1997 Pacific Year of the Coral Reef. These campaigns involved a large range of government and non government agencies and are distinguished by their active campaign networks who designed and implemented these campaigns facilitated by SPREP. Although the turtle campaign was viewed as successful many lessons were learnt and these were used in the development of the PYOCR. In general SPREP members have responded positively to campaigning and have designed useful and successful in-country activities. In-country species campaigns have also proved popular and successful. Of particular note is the bird conservation initiatives promoted by RARE that have been used in Samoa, Palau and Pohnpei. In these campaigns a key focus was on building national pride in endemic birds and through pride and awareness raising to motivate people to take action for conservation.

Often the most successful conservation initiatives are distinguished by four-way partnerships; local community, government agency, in-county based NGOs and assistance from agencies such as SPREP, BCN, WWF and TNC. Effective partnerships remain the key to effective conservation initiatives.

An increasing challenge is to provide effective information sharing mechanisms. As the number of conservation initiatives increases at the local, national and regional levels it becomes increasingly both time and cost intensive to ensure that information is shared and networks are maintained. On a long term basis the four yearly South Pacific Conference series assists information sharing, particularly of lessons



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learnt. However, more regular, timely information sharing mechanisms are required and they are most likely to need user-friendly, end-use designed computer based information services. Users are key to designing these information services and the Sixth Conference will look at user requirements for a South Pacific - Conservator Areas Resource Centre, an initiative proposed by WCMC, IUCN and SPREP. Wider initiatives such as the development of 'clearing house mechanisms' under international conventions also need investigation and development. The GEF/UNDP facilitated Biodiversity Strategic Action Programme (BSAP) in CBD Pacific Island Parties may provide a useful strategic focus to clarify user needs in this regard.

It is envisaged that most of these actions will be ongoing priorities in the coming four years.

Regional and international actions progress up date::

- **Action 6.8 Recommends to support information and experience exchange to communicate success and failures (and develop guidelines) for key aspects of conservation and sustainable resource management.**

In the last four years, organisations such as SPREP continue to support meetings, workshops and conference invitees to assist implementation of this Action. Of significant note is the local community study exchange tours of CAs. In this initiative local community representatives actively involved in their CAs have had the opportunity to visit other CAs to experience first hand how other communities are working on conservation activities.

- **Action 6.9 Recommends to develop and maintain a regional information base with current information on island ecosystems and species for conservation, major threats, and sustainable development opportunities. Establish linkages with existing networks and among island countries to encourage information exchange. AND**
- **Action 6.10 Recommends to assist with the development of appropriate in-country resource databases to help guide conservation and sustainable development, decision-making and implementation.**

In the last four years some progress has been made in information base development. SPREP continues to develop GIS and database services to its members. This includes state of the environment information, GIS data, turtles, consultants and other information services. There is a need for a comprehensive assessment of biodiversity information requirements needed by users at the regional and national level. This should integrate information needed for national, regional and international agreement and convention implementation. Country biodiversity information bases have been developed in the Cook Islands and Samoa and lessons learnt from these may assist other countries in developing information bases to meet their needs. Networking of these country and regional information bases and developing such bases through user-needs assessment and end-use requirements will be key approaches to ensure successful further development of such initiatives.

- **Action 6.11 Recommends to conduct a study on the effectiveness of specific educational tools (e.g. written material, posters T shirts, slides, videos etc) for the two key audiences in the Pacific (local villagers and national decision-makers), and develop guidelines for targeting educational efforts for maximum effect.**

Not implemented.

- **Action 6.12 Recommends to develop and use a set of consensus principles to build public and private partnerships that provide optimal support and technical assistance to countries and local communities for achieving their conservation priorities.**

No consensus principles have been developed to date by the region. However, SPREP's new Action Plan is clearly based on such a set of organisational principles aimed to maximise partnerships and to optimise support and technical assistance to SPREP members to achieve their conservation priorities.



Annex 3 From Tonga to FSM

- **Action 6.13 recommends to provide support and technical assistance to the region's:**

- network of environmental journalists
- teachers, schools and education departments for curriculum development; and,
- national and community groups in media and publications

SPREP continues to provide these services, largely through its Publication and Information Services, Environmental Education Programme and targeted projects such as campaigns.

- **Action 6.14 recommends to periodically poll the region to gather data on access to information and services, progress on this Action Strategy, and the effectiveness of other regional activities.**

SPREP's annual, now biannual, intergovernmental meetings provide a key opportunity for SPREP members to recommend changes in SPREP's Work Programme to improve their access to information, services and regional activities that meets their needs. Through SPREP Focal Points, member countries and territories also direct their access to information and services. SPREP also seeks to maximise such services to collaborating organisations and agencies in the region. Due to limited staff capacity and resources SPREP has been unable to implement this Action for assessing progress on the Action Strategy's implementations. However, the process of assessment and revision of the effectiveness of the Action Strategy has now started and will continue at the conference. It is recommended that this issue of resourcing monitoring and evaluation of future Action Strategies be addressed during the conference and that the responsibility should not solely remain with SPREP. SPREP's role is one of facilitation and co-ordination.

- **Action 6.15 recommends to disseminate scientific/technical information and traditional/customary knowledge on conservation and resource management through the publication of meeting reports, topic studies, bibliographies and a register of Pacific resource people.**

SPREP continues to provide this service. A specific register of Pacific resource people has not been developed, however, SPREP's consultant's database and collaborating agencies lists largely provide this information.

- **Action 6.16 recommends continuing to produce and distribute education materials on regional environmental issues in an interesting and informative way, where possible in local languages.**

SPREP continues to produce these materials to meet member country and territory needs. This is done not only by SPREP's Environmental Education programme but also by project related initiatives at SPREP. SPREP also continues to produce local language versions on a user-needs request basis.

Summary Progress Achieved and Issues Arising for Action Strategy Revision

Recognition of the importance of education and information programmes continues to grow with some innovative national and regional campaigns being undertaken in the last four years. Partnerships for conservation, particularly with NGOs have also markedly grown in the last reporting period, including involvement of non-conservation NGOs such as religious groups. Growth in the use of the internet as a means of communication has been high but not yet really influencing access to information on the environment. Likewise development and use of databases is in its infancy in the region for environmental information management. A significant limiting factor is the lack of evaluation tools for many education and awareness programmes, this includes the absence of effective polling mechanisms



ANNEX 4

Progress Report on Implementation Resolutions Adopted at the Fifth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

Kingdom of Tonga, 4 –8 October 1993

Sue Miller and Joe Reti, SPREP

Purpose

To provide delegates to the Sixth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas (Sixth SPCNPA) with an update on progress achieved with implementation of Resolutions adopted by the Fifth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in 1993.

Introduction

Eighteen resolutions were adopted by the Fifth SPCNPA in Tonga in 1993. Progress made with each of these is briefly summarised below. It is noted that in general, as with the Action Strategy, some progress has been achieved on most of the resolutions recommended to the region. The general guidance provided by resolutions to both government and non-government agencies at the local, national and regional level appears to have been heeded. This includes advice on partnerships for conservation, incentives, establishment of community-based conservation areas, use of traditional resource management, conservation related legislation, working with NGOs, joining of international conventions etc. Yet for each of these general resolutions there remains much work to be done and their advice today is as valid in 1997 as it was in 1993.

Many resolutions requested SPREP to undertake specific activities. These included:

- developing principles for partnerships,
- educational and training initiatives,
- development of partnerships with religious organisations/ Pacific council of Churches,
- options for trust fund establishment,
- assistance with international convention implementation,
- assistance with legislation development,
- co-ordination of four yearly conferences,
- revision of a Directory of Protected Areas, and
- a new invasive species programme initiative.

Each of these initiatives requires resources (staff, funding) for implementation. SPREP has begun work on each of these resolutions with varying degrees of success in terms of accessing resources for implementation and progressing work with recommended agencies. This is reflected in the substantial progress made in the establishment and management of community-based conservation areas, which is partly due to the increased SPREP staff and resources provided by the GEF/UNDP/AusAID SPBCP. Lack of progress on resolutions that request specific action from SPREP is largely due to limited staff resources and time required to develop and secure funding for initiatives recommended in these resolutions. It is not expected that SPREP's staffing and resources for nature conservation initiatives will change substantially in the coming four years and delegates are requested to keep this in mind when recommending specific action to be undertaken by SPREP.



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In developing and agreeing resolutions for the Sixth Conference, delegates are requested to carefully consider

- what action they are asking for or recommending,
- who are they asking to take action on an issue and by when,
- how they or their organisation are prepared to contribute to implementing the resolution.

Progress with implementation of Fifth Conference Resolutions

Resolution 1 - Partnerships for Conservation

Resolution 1 urged SPREP to develop, in close consultation with governments and NGOs, a set of principles to guide these organisations in their efforts to develop effective partnerships with local people. Elements of principles are reflected in the design and operation of programmes such as the SPBCP, species conservation strategies and in SPREP's Action Plan (1996-2001). However, SPREP has not to date facilitated development of such a set of principles. Working Group Sessions at the Sixth Conference that focus on key questions arising out of the use of initiatives such as community-based conservation areas and enterprise development may easily form the basis of this set of principles.

Resolution 2 Incentives for Conservation

Resolution 2 provided guidance on how incentives for conservation could be used to support conservation initiatives by local resource owners and users. There is a general belief that direct incentives or compensation measures to encourage local communities to conserve their resources do not work. The importance of linking any incentive measures to local decisions to conserve biodiversity is well recognised in the region and reflected in programmes such as the SPBCP.

Resolution 3 - Mechanisms to Avoid Immediate Threats to Biodiversity.

Resolution 13 recommended that agencies involved in supporting the establishment and management of community-based conservation areas in the region ensure that mechanisms are put in place to avoid immediate threats to the area concerned.

This general advice has been heeded and reflected in the substantial progress made in the establishment and management of community-based conservation areas in the region in the last four years. However, it is recognised that while agencies supporting such conservation initiatives can promote mechanisms to avoid 'immediate threats', implementation of these mechanisms are largely carried out by local communities. Perceptions of what threats are, and urgency of actions needed to address threats, varies amongst stakeholders in these initiatives. It is noted that significant time and partnership building is usually required to achieve such agreement and this is necessary to ensure the sustainability of any mechanism used to 'avoid immediate threats'.

Resolution 4 - Traditional Resource Management

Resolution 4 urged organisations to recognise traditional resource management rules which contribute to the sustainable use of resources and to assist communities with the application of these rules. Recognition of the importance of traditional resource management has increased over the last four years and is reflected in the design and implementation of government and NGO programmes in the region. This advice remains key guidance to the design and implementation of future community-based initiatives.

Resolution 5 - Education and Training

Resolution 5 provided guidance to SPREP, member governments, international and local NGOs to implement a range of general recommendations on education and training. These broad recommendations are incorporated into the design and implementation of SPREP's Environmental Education Programme



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and many are also incorporated into education and outreach initiatives in nature conservation programme areas e.g. species programmes, conservation areas programme. The recommendations in Resolution 5 are recognised as generic and provide ongoing guidance to all agencies involved in education and training for ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of resources in the Pacific islands region.

Resolution 6 - Role of Non Government Organisations

Resolution 6 urged governments to involve NGOs in the development and implementation of environment and development policies and conservation areas. A significant trend in the last four years is the increasing involvement of NGOs in nature conservation initiatives in the region, particularly in the form of partnerships with governments, local communities and other agencies. The most successful nature conservation initiatives in the last four years often are those that have a solid foundation of partnerships between government, NGOs and local communities. It is expected that this trend will continue in coming years as partnerships further develop.

Resolution 7- The Importance of Church Organisations

Resolution 7 urged SPREP, member governments and NGOs to work closely with Church organisations to further conservation and environment programmes in the Pacific. Working relationships between religious groups and conservation organisations have generally increased in the past four years as part of the overall trend of increasing community involvement in conservation initiatives. This involvement is reflected in community-based conservation area programmes and in education/outreach programmes e.g. Year of the Sea Turtle campaign. However, there remains great potential for working with religious groups and engaging organisations such as the Pacific Council of Churches in cooperative conservation initiatives.

Resolution 8 - Establishment of Trust Funds

Resolution 8 urged SPREP to investigate options for the establishment of trust funds to support conservation initiatives, especially urgent ones, which have a strong community commitment. Trust Funds have not been widely used at the local, national or regional level to date in the region. Delegates are referred to the Conservation Trust Fund Discussion Stimulant paper tabled at the TOOL Working Group Session for the Sixth Conference for further information on use of Trust Funds in the region. SPREP, in partnership with ESCAP, has also prepared a draft concept proposal for a South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Trust Fund and delegates will receive a copy of this for comment and input during the Sixth Conference. This paper investigates options for establishment of a regional trust fund to support conservation initiatives.

Resolution 9 - International Convention on Biological Diversity

Resolution 9 urges member countries to sign and ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity, and requests that SPREP assist with the development and implementation of national legislation. Eleven Pacific Island Countries are party to this convention. This includes five new parties since 1993. SPREP continues to provide assistance to implementation of this convention in the region. In partnership with the Foundation of International Environment Law and Development (FIELD), SPREP has developed and secured funding for a project aimed at building capacity for implementing the CBD in Pacific Island countries. Funding has been secured from UK ODA (June 1997) and other agencies (IUCN, WWF) have expressed interest in working collaboratively on this programme.

Resolution 10 - Relationship between National Legislation and Local Communities

Resolution 10 urged member governments to enact conservation legislation to take into account traditional management systems and concerns of local communities. Some environment and conservation legislation has been developed in the last four years e.g. Fiji's Sustainable Development Bill, Tuvalu's



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Marine Conservation Area draft legislation. SPREP has provided ongoing legal advice and assistance where possible in this area.

Resolution 11 - Other International Conventions

Resolution 11 urged countries that have not already done so to become parties to certain Conventions. Since 1993 the following countries have acceded to or ratified the following conventions:

- Convention on Biological Diversity - Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Niue, Solomon Islands, Western Samoa have acceded to this convention in the last four years. There are currently eleven Pacific Island countries party to this convention.
- Bonn Convention - no new parties since 1993.
- CITES - no new parties since 1993, current parties to this convention are Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea
- Ramsar Convention - no new Parties since 1993.
- World Heritage Convention - Papua New Guinea. There is currently three Pacific island countries party to this convention.
- Apia Convention - It is disappointing that there have been no new members of this convention in the last four years.

It is important to note that the Convention Secretariats of CITES, Ramsar (assisted by Wetlands International) and the World Heritage Convention have been active in the region during this time with special focus meetings e.g CITES, World Heritage and a range of project based initiatives e.g. training of heritage managers. SPREP continues to provide support and advice to countries through its programme of assistance to implementation of international conventions.

Resolution 12 - Four yearly South Pacific Conferences on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

Resolution 12 recommend that such meetings continue on a four yearly basis. During the Fifth Conference (Tonga, 1993) the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia offered to host the Sixth Conference scheduled for 1997. SPREP began preparations for the Sixth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in October 1996. A draft Agenda and call for input to the conference format was made in April 1997. The final Agenda reflected feedback from the region to have a less formal, discussion-orientated conference that could draw out lessons learnt in conservation initiatives carried out in the past four years. This has resulted in the theme of 'TOOLS for Conservation' and the working group session format. The full budget was secured for the conference in July 1997. Successful fund-raising has ensured participation of seventy-six SPREP funded delegates from government and non government organisations. More than 160 delegates have registered for the conference. It is especially pleasing to note the high number of self-funded delegates which is a strong indicator of both interest and commitment to nature conservation by governments and NGOs.

SPREP member countries and territories are invited to consider hosting the Seventh South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas scheduled in four years time (2002).

Resolution 13- Revised Directory of Protected Areas

Resolution 13 recommends that SPREP, IUCN, international NGOs and national agencies assist in the production of a revised directory of Protected Areas in the South Pacific for the Sixth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.

The World Conservation Monitoring Centre, SPREP and IUCN began work on this resolution in early 1997. With support from SPREP, WCMC has produced updated datasheets for protected areas in the



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region based on information provided by government, NGOs and SPREP's SPBCP. Delegates are invited to check these revised datasheets during the conference and provide any further updated information to SPREP/WCMC so that a revised directory can be completed. In discussions it became apparent that a wider issue of biodiversity information management issues for protected areas needs to be addressed. With this in mind WCMC/IUCN/SPREP have scheduled a Technical Session on a proposed South Pacific -Conservation Areas Resource Centre. Delegates are invited to this session to assist development of this proposal. This work is divided into three phases; the completion of the revision of the Protected Areas Directory (Resolution 13), information needs analysis for protected areas at the Technical Session (2.10.97) and finally design of a SP-CARC to meet expressed needs of users in the region.

Resolution 14 - Marine Environment

The Resolution recommended that agencies support efforts to ensure that local communities play the major role in establishing and managing marine conservation areas and other strategies that result in the wise and sustainable use of the marine environment and resources of the South Pacific. This resolution has been implemented in the manner in which marine conservation areas have been promoted in the last four years. This is shown in community-based conservation areas supported under programmes such as SPBCP and NGOs including WWF's South Pacific Programme and The Nature Conservancy. Recently, support to community-based marine conservation areas has been given a high priority in the GEF International Waters Strategic Action Plan which may become a significant source of support for marine conservation areas identification, establishment and management in the coming four years.

Resolution 15 -Invasive Species in the South Pacific

Resolution 15 requested SPREP involve the IUCN-Species Survival Commission in undertaking a review of conservation problems caused by invasive species in the South Pacific and give practical advice on how to prevent introductions of invasive species, how to deal with them when they occur, and how to restore invaded ecosystems. Expertise within IUCN's Invasive Species Specialist outlined a draft Proposal to "Review the Problems of Invasive Species in the South Pacific Region". SPREP was able to secure financial support for this initiative and make contacts with expertise on invasive species in the region. This proposal and a joint programme between SPREP and IUCN to assist work on invasive species issues in the region will be further developed at a Technical Session on Invasive Species at the Sixth Conference (Thursday 2.10.97). Delays in implementing this resolution are largely due to limited SPREP staff resources to develop and manage this new initiative.

Resolution 16 -Appreciation of the Conference

Resolution 17 - Appreciation to Contributing Organisations

Resolution 18- Appreciation to Pacific Environmentalists

No follow up action required.



Annex 5 ICPL – SPREP Memorandum of Understanding



**International Centre For
Protected Landscapes**

ANNEX 5

**South Pacific Regional
Environment Programme**



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

CONCERNING

**THE PROMOTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF CONSERVATION
MANAGEMENT SKILLS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION**

BETWEEN

**THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR PROTECTED LANDSCAPES
(ICPL)**

AND

**THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
(SPREP)**



Annex 5 ICPL – SPREP Memorandum of Understanding

Preamble

Whereas the International Centre for Protected Landscapes (hereinafter called “ICPL”) is an international, non-governmental, environmental organisation based at the Science Park, Aberystwyth, Wales, United Kingdom

Whereas the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (hereinafter called “SPREP”) is a regional, intergovernmental, environmental organisation based at Apia, Samoa

Whereas ICPL provides advice, research and training services to help others to safeguard and enhance natural and cultural resources within viable programmes of social and economic development

Whereas ICPL offers a range of courses from basic conservation management skills at a certificate level, to more complex management skills at a diploma level and on to a postgraduate level

Whereas the certificate and diploma courses take the form of in-country training workshops while the postgraduate degree is offered via a distance learning facility or on a residential basis

Whereas SPREP’s **goal** is to build national capacity to protect and improve the environment of the region for the benefit of Pacific island people now and in the future

Whereas SPREP’s **mission** is to promote cooperation in the South Pacific region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations

Whereas, *inter alia*, SPREP’s **objectives** are to:

- protect natural heritage through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- plan, manage and regulate development in a manner that is environmentally sustainable; and
- strengthen environmental education, training and information systems

Whereas SPREP is required, *inter alia*, by its **guiding principles**, first to encourage cooperation both within the region and among other regions of the world in developing appropriate technology, policies, programmes and information to solve common problems and, second, to work through governments, existing institutions and expertise in the region, and in cooperation with appropriate regional bodies and mechanisms, to promote coordination and remove duplication of effort

Whereas SPREP, through the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme, has pioneered an approach to conservation management based firmly on achieving sustainable development through community-owned natural resource management which has developed out of the needs of the region recognising its cultural, political and organisational values



Annex 5 ICPL – SPREP Memorandum of Understanding

Now therefore ICPL and SPREP, **believing that** there is an urgent need for training for conservation management in the South Pacific region

Further believing that development of a joint training programme would result in a significant contribution to the training, skills and knowledge levels of conservation area managers and practitioners throughout the South Pacific region

Have agreed as follows

Objectives

ICPL and SPREP will:

1. jointly develop a series of training programmes for environmental conservation managers and practitioners throughout the South Pacific region
2. seek funding to establish such training programmes on a long-term, sustainable basis.

Obligations

ICPL and SPREP will:

1. develop a programme of vocational, in-country training workshops organised and run by ICPL and designed to meet needs identified by SPREP
2. investigate the establishment of relevant training programmes and courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels
3. consider the establishment of a joint research programme
4. develop funding programmes to support the long-term financial stability of these initiatives
5. endeavour to involve other interested organisations in these proposals.

Collaboration with Other Organisations

In seeking to attain these Objectives and Obligations, ICPL and SPREP will endeavour to enlist the cooperation and collaboration of relevant regional and international institutions and non-government organisations with an interest in conservation management issues in the South Pacific region; in particular, but without exclusion, they will seek to involve the University of the South Pacific, or another appropriate university, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the World Wildlife Fund and if necessary will amend this Memorandum of Understanding, or enter into complementary Memoranda of Understanding, in order to formalise such collaboration.



Annex 5 ICPL – SPREP Memorandum of Understanding

Arrangements

The above points set out the general framework of the intent of this Memorandum of Understanding. Further details of specific activities and programmes may be dealt with from time to time by separate Letters of Understanding.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by mutually agreed exchange of letters between the Parties

The duration of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be five years, renewable for such further period or period and on such terms as may be agreed between the Parties

Progress towards the Objectives, Obligations and other matters in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be reviewed annually by the Parties by means of a process to be agreed between them

Either Party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by serving six months' notice of intention to do so on the other Party

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the last date of signature of the Parties.

P.H.C. Lucas
Fellow, ICPL,
for the International Centre
For Protected Landscapes (ICPL)

Date

Tamari'i Tutangata
Director,
South Pacific Regional Environment
Programme (SPREP)

Date



ANNEX 6

Report of the IUCN Meeting held at the Sixth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

1.0 Purpose of Meeting

Although IUCN has been involved with conservation work in the Pacific islands for over 20 years the time has come to invigorate its work in the region. IUCN's Director-General, David McDowell, had expressed his desire to see a more vigorous role played by IUCN in Pacific island activities at an IUCN Meeting in New Zealand in February 1997.

The meeting therefore had four objectives. These were :

1. inform delegates about past and present IUCN (The World Conservation Union) activities in the Pacific region, and about IUCN in general;
2. identify a few priority activities that could form the basis of an 'IUCN Pacific Programme'. These needed to be based on regional needs and existing IUCN strengths. A questionnaire was circulated to 35 Pacific conservation NGOs in advance of the Conference to get an indication of conservation issues, their organisational needs, and issues where they felt IUCN input could be useful (results in Attachment 1);
3. identify a possible regional structure that would be helpful for implementing the priority activities and also for providing necessary links to the IUCN structure regionally, and to IUCN's headquarters in Gland, Switzerland;
4. encourage Pacific island organisations and individuals to join the IUCN family, either as members, or to help with the work of the IUCN commissions, which are global networks of volunteers with skills and experience relevant to the IUCN activities.

2.0 Outcomes of the Meeting

Over thirty Conference delegates attended the lunch-time session. IUCN was represented by its three regional councillors - Gai Kula (PNG), Diane Tarte (Australia), Wren Green (NZ) - as well as Bing Lucas and Tom Moritz (WCPA - World Commission on Protected Areas), David Sheppard (IUCN Headquarters), Mick Clout (SSC - Species Survival Commission). Jeremy Harrison also attended from WCMC - World Conservation Monitoring Centre, based in Cambridge, UK. The meeting was chaired by Gai Kula.

2.1 Past and Present Involvement by IUCN with Pacific Islands

David Sheppard gave a brief introduction to the categories of IUCN members (presently over 870), its six commissions and how they work, and the Secretariat.

What can IUCN do for the Pacific? David suggested this could include :

- provide access to technical expertise and information on :
 - World Heritage
 - Information management (PARC programme)
 - Invasive species
 - Sustainable Use Initiative
- develop joint initiatives and projects (e.g. on marine protected areas);
- provide access to global forums and issues.



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In turn, what can the Pacific do for IUCN?

- share expertise and information (e.g. lessons learned from the community-based conservation areas initiative);
- link with and strengthen networks (e.g. on invasive species, information management).

Bing Lucas then summarised past involvement of IUCN in the Pacific. This included co-sponsoring the First South Pacific Conference in this series and supporting all subsequent conferences; co-operation with SPREP in major projects (RETA, EIAs, environmental legislation); information collection and management (Directory of Protected Areas - with WCMC and WCPA). Some of these activities continue today and others have been added, such as invasive species work, marine protected areas, Sustainable Use Initiative, assistance with World Heritage, and co-operation with NGOs.

(Note : unfortunately 100kg of IUCN booklets, publication lists and other material went astray en route to Pohnpei and did not arrive in time to be given to delegates.)

2.2 A Proposed IUCN Pacific Programme

The IUCN Oceania region includes Pacific island countries and territories, New Zealand and Australia. Membership is very uneven within Oceania. At present, there are about 68 members in total. Australia has 84% of these, New Zealand 10% and just 6% (4 members) come from the 22 island countries and territories. The same imbalances also apply to country representation on the IUCN commissions.

The first issue to be resolved is - should an IUCN Oceania Committee identify activities for Australia, New Zealand and Pacific islands, or should there be a focus, at least initially, on areas of greatest need, namely the Pacific islands?

This issue needs to go back to existing Oceania members for comment, but the view of this meeting was clear. For the next 5 years or so the regional focus should be on boosting membership in Pacific island countries and territories and this would logically involve activities originating from Pacific island needs.

Wren Green summarised the results of the 15 returns from the Pacific NGOs Questionnaire (Attachment 1). From a discussion of the results the following four activities were identified as an appropriate basis for an IUCN Pacific Programme. These were (not in priority order):

1. Invasive Species;
2. Marine Protected Areas/marine biodiversity;
3. World Heritage;
4. Information/Communication Networks.

This list reflected principles for IUCN involvement outlined by David Sheppard:

- tailor IUCN input to priorities identified from the Action Strategy, resolutions from the Sixth Conference, and NGO views;
- focus on areas where IUCN input will “add value” to existing programmes;
- pick activities that will help build capacity at both government and NGO levels;
- aim to complement and support SPREP and other regional ‘players’, such as The Nature Conservancy (TNC), WWF and other organisations.

As well as assisting the three other programme areas, there needs to be a conscious and explicit effort to establish communication and networking skills and tools. The Committee should also have a responsibility for promoting the needs of the whole Oceania region in the development of the IUCN Programme.



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2.3 Proposed IUCN Oceania Committee

All Conference delegates had been circulated earlier in the week with a discussion paper that outlined options on a possible regional IUCN Committee for Oceania.

This paper emphasised the need to start small, keep it simple, minimise costs, be flexible, and focus on a few priority activities.

The meeting recommended that the Oceania Committee comprise :

- Oceania Councillors (3);
- One person co-ordinating each of the agreed activities (4 proposed);
- Commissions invited to participate through nominated observers.

This structure provides flexibility, representation changes as activities change; it provides for turnover as councillors complete their terms; it provides for sub-regional representation of views to the Council and Secretariat through the three councillors. It is important to identify people from Pacific islands to carry responsibilities for some of the 4 proposed activities.

The one unresolved issue was where the regional committee might find an administrative “home”. One option would be for an existing IUCN member in Oceania to provide the administrative support required for start-up purposes. A staff member from the SPREP Secretariat suggested there could be merit in placing a person within the SPREP Secretariat for this purpose. This would require negotiation and identification of funding sources.

3.0 Follow- Up Actions Required

The IUCN Oceania Councillors will be responsible for the following actions.

3.1 Endorsement of Proposals by Oceania Members

Working through the Australian and New Zealand national IUCN Committees and directly with Pacific Island members, they will seek endorsement of the proposed Oceania Committee and IUCN Pacific Programme from Oceania members. Although the IUCN Statutes allow for regional committees to be formally recognised by the IUCN Council, this action was not considered necessary at this early stage.

3.2 Form the Committee

Following endorsement or modification by members, the Councillors will then identify the other people required for the Committee in consultation within the region and with Commissions.

3.3 Identify an Administrative ‘Home’ for the Committee

As the needs become clearer, the Councillors will endeavour to find an appropriate administrative “home” for the Oceania Committee. They will also consider the related issue of administrative support needs.

3.4 Increase IUCN Membership in Pacific Islands

Material will be sent to all delegates who expressed an interest in IUCN membership for their organisation (States, government agencies, NGOs). People interested in being invited to serve on commissions will also be contacted. Other delegates interested in information about IUCN membership should write to: IUCN Headquarters, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196, Gland, Switzerland. (Please copy to one of the Oceania Councillors, for information.)



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ATTACHMENT 1

Results of NGO Questionnaire

This summarises the results of a questionnaire sent in September to about 35 Pacific Island conservation NGOs, including a few based in other countries but with large Pacific programmes. Results were received from 16, representing views from Papua New Guinea, Hawaii, Solomon Islands, Pohnpei, Vanuatu, Fiji and Samoa. The results should therefore be read as indicative, but not fully representative of Pacific views.

Question 1. What are the main issues your organisation is involved with at present?

Three issues stood out clearly: developing community-based conservation models and building community capacity for these; funding mechanisms for conservation; forest/logging problems.

The next most common grouping of issues was: developing community-based monitoring; enterprise development (in support of conservation areas); coastal/marine issues; capacity building for NGOs. Twenty-six wide-ranging issues were scored in total, including managing tourism, mining, conflict resolution between landowners, conservation education and water quality issues.

Question 2. What are the four priority conservation problems in your country at present?

The two major problems identified were: inadequate capacity for conservation (both at NGO and government levels), and linked to that, inadequate funding for conservation activities, again at both government and NGO levels.

The next most common problems given were: logging/deforestation (especially in Melanesia); conserving marine biodiversity; and population growth. Other problems to show out in the list of 25 were: poor government support for conservation; unsustainable economic priorities; land degradation; and low public awareness of conservation issues.

Question 3. Organisational Needs.

NGOs were asked to rank the following factors as to their importance to increasing their organisational effectiveness.

Three factors clearly stood out as the most important:

- more financial support
- training for staff and office holders, to include
 - office management
 - natural resource management
 - monitoring skills
 - fund raising/proposal writing
- better links to other Pacific NGOs

The next two priorities were:

- better information on conservation issues in the Pacific
- increased membership

Lowest priority rankings went to:

- more influence with media and politicians
- computer and fax facilities
- Internet connections (half the sample had Internet)



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Note: It could be that responses from more national level NGOs would have placed a higher priority on acquiring computing and communication hardware.

Other unprompted needs listed were: capacity building, institutional development, business partnerships.

Question 4. What 2-3 issues do you think would be most useful for IUCN to assist with either in your country or in the region?

The clear top three issues were:

1. providing support for capacity building
2. assistance with securing project funding
3. developing communication networks for information exchange.

The next most commonly identified issues for possible IUCN assistance were:

4. marine conservation issues
5. technical assistance
6. wetlands
7. legal and policy support for community-based conservation areas
8. help with NGO training.

Conclusions

When one reviews the results some consistent themes emerge. Capacity building at NGO and community levels is both a common focus of effort and an area where more assistance is needed if present conservation efforts are to be effective. Funding is a perennial issue, for government agencies as well as for NGOs. Better communications, networks and information flows are a key to improved effectiveness - especially in such a large region with such high travel costs. As far as conservation issues is concerned the one that emerges most consistently is that of conserving marine biodiversity and related coastal management problems.

The proposed list of initial activities for an IUCN Oceania Committee picks up issues 3 and 4 from this list. Priority issues 1 and 2 are the focus of other NGO Pacific programmes, the SPREP Action Plan 1997-2000, and donor programmes, which could possibly include IUCN expertise. Certainly IUCN has a number of publications that would assist capacity building. Invasive species are certainly a serious problem in the Pacific islands, but probably involve management agencies more than NGOs. World Heritage is relatively 'new' to Pacific islands and drew a very positive response at the workshop session.



ANNEX 7

Sixth Conference Final Plenary Paper

Revision of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific Region 1994 -1998

Introduction

The review of the 1994 *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific Region* at the conference reaffirmed that the mission and six objectives still reflect the priorities for the region. The discussions at this conference also confirmed that we should continue to emphasise the use of community-based conservation, and the 1999-2002 Action Strategy will highlight the promising progress of the past four years. The attached mission and six objectives in a new order are recommended to the Plenary.

At the request of the 1993 Conference, the *Action Strategy* is simple and brief to maintain focus on the most critically needed actions rather than being a shopping list of possible activities. Proposed revisions for the 1999-2002 Action Strategy include:

Proposed 1999-2002 Action Strategy

1. **Title** - Change the title of the document to *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands 1999-2002* to recognise that the islands of the North Pacific are included. This will also help address a common misconception that SPREP has total responsibility for this action strategy.
2. **Objectives** -
 - Reorder the objectives to follow a more logical sequence.
 - Revise the name and text of the *NEMS* objective to reflect the focus on Planning and Legal Frameworks and the new National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) process supported by the Convention on Biodiversity.
 - Revise the name and text of the *Training and Extension* objective to reflect the regional recognition that “capacity-building” is greater than “training and extension”.
3. **Key Actions** - Many of the key actions have been fully or partially completed, and some new priorities have emerged. All key actions will be reviewed and updated following the conference based upon:
 - Recommendations in *From Tonga to FSM ...* , prepared by Joe Reti and Sue Miller
 - Input from the Conference
 - Input from the Action Strategy Revision Committee
 - SPREP Action Plan
 - Feedback from the Measures of Success questionnaire

Thus far, five substantial revisions have been recommended:

- develop key actions addressing the issue of intellectual property rights and ownership of access to genetic resources
- identify and encourage ratification of conventions that may facilitate or support conservation in the region
- increase emphasis on prevention and control of invasive species (both marine and terrestrial)
- improve measures of success for capacity-building
- describe practical methods for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the Action Strategy (see discussion below)



Annex 7 Action Strategy Revision

4. Update all basic facts, lists and annexes with the most current available information with the exception of Annex 2: *NEMS Country Priorities for Action and Nature Conservation and Protected Areas*. This annex will be omitted in recognition that many of these priorities have been accomplished. These priorities will be updated in many countries in the coming year as part of the requirement under the Convention on Biodiversity.

Implementing, Monitoring and Evaluating the Action Strategy

The 1994 Action Strategy states that “implementation of this Strategy will depend upon the efforts of organisations and individuals throughout the region.” It also called for a mechanism to:

- identify how (or by whom) these actions will be implemented; and
- develop a way to regularly measure progress toward these objectives.

These two important elements of the Action Strategy have not yet been accomplished. The Revision Committee believes that the responsibility for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the Action Strategy’s regional actions can and should be shared by the region’s conservation organisations. Therefore, the Revision Committee recommends that:

- all regional and international organisations with active programs for nature conservation in the Pacific region agree to share the responsibility for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the regional actions of the 1999-2002 Action Strategy; and
- SPREP take the lead role in convening a meeting of these organisations for this purpose and seek the necessary financial resources to support this meeting from its donors.

These organisations would be invited to volunteer to take the lead or play a collaborative role in implementing and monitoring actions relevant to their priorities and work programs. The group would also agree on mechanisms for measuring progress and identifying difficulties and actions needing special attention at least once a year.

It is hoped that the formation of this working group will foster greater coordination, closer partnerships, and even more effective action for conservation by the region’s conservation organisations. Ideally, the working group would meet before the 1999 Action Strategy is finalised, so that the results of their deliberation can be incorporated into the Strategy’s monitoring and evaluation actions.

In addition, all countries are encouraged to use the Action Strategy as a guide in updating their national priorities through the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan required by the Convention on Biodiversity or other planning processes. If the regional working group is successful, SPREP may facilitate similar coordinating meetings at a national level for countries that would like assistance with updating their national priorities and determining how their national organisations wish to share the work to be done.

Review and Approval of the Action Strategy

The draft Action Strategy will be distributed for review by the Revision Committee, SPREP, and outside reviewers. After comments are incorporated, the final Action Strategy will be presented to the 1998 SPREP Meeting for approval.



1999-2002 Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region Mission Statement and Objectives

Mission Statement

To protect the rich natural heritage of the Pacific islands forever through the conservation and sustainable management of its natural resources and biodiversity for the benefit of the peoples of the Pacific islands and the world.

Major Objectives:

Objective 1: Biodiversity Protection

To identify and address the most urgent threats to the region's biodiversity and protect the region's plants, animals and ecosystems for future generations.

Objective 2: Planning and Legal Framework

To develop or update national conservation strategies for all countries and territories within the region and begin or continue implementing priority conservation and sustainable resource management actions in at least half the countries and territories.

Objective 3: Local Communities and Customs

To involve communities, resource owners, and resource users in cooperative natural resource management and conservation that recognises and strengthens the rights of local people and uses environmentally sound customs, and develop mechanisms for distributing resource benefits as equitably as possible throughout communities.

Objective 4: Capacity Building

To strengthen local expertise and technical ability in planning and implementing sustainable natural resource management and conservation programmes for marine and terrestrial environments through capacity building programmes that utilise local expertise whenever possible.

Objective 5: Environmental Awareness, Information Sharing and Partnership

To improve environmental awareness and information sharing and to build working partnerships at the local, national, regional and international levels in support of conservation activities.

Objective 6: Funding Mechanisms

To develop and advocate appropriate funding mechanisms for the sustained support of conservation and sustainable resource management activities at the local, national and regional levels.



ANNEX 8

Sixth Conference Final Plenary Paper 2

Draft TOOLBOX

Purpose

To present the draft TOOLBOX containing the summarised outputs from the TOOL Working Group Sessions for:

- **TOOL 1 Protected Areas - marine protected areas and community-based conservation areas**
- **TOOL 2 Enterprise Development as a Conservation Incentive**
- **TOOL 3 Conservation Trust Funds**
- **TOOL 4 World Heritage Convention, and**
- **to outline proposed follow-up to complete the TOOLBOX.**

The *draft* TOOL results are attached as an annex to this document.

Introduction

The Conference Theme “TOOLS For Conservation” focused on using facilitated Working Group Sessions to stimulate discussion on lessons learnt and best advice for using these approaches for conservation in the Pacific islands region. Feedback from delegates indicates that this approach was useful and enabled ‘*real dialogue, participation and learning*’ in these sessions. As a result there was a tremendous amount and range of discussion produced for each TOOL. The TEAM has been able to collectively pull together the ‘best advice’ for three top issues of concern in using each TOOL in our region. This is presented in bullet point format in the attached drafts. However, it has not been possible due to time constraints to completely compile all the feedback received.

Overall feedback for the TOOLBOX can be summarised as:

1. suggested improvements on the working definitions
2. supporting information to link working definitions to international definitions but not to lose the importance of having a working definition that is from the region and meaningful to the region
3. new use and issues information with often many examples given
4. these issues are often developed into new questions raised that in some cases were answered
5. advice and requests to agencies to assist use of these TOOLS

The framework for the TOOLBOX below takes on board these points and suggests a process of follow up to ensure that the results of discussions are not lost but are developed in to a dynamic document that can be used by those working with these TOOLS in the region. Finally, it was seen that this TOOLBOX forms an important resource for any conservation network that may be established as part of conference follow-up.

In addition, introductory material to the overall TOOLBOX needs to be drafted and should reflect that advice given for use of each TOOL is based on experience to date. It was widely recognised that it is too early to confirm success and advice taken in this context.



Annex 8 Sixth Conference TOOLBOX

Framework and recommended process of follow up.

1. TOOLBOX Framework

For each TOOL:

1. Brief background summary of key information about the TOOL.
2. Working definition in Pacific islands region (with amendments as necessary based on group results)
3. Use and issues (with amendments as necessary based on group results)
4. Best advice (based on experience to date) on key issues answered by conference based on collective experience in using these TOOLS. In this section a personal 'story/lesson learnt' insert for each TOOL is suggested that gives key experience related to the best advice.
5. Any overall advice to agencies related to ongoing work in using the TOOL.
6. Annex containing a network of contacts for each TOOL.

- **Process for Completion**

After the Conference

1. For all input from working groups to be collated, edited and circulated as a draft to the TEAM for final input as part of conference proceedings,
2. first draft deadline October 20th
3. final completion December 1997.

- **How the TOOLBOX can be used**

The TOOLBOX will be produced as a set of guidelines for using these approaches for conservation. It will be published in a format that can be used in the field. The TOOLBOX will also make reference to the revised Action Strategy so that it develops the 'how to' of actions.

e.g. Best advice structure for each TOOL

TOOL 1 Protected Areas - MPAs, cbcas

For successfully establishing a protected area in the Pacific islands region:

- type of process
- recommended steps in process
- measures of success
 - information needed
 - key stakeholders
 - benefits and advice on equitable distribution
 - use of income generating activities
 - integration of traditional and contemporary conservation approaches



Annex 8 Sixth Conference TOOLBOX

Draft TOOLBOX input for TOOL 1 Protected Areas (MPAs & CBCAs)

Note - Based on results of the TOOL1a and TOOL1b Working Group Sessions the TEAM combined marine protected areas and community-based conservation area discussion outputs and decided to use conservation area as a generic term rather than 'protected area'.

Type of process recommended for establishment of conservation areas

Transparent with the following elements:

- participatory, with community involvement at every step
- builds capacity of all stakeholders
- flexible and adaptive
- integrates traditional/contemporary conservation approaches

Experience indicates that this process takes 2-5 years to establish conservation area that has the greatest chance to succeed in our region e.g. Arnavon Marine Conservation Area.

Suggested Steps to be considered in the process of establishing a conservation area:

- initial realisation from resource owners, local communities that resources are declining and there is community willingness and shared vision for conservation area
- seek government support and sanction
- seek experience, technical advice and information from governments, NGOs, private sector e.g. tourism, fishing and other agencies
- hold community meetings to develop and agree on process, goals and objectives, and to clarify concepts
- gather necessary information
- refine goals and objectives and develop concept into a conservation area plan;
- develop management structure, stakeholders review process and seek stakeholders approval for the plan
- once a conservation area plan is in place, recruit local support staff (conservation officers) and provide training and resources
- develop strategy for securing long term funding hence sustainability of marine protected areas (MPAs) and community-based conservation areas (CBCAs) using mechanisms such as income generating activities, user fees, trust funds, budget allocations and others
- document, disseminate, promote methodologies (awareness raising)
- develop and implement a monitoring programme for key indicators
- where appropriate, revise plans to take into account monitoring results

Recommended criteria for measuring success in conservation areas:

When developing criteria for measuring success, the following factors need to be taken into account:

1. criteria must be measurable and directly related to goals and objectives of conservation area
2. they must also measure what the community perceives as important
3. they must measure both short (2-3 years) and long term outcomes



Annex 8 Sixth Conference TOOLBOX

Criteria for measuring success should include:

- degree of equitable sharing of both effort and benefits
- extent of compliance with rules
- degree to which identified threats to the conservation area are alleviated
- are the resources more or less abundant than when the conservation area started?
- is there adequate community participation in decision making (empowerment of communities)
- the extent to which the conservation areas contributed to community well-being e.g. did the conservation area generate employment and by how much?
- degree of ongoing participation and satisfaction of all stakeholders involved
- degree to which the conservation area is self funded
- have others copied this conservation area process?
- use of local languages and customs in materials produced and actions taken
- ability of plans to be adaptive in response to review recommendations

Things to watch out for:

- that the process carefully takes in to account views and needs of all community groups are addressed i.e. as traditional power structures may not give the chance for women/youth/other resource user input
- government may or may not be the prime mover but should be included and supportive e.g. in the provision of necessary legislation, policy
- the initiative has the necessary political support

Other questions and answers

- arrangements and responsibilities, agreeing conflict resolution process, using supportive laws, policies, action plans, NEMs etc.
- monitoring/evaluation using traditional knowledge and skills and local people to meet their information needs to managed the resource
- arrangements and responsibilities, agreeing on a conflict resolution process, using supportive laws, policies, action plans, NEMs etc.

How can income generating activities and conservation be sustainably integrated?

- clearly ID priorities for conservation action and opportunities for income generating activities to ensure compatibility
- appropriate ongoing training for all stakeholders that incorporates local/traditional knowledge and practices
- establish committees of all relevant stakeholders that operate under written agreement
- implement monitoring for biodiversity and income generation
- income generating activities (IGA) can support conservation in two ways:
 - \$ for conservation activities
 - options for minimising threats/alternatives
- feasibility study that addresses socio-cultural, ecological, economic, components through community consultation, needs assessment and expectations
- income generating activities should include an intensive education program to link conservation goals with the enterprise
- IGA can provide a mechanism for resource regeneration
- community selection of income generating activities



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How/Can traditional and contemporary conservation approaches be effectively merged.

YES! -

- ensure that traditional knowledge and practices are retained and applied e.g. traditional approach to 'doing business' is respected in developing management action
- traditional law must be acknowledged (not written into national law)
- education and awareness are vital as a first step and ongoing activity
- use of resources, i.e. expertise, equipment easily accessible to the community
- use appropriate methods requiring minimal training
- involve communities
- appropriate training and education programmes for all parties covering traditional and contemporary approaches to conservation
- need for international recognition of community-based conservation
- expert scientists must have talent and sensitivity to amalgamate local and scientific knowledge and techniques
- management structure based on traditional knowledge as opposed to western concepts of management
- enactment of local rules and regulations using traditional tabus and management practices
- identified the need for a compendium of tabus from the Pacific that are working for conservation
- incorporating national and local regulations while having traditional leaders as the custodians
- traditional healing practices into medical bio-prospecting
- usage of theatre groups to educate villages on conservation
- recommend list of people (PICs) who know about conservation
- Pacific island leaders to include traditional conservation practices into school curriculum's
- documentation of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
- donor agencies should understand and respect traditional conservation approaches when approving projects

What information is needed to set up a conservation area?

- list of stakeholders and their objectives
- areas of conflict (potential and actual)
- strategic information about resources and resource owner/users
- any previous information (oral, written, projects e.g research, documents, relevant laws, polices)
- potential sources of funding and assistance (including best practice)
- social and cultural/traditional values
- proposed boundaries, size, location

Who are the stakeholders?

Primary stakeholders are the local community supported by other stakeholders as appropriate:

- **Local Communities**
 - traditional leaders
 - resource owners and users (direct, indirect)
 - religious groups
 - youth, women
 - community NGOs
- **Government**
 - local, provincial, national



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- **NGOs**
 - local, national, international levels
 - media
- **Private Sector**
 - local banks
 - business e.g tourism, commercial fishing, logging. Polluters
- **Donors**
 - local, national, regional, international
 - researchers

Who pays for MPA conservation initiatives?

- costs will be project specific but likely to be beyond the capacity of communities and lead agencies - need donors
- government vs community - who pays initially
- costs will change as project develops
- equitable benefit and cost sharing
- recognition of true costs to the community of MPAs
- polluter pays principle used

Examples of communities initiating establishment of MPAs

Fiji - Vanualevu, Ono, Verata, FSM- Pwudo Sanctuary, Pohnpei
Samoa- Uafato

How can income generating activities and conservation be sustainably integrated?

New Questions

- **How can we educate?**
 - train trainers, NGOs, village outreach, curriculum development. Educational materials, media, using appropriate cultural themes, modes and means
- **How can research assist the effective management of MPAs?**
 - encourage and/or support appropriate scientific research
 - setting appropriate conditions to ensure that data ownership and copies is retained by the community
 - results of research disseminated to all stakeholders

Ideas for TOOLBOX Finalisation/Recommendations

1. Develop issues in to a series of principles/directions and an associated host of real examples from as many MPAs as possible.
2. Use TOOLBOX as the best advice 'how to' of actions in the action strategy and in the monitoring of the strategy.
3. Wherever possible in establishing Marine Protected Areas consider including a coastal buffer zone where any activities detrimental to the marine area are not permitted (i.e. vegetation is intact as a filter to run-off).



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Draft TOOLBOX input for TOOL 2 Enterprise Development as a Conservation Incentive

Information needs about the capacity of the resource and the proposed enterprise before embarking?

Note:

1. all information needs to be up dated as needed
2. information depends on the enterprise
3. range of information types needed - biological, ecological, socio-economic baseline
4. Information needs can include:
 - current resource use/users (both commercial and subsistence)
 - carrying capacity of the resource and supply/assessment of resource vulnerability
 - projected quantities of the resource to make the enterprise viable (consumptive and non consumptive uses)
 - EIA of proposed enterprise or resource
 - need for market studies - demand, access, financial viability, long term projections, capital investment required
 - information on the level of existing expertise in the community
 - detailed information about community's attitudes and obligations
 - identification of biologically sensitive areas/species not suitable for enterprise development
 - know the other commercial threats e.g. competing non sustainable commercial activities like logging
 - know government requirements e.g. licensing, laws, incentive schemes
 - infrastructure present versus infrastructure needed for the enterprise development
 - existing traditional management methods
 - control sites for comparisons

Are there any examples in the Pacific where such enterprises have resulted in both increased income and conservation?

Noted that these are “initial indicators” of success only and it is too early to confirm long term success. There is a need to monitor and collate EDCI initiatives. Current examples include:

- conservation of rare palms in Vanuatu
- small scale residential ecotourism in Koroyanitu, Fiji
- ecotourism sites in Pohnpei - mangrove tour part of watershed projects
- ngali nut enterprise -Solomon Islands
- handicraft enterprise by women using pandanus in Niue
- diving Utuko reef, Niue, taboo area
- trekking linked with forest in Samoa
- wood carving linked with forest - Uafato
- nature based mangrove protection in Saanapu - Sataoa
- Verata, Fiji bioprospecting USP/BCN
- tapa cloth production PNG
- bird-wing butterfly farming, PNG
- research station usage and lab/bench fees e.g Crater Mountains, Kimbe - PNG



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- Vaitupu Island ecotourism in Tuvalu
- ecotourism and sustainable agricultural system in Vatthe
- Arnavon Islands fishing enterprise
- Chuuk - trochus, under water monument

What are the necessary and sufficient conditions for EDCIs to work effectively in the Pacific context?

- community need to want income - want money
- community approval and support of proposed enterprise
- capital base for investment available
- marketing and feasibility analysis indicates a proven market
- infrastructure sufficient-i.e goods to market
- equitable distribution of benefits
- locally appropriate technology available
- ecologically and culturally sensitive approach to business planning and implementation
- maintaining links between enterprise and conservation
- resource must be suitable to develop enterprise
- suitable training and skills support
- good management skills
- assessing risk - financial and biodiversity
- ensure that legal framework is clearly defined - ownership and tenure system
- transparency in business development, cost and benefit
- focus private sector input into building partnerships and supporting capacity of local communities e.g develop skills to take over or manage projects in the long term
- expectation of all parties needs to be made clear
- for the private sector and local community there needs to be security which has some backing through agreements or legislation e.g. long term leases
- need information on EDCIs which is usable at the local level e.g. by translating into local languages, interpreting technical information
- real need for assistance in this area and networking with others in PICs who have experience in EDCIs.



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Draft TOOLBOX input for TOOL Conservation Trust Funds

Should the goals of a regional conservation trust fund be narrowly defined, or should they be expanded to include promotion of the sustainable use of resources?

- Primary goal (should be very focused) and should assist community-based conservation areas (CBCA)
- Secondary goal to assist related community conservation initiatives

Projects that can be funded should focus on:

- community-based,
- conservation,
- integrated development,
- capacity building (including NGOs),
- education/awareness,
- sustainable income generation.

Agreed that CTFs appear to be an appropriate tool for conservation. It was thought that the technical, complex and expensive process required to set up a CTF is the key reason for limited use in the region to date.

Is the concept of a South Pacific Biodiversity CTF as set out in the SPREP Concept Paper considered appropriate or inappropriate? And why?

Yes, but:

- a regional entity/fund should be established to achieve economies of scale in terms of fund-raising investments and management, with national small grant agencies disbursing grants based on local priorities.
- there should be flexibility for the regional fund to disburse grants directly in countries with limited capacity
- the regional fund should also disburse grants directly for projects that would benefit more than one country
- a regional fund should encourage and support the establishment, where appropriate, of national funds
- there is scope for establishment of local CTFs for specialised projects/sectors
- there is a need to evaluate very carefully the purpose of the fund; i.e. will it become a source of funds for new projects, or will it fund the ongoing needs of identified existing initiatives?
- to be effective, and to match current SPBCP spending of approximately USD \$1 million dollars per year, a trust would have to be capitalised in the order of USD \$20 million.
- SPREP should talk with regional stakeholders regarding the details of establishing the regional CTF.
- Beneficiaries should be any regional organisation, governments, NGOs, communities, etc., involved in community-based conservation.
- Composition and function of the Board should be clearly defined.

**Draft TOOLBOX input for
TOOL 4 World Heritage Convention**

What are the present constraints keeping Pacific Island countries from joining the World Heritage Convention?

- lack of awareness, knowledge and understanding of the convention
- lack of support in-country to assess benefits and costs of joining
- lack of capacity in-country to assess benefits and costs of joining
- lack of clarity of benefits to existing parties of being convention members
- concern at documentation processes
- lack of political will

What benefits and costs are seen for a Pacific Island Government joining the WH Convention?

1. Benefits

- focused attention on heritage within national boundaries
- funding and technical assistance from world heritage
- through WH site listing leverage funding from other donors
- capacity building
- access to technical assistance
- networking regional/international
- learning from each others experience
- empowerment of NGO's on conservation efforts
- conservation of biodiversity (target species)
- Recognition of any Pacific country in the regional/international scale
- helps to consider culture and nature conservation together
- increase conservation awareness among countries

2. Costs

- contribution US\$371 per year
- staff time and resources
- political costs
- dependence on external funding nature and resource
- loss of choices for natural resource exploitation
- potential cost of commitment, including opportunity costs.

What are the present constraints keeping Pacific Island countries from using the World Heritage Convention.

- they are not parties
- lack of knowledge on how the convention works
- lack of surveys of potential sites
- conflicts between government and tenure owners/resource users,
- conflicts within government agencies mandates



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- a concern for not having the capacity to manage a WHC site in the future (e.g. monitoring, surveillance, enforcement)
- the Convention's lack of recognition of traditional protection for natural sites (this is already recognised for cultural site listings)
- apparent separation of cultural and natural sites in the Convention's criteria
- special issue for conservation of serial sites e.g. migration routes, lapita as these often involve more than one sovereign state making a nomination

What are the perceived benefits and costs to local site owners of allowing their government (who is a WHC Party) to list their site on the World Heritage List?

1. Perceived Benefits

- pride of the local community and culture
- promotion of the area e.g. for tourism
- gives additional protection which is recognised nationally, internationally
- provision of assistance (funding and technical) from the World Heritage Centre
- can assist co-operation and partnership building between all levels (government and communities)
- assists evaluation and monitoring of a site
- site listing assists in accessing/leveraging resources and support from other donors
- provides mechanism for formal recognition of partnerships
- increase appreciation for and recognition of, and may revive and strengthen cultural values and traditions
- increase tourism opportunities and employment

It was noted that many of the perceived benefits could be costs or negative factors also if fundamental process of partnership building and recognition of local tenure was not followed e.g. tourism development

2. Perceived Costs

- restrictions to future development options
- financial obligations - administrative
- reduce rights/choice to self determination
- potential loss/change of cultural/traditional integrity
- concerns about implementing a 'management plan'
- impacts to surrounding communities
- adverse effects of increased tourism opportunities & employment

How can the World Heritage Convention be effectively used in a way that is driven by the needs and specific circumstances of Pacific Island countries and territories? What are the recommended next steps?

- require in-country assistance for non-parties to assess benefits and costs of joining the convention
- need to develop simple and regionally relevant documentation processes
- need to build political will for joining and using the convention as only government parties can nominate site
- need partnerships with local tenure holders/resource users in site selection and development of nominations
- identify potential revenue generation/employment opportunities of site listing



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- require assistance to collect and review existing knowledge/information of cultural and natural history
 - recommend monitoring assessment of the expected and then realised benefits and costs of site listing
 - note that WHC is not going to solve all issues for a site e.g. conservation areas but it is another tool for conservation that can assist
 - note that the Convention on Biological Diversity focuses on representative site conservation and the World Heritage Convention focuses on 'special' sites of outstanding value and provides direct linkages to cultural heritage conservation
-
- *Review and incorporate recommendations of the 3rd Global Strategy Meeting (Suva, Fiji-July 1997)*
 - *Note Thailand Government organising a workshop in January 1998 (Lucas)*



Annex 9 Sixth Conference Resolutions

ANNEX 9

Sixth Conference Resolutions

The Conference adopted the following resolutions:

- **Resolution 1 - Updating the Conference Title**
- **Resolution 2 - International Conventions**
- **Resolution 3 - Marine Protected Areas**
- **Resolution 4 - Endangered Species and Habitats**
- **Resolution 5 - Control and Management of the Live Reef Fish Trade in the Pacific islands region**
- **Resolution 6 - Decimation of Shark Populations in the Pacific islands region**
- **Resolution 7 - Pacific Islands Conservation Network**
- **Resolution 8 – Education**
- **Resolution 9 - Linking Sustainable Enterprise Development with Biodiversity**
- **Resolution 10 - Invasive Species**
- **Resolution 11 - Conservation Awareness**
- **Resolution 12 - Conservation Trust Fund**
- **Resolution 13 - World Heritage Convention**
- **Resolution 14 - Intellectual and Biological Property Rights**
- **Resolution 15 – Partnerships and Capacity Building**
- **Resolution 16 - Appreciation of the Conference**
- **Resolution 17 - Appreciation to Contributing Organisations**
- **Resolution 18 - Appreciation of Conference Organisers**
- **Resolution 19 - Celebrating Partnerships for Pacific Conservation**

Resolution 1 - Updating the Conference Title

The Sixth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Noting that a number of the SPREP member governments are located outside the geographic area historically referred to as the “South Pacific”;

Mindful of the current recognition within the region of the inappropriateness of this term;



Annex 9 Sixth Conference Resolutions

Requests SPREP to:

- update the name of the conference to “Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas”; and
- replace, where appropriate, the term “South Pacific” with “Pacific islands region” in conference materials and outputs.

Resolution 2 - International Conventions

The Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Noting that Resolution 11 from the Fifth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas urged countries which have not already done so to become parties to all relevant international conventions promoting conservation of biodiversity;

Congratulates those countries which have already become parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, and Solomon Islands who have ratified the Convention since the Fifth Conference joining the Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu;

Further congratulates Papua New Guinea who has become a party to the World Heritage Convention since the Fifth Conference, joining Fiji and the Solomon Islands;

Recognising SPREP’s support and advice to member governments, expresses its disappointment that there have been no new parties to; the Apia Convention, Bonn Convention, CITES, Ramsar, Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Driftnets in the South Pacific;

Calls on Pacific Island governments, with the assistance of international agencies, to accede to, and implement obligations under, regional and international conventions that have bearing on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Resolution 3 - Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

The Sixth Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Recognising that the conservation and wise use of the marine environment is fundamental to the social, cultural and economic well being of Pacific island communities;

Recognising that marine protected areas are a vital tool for the protection and sustainable use of marine biological diversity and resources;

Noting that the Global Environment Facility Strategic Action Programme for International Waters of Pacific Islands, endorsed by the Heads of Government of the South Pacific Forum, identifies marine protected areas as a high priority component of integrated coastal and watershed management;

Noting that the most effective approach for marine protected areas in the Pacific islands is one, which recognises and reflects the needs and culture of local communities and incorporates appropriate traditional management practices;



Annex 9 Sixth Conference Resolutions

Urges SPREP, in cooperation with appropriate national, regional and international organisations and NGOs, to assist member governments, non-government organisations and local communities to implement marine protected areas through:

- technical advice and assistance;
- access to financing;
- education and training;
- sharing expertise and experience;
- coordination with other agencies; and
- the establishment of comparative monitoring programs to evaluate the effectiveness of MPAs.

Calls on Pacific Island governments and communities, in cooperation with international and regional organisations and NGOs, to pursue the establishment and effective management of marine protected areas as a matter of high priority;

Further calls on the Global Environment Facility and other donors to support marine protected areas in the region as part of implementation of the GEF Strategic Action Programme for International Waters of the Pacific islands and other programmes.

Resolution 4 - Endangered Species and Habitats

The Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Noting with concern the vulnerability of Pacific island biodiversity, particularly endemic species, to extinction and extirpation, and the continued desperate plight of much of the region's endangered flora and fauna;

Aware of the increasing threats from habitat destruction, alien invasive species and over-harvesting;

Recognising the work SPREP has undertaken in establishing regional programs for the conservation of some of these species;

Congratulates SPREP on the success and effectiveness of the 1995 Year of the Sea Turtle Campaign;

Requests SPREP, in collaboration with member governments, national and international organisations and NGOs, to:

- give priority to the implementation of the action strategies under the three regional species protection programs (marine turtles, marine mammals, avifauna); and
- assist Pacific Island countries to identify species at risk and develop strategies for their protection and recovery;

Calls on Pacific Island governments to:

- establish legislation and effective programmes for the recovery of endangered species including the control of wildlife export and import and commercial harvesting of at-risk species; and
- incorporate endangered species and habitat issues into national biodiversity strategies and action plans being developed under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity.



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Resolution 5 - Control and Management of the Live Reef Fish Trade in the Pacific islands region

The Sixth Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Noting with concern the destructive impacts of the live reef fish trade and associated use of sodium cyanide on the environment, economies and rural communities of Southeast Asia and some Pacific islands;

Recognising the real threat to Pacific reefs due to the uncontrolled expansion of the live reef fish trade, and associated use of chemicals and illegal fishing methods;

Realising the importance of coral reefs to Pacific Island communities for subsistence, economic and cultural needs;

Noting that 1997 is the Pacific Year of the Coral Reef;

Mindful of the continued increase in demand for live reef fish for the aquarium and restaurant trade, and the potential long-term value of this trade to Pacific island reef fisheries, if properly managed;

Requests that SPREP inform its member governments of the potential environmental impacts of the uncontrolled expansion of the live reef fish trade within the region; and

Urges SPREP to work in partnership with other relevant regional agencies (such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Fisheries Programme), and appropriate public and private organisations and individuals to:

- encourage and assist Pacific Island governments to recognise this fishery regionally and nationally as one requiring careful and separate management, monitoring and strict enforcement;
- encourage certification programmes that ensure the sustainable capture of live fish;
- encourage and assist the establishment of a regional three year moratorium on the export of Napoleon wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*) to permit research to be conducted on its life history, and develop appropriate management and protection strategies for this species;
- undertake effective programs of resource protection and monitoring particularly for protection of grouper aggregation and spawning sites; and
- implement educational awareness programs to enable more informed decisions on issues relating to this trade and encourage reef-friendly fishing methods.

Resolution 6 - Decimation of Shark Populations in the Pacific islands region

The Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Noting with concern the dramatic upsurge in exploitation of shark populations in the Pacific islands region, particularly by distant water fishing nations and local commercial fishing companies;

Noting also the activities currently being undertaken by the Parties to CITES, in collaboration with FAO and other intergovernmental fisheries organisations, to collect information on directed shark fisheries and sharks caught as bycatch of other fisheries;

Recognising the impact this is having on a resource of great economic and cultural significance to people in the Pacific;



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Mindful that the decimation of shark populations will have unknown impacts on the reef and marine ecosystems of the Pacific;

Requests that SPREP ask SPC and FFA to:

- undertake urgent research to determine the extent of this activity in the region, its impacts on shark populations, and marine ecosystems;
- develop recommendations to Pacific Island countries regarding appropriate protection measures for shark species; and
- encourage Pacific island countries, through the relevant government agencies, to cooperate with FAO and other intergovernmental fisheries organisations, within the process established by CITES, in the collection of detailed information on commercial shark catches.

Resolution 7 - Pacific Islands Conservation Network

The Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Noting the dramatic increase in community-based conservation within the Pacific islands region;

Noting that there is a range of sites throughout the region - both marine and terrestrial, protected and unprotected - at which ecological monitoring is being carried out;

Appreciating the value of a good information base in promoting conservation action in the Pacific region and being aware of the lack of accessible information;

Mindful of SPREP's responsibilities for monitoring the state of the region's environment; and

Recognising the importance of sharing information, experiences and resources between conservation and resource management projects in the region to ensure best practice in conservation management;

Calls on SPREP to work in partnership with IUCN, WCMC and others on the development of improved mechanisms to access information that will assist those responsible for managing all types of protected areas and protected area systems, including the:

- development of a Pacific Islands Protected Areas Resource Centre to improve access to information and experience;
- development and servicing a Pacific Islands Conservation Network to facilitate the sharing of information, experiences and resources amongst all conservation area projects and organisations active in the field of community-based conservation in the region; and
- coordination of a network of ecological monitoring sites throughout the region, comprised of sites selected from existing monitoring programmes and new programmes where appropriate.

Resolution 8 - Education

The Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Recognising the importance of continuing education and the transference of traditional knowledge for ensuring successful conservation and sustainable use of resources within the Pacific islands region;

Emphasising the importance of including marine and terrestrial ecology, including resource conservation methods with special emphasis on local traditional methods, in curriculum materials developed for both the primary and secondary school levels;

Urges SPREP, educational institutions and concerned international, regional and national NGOs to:



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- work in concert with governments to identify appropriate funding sources and curriculum development specialists; and
- develop or modify national level modules in primary and secondary curricula which promote understanding of biodiversity conservation and environmental awareness.

Resolution 9 - Linking Sustainable Enterprise Development with Biodiversity

The Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Recognising the importance of generating biologically and financially sustainable income sources for Pacific Island people;

Recognising the potential of such enterprises as a tool to support, promote and encourage biodiversity conservation;

Noting the important role played by agencies, such as the Biodiversity Conservation Network (BCN), in promoting and encouraging the development of working enterprise models appropriate for use in the Pacific islands region;

Urges BCN, SPREP and other agencies to continue their vital financial and program support for the development and use of sustainable enterprises as a tool for biodiversity conservation by:

- making information on existing projects and the lessons learnt widely available and accessible in the region through documentation and visual and electronic media;
- building networks to encourage the sharing of information and experiences;
- promoting training in the development of business capacity;
- building effective institutional partnerships to stimulate investment and new capital sources for enterprises; and
- working to develop effective marketing of products, particularly the regional marketing of small community-based ecotourism ventures.

Resolution 10 - Invasive Species

The Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Recognising the threats to biodiversity posed by invasive species of animals and plants in the Pacific islands region;

Aware of the existence of information on risks of further spread of invasive species in the region;

Aware also of the need to make information and techniques available for prevention and control of invasive species at all community levels;

Recognising the intent and building on Resolution 15 from the Fifth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas;

Urges SPREP, the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group and other relevant organisations, to collaborate to:

- review the conservation problems caused by invasive species in the region;
- establish a mechanism for sharing information and building a regional database of invasive species; and
- produce a regional invasive species strategy.



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Resolution 11 - Conservation awareness, collaboration and marketing

The Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Recognising that the support of the people is essential for successful and sustainable conservation initiatives;

Noting that the RARE Center for Tropical Conservation has developed a successful, locally-implemented conservation marketing program using charismatic species and local pride to promote conservation in more than 20 countries, including three in the Pacific;

Understanding that positive social marketing campaigns can lay a foundation of trust, build linkages between government, NGOs and individuals, as well as promote conservation initiatives;

Acknowledging that the RARE Center has received requests for assistance from a number of additional Pacific islands;

Believing that when implemented in conjunction with micro-enterprise development, community-based protected areas, as well as other conservation tools, this approach would be relevant and useful elsewhere in the region;

Encourages the RARE Center for Tropical Conservation to expand its conservation marketing programme to other areas of the Pacific, where deemed appropriate and required; and that it assists in developing regional expertise in country-counterparts with successful campaigns and follow-up; and

Requests that SPREP work in partnership with the RARE Center for Tropical Conservation to support country campaigns throughout the region.

Resolution 12 - Conservation Trust Fund (CTF)

The Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Noting the intent of Resolution 8 of the 5th Conference to encourage innovative funding mechanisms for biodiversity conservation in the region;

Recognising that CTF's are an excellent means of promoting and financially sustaining conservation initiatives;

Aware of the potential of a regional CTF to attract new sources of funding and to achieve economies of scale in management of fund capital;

Calls on SPREP to continue its efforts to establish a regional CTF that:

- is developed through extensive dialogue with all potential stakeholders;
- has the dual functions of funding national and local conservation initiatives; and
- where appropriate, establishes or contributes 'seed' funding to national Conservation Trust Funds;

Further calls on SPREP and other regional agencies and organisations should continue to actively support initiatives to establish national and local Conservation Trust Funds.



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Resolution 13 - World Heritage Convention

The Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Recognising the importance of the World Heritage Convention as an instrument for promoting the conservation of biodiversity and continuity of traditional culture in the Pacific islands region;

Noting the lack of awareness about the Convention in the region;

Noting also that current World Heritage Convention criteria allows listing of cultural sites on the basis of traditional protection and management, but requires listed natural sites to be protected by legislative, regulatory or institutional means;

Noting further that traditional forms of protection and management of natural areas can be highly effective in the Pacific islands region;

Urges SPREP to report the discussion on World Heritage to the Secretariat of the World Heritage Convention and to recommend that the World Heritage Committee include traditional protection and management measures as a valid basis for listing as a World Heritage Natural Site;

Encourages UNESCO to work with SPREP and other agencies to promote the WHC as a tool to conserve Pacific national and cultural diversity with the aim of ensuring that the Pacific has its rightful place under this global convention.

Resolution 14 - Intellectual and Biological Property Rights

The Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Recognising the tremendous potential of Pacific biological and intellectual resources to provide income, improve standards of living and sustain traditional social and cultural norms and to contribute to the global good through the development of beneficial products;

Concerned at the increase in unauthorised, unacknowledged and unremunerated use, publication, patenting and licensing of these resources by commercial, scientific interests, from outside and inside of this region;

Urges Pacific Island Governments to take action to protect their resources through comprehensive property rights legislation;

Calls on SPREP to work with other regional organisations to assist member governments to develop intellectual and genetic property rights legislation and establish a regional network of institutions and individuals capable of providing legal, technical and other advisory services to member governments and a forum for exchanges on property rights issues of regional and national significance;

Further calls on SPREP to assess the appropriateness of establishing a regional legal framework and mechanisms for controlling the flow of benefits from these resources.

Resolution 15 – Partnerships and Capacity Building

The Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:



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Recognising the vital role of communities, Government agencies and NGOs in the implementation of biodiversity conservation programmes in the Pacific islands region;

Noting the continual struggle of these organisations and agencies to carry out their work, access resources, and maintain organisational stability and growth vital to the long term effectiveness of their work;

Concerned that the limited resources available to the region for conservation must be effectively utilised;

Calls on donors, international and national NGOs, government agencies and private enterprise to recognise their respective strengths and seek ways to work together in collaborative and mutually beneficial partnerships and avoid duplication of effort;

Recommends that regional efforts to develop effective and appropriate mechanisms for networking and the coordination of capacity building be strengthened through better collaboration between regional organisations, international NGOs, donors and private enterprises and that facilitation of this coordination be a priority task for the joint SPREP/UNDP Capacity Building for Environmental Management programme in collaboration with other stakeholders and that this include:

- investigation of appropriate networking mechanisms;
- undertaking of training and capacity building needs assessments;
- establishing a database of best practices and practitioners; and
- seeking long term funding support for regional networking initiatives.

Resolution 16 - Appreciation of the Conference

The Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Having met at Palikir in the State of Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia;

Appreciative of the welcome and support provided by the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia and the FSM Conference Organising Committee;

Having enjoyed the hospitality and friendliness of the people of Pohnpei and the Federated States of Micronesia;

Thankful for the untiring efforts of the FSM Conference Organising Committee;

Expresses its gratitude to the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia for hosting the Conference.

Resolution 17 - Appreciation to Contributing Organisations

The Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Expresses its appreciation and gratitude to the following organisations for their generous financial assistance and support to the Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

- Government of New Zealand;
- Government of Australia;
- South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (GEF/UNDP/AusAID);
- South Pacific Regional Environment Programme;



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- World Heritage Fund;
- IUCN - The World Conservation Union;
- Global Environment Facility International Waters Strategic Action Plan project;
- WCMC-World Conservation Monitoring Center;
- The Nature Conservancy;
- Pohnpei Visitors Bureau;
- Bank of Federated States of Micronesia;
- College of Micronesia;
- Micronesian Islands Conservation Inc.;
- Biodiversity Conservation Network; and
- Wetlands International;

Further expresses its appreciation to those organisations that allowed their staff to play key conference roles as TOOL Working Group Facilitators:

- Environment Unit, Government of Vanuatu;
- Pohnpei State Government, Federated States of Micronesia;
- The Nature Conservancy;
- Solomon Islands Development Trust;
- SPACHEE, Fiji;
- Palau Conservation Society; and
- South Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

Resolution 18 - Appreciation of Conference Organisers

The Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Expresses its appreciation and gratitude to the Conference Organisers, the Team of Working Group Facilitators, the TOOLBOX Guardian, SPREP support staff, the Conference Caterers, and Presenters of Papers for their untiring and enthusiastic commitment. Their generous efforts have contributed to making this conference a resounding success.

Resolution 19 - Celebrating Partnerships for Pacific Conservation

The Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Recognising the significant progress in establishing community-based Conservation Areas and protecting biodiversity in the region over the past four years;

Acknowledging the generous support of a wide range of private, bilateral and multilateral donors which have made this progress possible;

Appreciative of the support and assistance of all SPREP member governments, provincial governments and non -government organisations;

Noting the success of community-based Conservation Area initiatives and valuing the commitment of those Pacific Island communities who have contributed to the protection of the region's biodiversity;

Urges all parties concerned with the protection of the region's biodiversity to embrace the challenge of maintaining and accelerating this exciting momentum into the next millennium.



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Resolution Drafting Committee

Name	Organisation/Country
Toaripi Lauti	Funafuti Island Council, Tuvalu
Sarah Wilson	Conservation International, New Zealand
Andrew Smith	The Nature Conservancy, Palau
Peter Thomas	The Nature Conservancy, New Zealand
Seva Tabua	Native Land Trust Board, Fiji
Katrina Adams	Kosrae Village Resort, FSM
Peter Taylor	Environment Australia, Australia
Chris Bleakely	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Australia
Sue Maturin	Royal Forest & Bird Society, New Zealand
Charles Vatu	Vatthe Conservation Area, Vanuatu
Toni Tipama'a	Department of Lands, Survey and Environments, Samoa
Conference Secretariat Support	
Michael McGrath	SPREP
Sue Miller	SPREP
Ruta Tupua	SPREP



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ANNEX 10

Closing Statements

Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific

Given by Ms Kathy Fry (FSP-I)

I would like to sincerely thank SPREP for the opportunity to be here in Pohnpei this week. Particular thanks must go to Sue Miller for her unwavering support and friendly assistance. She made us feel most welcome.

This is particularly important to us because FSP is not an environmental agency. We are, perhaps, the oldest and largest community development NGO in the Pacific region. Beginning in 1965 with a single project in Fiji, today FSP represents a network of ten independent national partner NGOs across the Pacific and including USA, UK and Australia.

We came into conservation work, through the back door so to speak, in response to the integrated development needs of our community clientele. Therefore, we knew that we would have much to gain from a week's immersion in discussions with our more expert conservation colleagues. We hope, however, that we also been able to contribute to this process perhaps some lessons learned from our 32 years of NGO capacity building, in perhaps models for community enterprise development.

I know we will leave here with new friendships that will strengthen into collaborative partnerships to work for the conservation of our Pacific environments. We all have so many original and specialised talents. Working together, we are stronger.

Thank you SPREP for assisting the process.

Government of Australia

Given by Mr Peter Taylor (Environment Australia) and Mr Chris Bleakley (GBRMPA)

On behalf of the Government of Australia I would like to congratulate delegates on their hard work and the outcomes achieved this week. I would also like to thank SPREP, as organisers, our generous hosts here in Pohnpei, and all donor governments and organisations that, along with Australia, have provided financial and other contributions.

The Pacific islands region is a world leader in the field of community-based conservation. Australia looks forward to working with governments and organisations in the region to advance conservation in the coming years.

World Bank

Given by Ms Sofia Bettencourt (World Bank)

On behalf of the World Bank, I would like to thank the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia and SPREP for an excellent job in organising this conference.

This is my second SPREP conference after Tonga. At both venues, what I found the most useful is the opportunity to listen to concrete lessons of experience from the field, brought to us by delegates such as the Fijian delegation from Tikina Verata whom we heard yesterday. These voices from the field are vital to organisations such as the World Bank in helping us improve the design and management of our



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environmental operations throughout the world. To all of you, I want therefore to express my sincere thanks.

I am here today wearing two hats, having been requested by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to explain to you the new medium size grants facility.

The GEF provides grant funding in three areas: to support conservation of biodiversity, mitigate climate change, and protect international waters. GEF funds only the incremental costs of these activities, over and above what should be incurred by countries. To be eligible, countries must be signatories of the Convention on Biological Diversity or the Convention on Climate Change.

GEF medium sized projects provide grants up to US\$750,000 (in incremental costs). The proposals are generally processed within six months, and are submitted to the GEF Secretariat (larger grants have to be submitted to the GEF Council).

Who is eligible? Medium sized grants can be allocated to governments, private sector, NGOs, universities, provided that the activity is eligible, the proposal is accepted and endorsed by the GEF national focal point. Entities receiving medium sized grants can apply for project preparation grants (PDF A) of less than \$US25,000.

What are the steps? First become familiar with the criteria for eligibility. GEF is not an easy source of funds and many proposals may not fit with global priorities. Consult the GEF Operational Programme and Operational Strategy Documents. These are also available through the GEF home page at: <http://www.worldbank.org/html/gef>. Consult the guidelines for Medium Sized Grants.

Prepare a project concept. This should include GEF justification, information on the project proposer, links to national priorities, and a description of the objectives and outputs of the project. Remember the GEF funds only incremental costs, and that other sources of funding need to be available. Also, check carefully whether the project meets the criteria for eligibility.

Submit the project concept to one of the GEF implementing agencies for comments (UNDP, World Bank, UNEP, GEF Secretariat). The addresses are included in the grant folders.

If the proposal has potential, seek written support from the GEF focal point. We've included the list of focal points for countries in the Pacific. If the project is multi-country, you will need a letter from each of the focal points in the Pacific. Presently, only Vanuatu, Samoa, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, and the Solomon Islands have designated focal points.

Prepare a project brief. This is a detailed project proposal, which is submitted to the GEF Secretariat for approval. Remember the GEF grants are only one of the funding mechanisms available to support conservation projects!

Wetlands International - Oceania

Given by Roger Jaensch

Wetlands, in the form of mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds and even lakes, swamps and rivers clearly are vital to the well being of Pacific island people, providing resources for sustainable use and vital functions such as storm protection. They are also increasingly recognised for their contribution to global biodiversity.



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The mission of Wetlands International is to sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity for future generations through research, information exchange and conservation activities worldwide. Our work, which may be catalytic or direct implementation, includes: wetlands inventory, assessment and monitoring; wetland policy and management; and information, awareness and training.

In the Pacific islands region, our Oceania-based team is a relative newcomer but we are enthusiastic about the contribution we can make to Wetlands International's mission. Our experience so far through partnership with indigenous agencies and organisations in countries such as FSM and PNG, and with SPREP at the regional level, suggest we have much to offer and I welcome those who wish to develop new partnerships.

The activity and outcomes of this present Conference have demonstrated that, whereas the challenges facing land and resource owners and environmental organisations in the Pacific islands are increasingly difficult, there are potentially powerful tools available to help us meet those challenges both in wetland and non-wetland areas.

In conclusion I therefore encourage all concerned and able persons and organisations to cooperate in using the appropriate tools, in establishing partnerships and in implementing the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation. My sincere thanks are extended to the organisers and hosts of this important Conference.

Fiji

Given by Seva Tabua, Native Land Trust Board

Seva Tabua thanked Conference Organisers, host and donors on behalf of the many Fijian delegates from both government and non-government agencies. He particularly acknowledged the Government and people of Pohnpei for their warm and friendly hospitality. He noted that Fiji had a significant number of delegates including local community stakeholders and thanked SPREP, World Heritage Centre, Canada Fund, FSP, WWF, USP, SPACHEE and BCN for their support of delegates. Mr Tabua noted the important outcomes of the conference in terms of new lessons learnt, partnerships and the importance of using these lessons on return to Fiji. He committed Fiji to initiate a national coordinating committee to implement the Action Strategy in Fiji and to promote partnerships in conservation.

The University of the South Pacific

Given by Professor Randy Thaman and Dr. Bill Aalbersberg, USP.

The University of the South Pacific, as a regional educational and scientific organisation serving 12 member countries in Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia, expresses its very strongest support for the resolutions of the Sixth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. It also pledges continuing support, in all areas of its expertise and mandate to its member countries, in education, research and consultancy, to work in collaborative efforts with SPREP, other regional and international agencies, local and international NGOs, local communities and the private sector to implement the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands, the Resolutions of the Pohnpei Conference, and all other programmes and initiatives designed to promote nature conservation and environmentally sustainable development in the Pacific islands.

At this juncture, we also want to stress how the attendance of students from FSM at USP over the past ten years has enriched our University. We hope that this relationship has strengthened your country's efforts to promote environmentally sustainable development. The USP looks forward to strengthening this relationship and working even closer with the people and students of FSM in the near future.



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Finally, we wish to thank the SPREP organisers, donor agencies, the facilitators, other participants, and, in particular, the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia and the traditional leaders and people of Pohnpei for their efforts and hospitality which have made the Pohnpei Conference so relevant, productive, informative and enjoyable.

Kalangan, vinaka vaka levu, tangio tumas, malo 'aupito, faafetai tele lava.

SPBCP CASOs

Given by Mr Dion Ale, CASO Uafato Conservation Area, Samoa

Every occasion comes to an end and so does this Sixth Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. We have now realised how hard it is to organise and to coordinate an event of this kind, which helps visualise the real concern for protecting our Pacific's biodiversity.

On behalf of all the CASO participants, I would like to express our appreciation to Tamari'i Tutangata, Director of SPREP and it's SPBCP programme for making our participation to this conference possible. We have now learned and understood that there is more than just managing a particular Conservation Area.

We would like to thank the Conference Secretariat through the tremendous and tireless effort of Sue Miller, and her supporting staff Sarena Stanley, Saunoa Matau and Ruta Tupua for performing the unseen work from the very start to this very time. The Facilitators; Wep, Joe, Russell, Emensio, Francis, Lucille, Sam, Isoa, Michael, Sue and the rest of the team. We thank you for your indefatigable effort.

The local coordinating committee for the conference preparation in the leading hands of Francis, Okean and your supporting staff. Thank you so much for everything. Your smiling assistance really made a difference and is an evidence of your pride in your government and country. We will always remember the hospitality of the people of Pohnpei.

To all the participants; governments, NGOs, donors and others, we will remember all of you. We have shared and exchanged ideas in this very important gathering.

Remember that this is more than a gathering and why we have met for the last five days. We are here to decide and team up for the future of this never-ending race towards saving our precious and limited biodiversity.

Last but not least, I would like to leave you with a challenge to help your organisation, community and country – remember action speaks louder than words.

Thank you.

Government of Papua New Guinea

Given by Dr Navu Kwapena

Your Excellency President of the Federated States of Micronesia, Honourable Governor of the State of Pohnpei, Director of SPREP Tamari'i Tutangata, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr Chairman it gives me great pleasure and privilege to have this opportunity to respond on behalf of the sovereign independent state of Papua New Guinea, its Government Representatives and NGOs who have been invited to participate in the Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.



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Firstly, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the hospitality of the President and people of the Federated States of Micronesia and in particular, the beautiful people of the State of Pohnpei. Our appreciation is also extended to the SPREP Director and his hardworking staff for a very successful mission in making this conference a reality.

We also acknowledge that you have an even greater job ahead and that is the implementation of the recommendations of this conference.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the many donors who have made it possible for us to participate and share our experiences at this conference.

To all distinguished participants we thank you dearly for listening to our experiences, our strengths and weaknesses in promoting conservation areas in Papua New Guinea. I know many of you face similar experiences which we have in PNG.

To conclude, on behalf of the PNG Delegation (Government and NGOs) we say; thank you, mi pela hamamas tumus, bamahuta, kaselehlia.