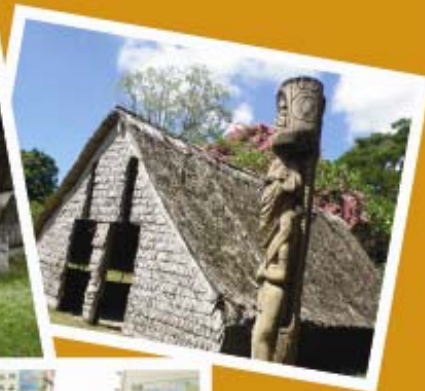




# Pacific Islands Roundtable For Nature Conservation

## 12th Meeting

Honiara, Solomon Islands  
June 29th – 3rd July 2009



HOSTED BY:  
Ministry of Environment Conservation and Meteorology,  
The Nature Conservancy Melanesia Programme,  
WWF Solomon Islands,  
FSPI/SIDT Solomon Islands



## **Acronyms**

BINGOs	Big International NGOs
CCA	Community Conserved Area
CI	Conservation International
CTI	Coral Triangle Initiative
FFC	Forum Fisheries Committee
FLMMA	Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas
FSPI	Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International
HOO	Heads of Roundtable Organisations
IAS	Institute of Applied Science (USP)
IFAW	International Fund for Animal Welfare
IMR	Institute of Marine Resources (USP)
IUCN	World Conservation Union
LMMA	Locally Managed Marine Areas
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCSA	National Capacity Self Assessment
NZ DOC	New Zealand Department of Conservation
NZAID	New Zealand Agency For International Development
PA	Protected Area
PBIF	Pacific Biodiversity Information Forum
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
POWPA	Programme of Work on Protected Areas (CBD)
RT	Roundtable
RTMG	Roundtable Management Group
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	US Agency for International Development
USP	University of the South Pacific
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Council
WG	Working Group (of the Roundtable)
WWF	Worldwide Fund for Nature

## A. Meeting Resolutions

- 1. Action Strategy Reporting:** The reporting for the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region 2008 – 2012 was discussed and it was decided that reporting will be done under the four objectives of the Action Strategy. The roundtable working groups will be reporting their activities under the relevant objectives annually and a consolidation report at the conference. Working groups are will be approached to decide on which objectives that best link to their work and the following were recommended

*Objective 1: Ensure conservation has a development context that recognises, respects and supports sustainable livelihoods and community development aspirations*

- Community Based Management
- Economic & sustainable use
- Process advocacy
- Country Support

*Objective 2: Identify, conserve and sustainably manage priority sites, habitats and ecosystems:*

- Oceanic Fisheries
- Agro-biodiversity
- CTI

*Objective 3: Protect and recover threatened species and species of ecological, cultural and economic significance*

- Threatened Species
- Bird Conservation

*Objective 4: Manage threats to biodiversity, especially climate change impacts and invasive species*

- Invasive Species working group.

The secretariat will work with the chairpersons of each working group on a reporting format to ensure their activities are reported adequately on yearly basis. It will also provide some analysis of progress.

**Country Reporting:** Countries will also be requested to provide status and on the progress of their NBSAP and other implementation of other national nature conservation strategies based on existing reporting requirements such as CBD and others.

- 2. Action Strategy – Principles for Nature Conservation in the Pacific: A code of conduct:** Roundtable members adopted a framework for monitoring the Action Strategy Principles. The framework has five indicators to measure progress against the principles including alignment of Roundtables members programmes with national conservation plans; national and local capacity development; Roundtable member accountability; coordination; ensuring best practice in conservation programme design and implementation. Members committed to

reporting against these indicators by 2010 to establish a baseline of information. At that time targets for 2015 will be established. Monitoring questions will be drafted and sent out to members to fill. It was agreed that the main focus of the roundtable will be promoting the principles or code of conduct to be part of all conservation programmes and initiatives in the Pacific such as GEF, ADB and CTI.

3. **Working Groups:** Working groups provided reports and discussions of their planned activities for 2009/2010 were discussed (refer to meeting summary section??). The following working groups were discussed and the following actions were agreed to.

*CTI working group:* In support of the CTI and the ADB, it was discussed that the roundtable needs to contribute to ensuring proper engagement at the national level with NGOs and government. It was agreed that the following people will be contact people for the roundtable to report on status of ADB and CTI work in each of these countries. Solomon Islands - Anne-Maree Schwarz and Willie Atu, Fiji Islands Kesaia Tabunakawai, PNG – Paul Lokani, Vanuatu and Timor Leste – Etika Rupeni.

*Country support and capacity building:* A freeform working group led by Annette Lees discussed the country support capacity building and the roundtable agreed to the recommendation that a paper will be developed on this subject by Annette Lees and will be reviewed by the working group. Training activities for 2009/2010 will be developed by the working group and circulated. The core group members are Stacy Jupiter, Kesaia Tabunakawai, Louise Heaps, Seema Deo, Annette Lees and Bill Aalbersberg.

*Communications working group:* The roundtable agreed to establish this working group in support of the International Year of Biodiversity. The following were suggested as members; Rhyn Davies (PBIF), Seema Deo, Scott Radaway, WWF SPPO communication officer, PIMRIS/USP, Birdlife, Jackie and Steve Menzie (to be invited). Seema and Scott will convene this working group then they will decide on the chairperson of the working group. The main task of the group is to develop a roundtable communication strategy.

4. **Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation Support for national nature conservation coordination and implementation:** As decided from the 2008 meeting in Suva, Fiji the resources of the roundtable will focus on supporting implementation of country nature conservation strategies such as NBSAPs and other nature conservation national frameworks. The roundtable endorsed continued support for Fiji, Solomon Islands and PNG for 2009. The chair highlighted that funds from members contribution is currently funding a consultant to support the development of a Fiji NBSAP implementation plan which Austral Foundation facilitated in the development of a roadmap. Fiji needs

- another \$30,000FJD to complete this work. The coordinator and the chair will continue to facilitate members and working groups to support country specific implementation and improving coordination in PNG, Solomon Islands and other countries such as Vanuatu have expressed need of similar support.
5. **Donor Engagements:** The roundtable discussed the importance of engaging donors through the roundtable strategy and principles. It was agreed that the secretariat will inform donors of the roundtable strategy and principles and promote that this is integrated into their donor guidelines.
  6. **Membership:** The following were highlighted as target areas for engagement and membership drive in the next year: (i) Northern Pacific was especially highlighted, (ii) Australia, (iii) Private Sector, (iv) Churches/Pacific Council of Churches, (vi) Civil Society Organisation such as PRINGOS and (vii) CROPs. It was suggested that the 2010 roundtable meeting to be jointly planned with some regional meetings such as Climate Change roundtables, PRINGO meetings and others.
  7. **Process Management Committee:** The following were agreed to be members of the process committee to play the roundtable management role and supported by the secretariat.
  8. **Secretariat:** The chair presented the cost of running the secretariat would be around \$100,000USD. The organisations that made contributions and commitment to supporting the roundtable were WWF SPPO (\$15,000FJD), CI (\$30,000USD), USP/IAS (\$5,000USD). These funds are covering the coordinators salary/fees while IUCN Oceania and FSPI is currently covering operational costs. There was a request from the secretariat for organisations for further contributions towards the coordinator's salary and country support work in Fiji, Solomon Islands and PNG. The option of possibly levying a membership fees was raised to cover some of this costs. The secretariat will be developing proposals to raise funds.
  9. **2010 Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation Meeting:** It was suggested to explore having the meeting to coincide with the COP prep meeting and then decide a host.
  10. **2012 Conference:** The Process working Group to start working with the secretariat to develop proposals to fund the conference. The secretariat is to start consulting the previous committee on lessons learned and start mapping the preparation to be discussed in the 2010 annual meeting.

## **B. Meeting Summary**

### **Official Opening**

- 1.0 The meeting was officially opened by the Honorable Gordon Lilo Darcy, Minister for Environment, Conservation and Meteorology. Taholo Kami, Chair of the Roundtable, made a brief presentation on the role of the RT and objectives of the Honiara meeting. The keynote address was given by Rex Horoi, Director of FSPI.
- 1.1 A brief signing ceremony was held during which Don Stewart and Rex Horoi signed the RT Charter on behalf of Birdlife International and FSPI respectively.

All presentations and speeches are provided as Annexes.

### **Session 1: Overview and Setting the Stage**

- 1.2 TAholo presented on the objectives of the meeting and noted that there is a need to get past the question of the role and function of the RT and focus on how we can deliver better and measure objectives against regional and national priorities.

### **Session 2: Discussion and Adoption of Agenda**

- 1.3 The Agenda was adopted with some minor changes.

### **Session 3: Discussion and Matters Arising from 2008**

- 1.4 Minutes from 2008 Meeting
- Priority to work in countries
  - There are now 12 new members with Sea Web and PII considered also signing
  - RT officer recruited
  - RT Management Group – small group to help move things forward
  - Monitoring WG
  - Other working groups – need to clear up the process and make sure these are working. Some WGs may be short term – task oriented. Need to be realistic about how these work.
  - Statement on PA guidelines submitted to WCC
- 1.5 Apologies

Western Melanesia Programme of WWF  
CI  
WWF Country Programme for Solomon Islands  
RARE

1.6 Freeform Sessions

- Global Environment Facility 5 (GEF 5) Funding New Projects for the Pacific (starting June 2010)
- Pacific Island Forum (Hosted by Australia, August) – opportunity for hosting a reception at the Forum
- Effective ways of doing capacity building
- REDD
- Ecosystem approaches
- International Year of Biodiversity (2010) – how do we participate more actively in some of these broad initiatives.
- Indigenous communities and conservation agenda

1.7 Matters for Inclusion in RT Business

- Representation from the northern Pacific – eg. Micronesia Challenge
- How to best engage different interests in the RT – separate meetings, etc?

DAY 2

**Session 4: Overview of Roundtable (Charter, Membership Update and Coordination)**

- 1.8 Taholo provided an overview of the current progress and challenges from the PNG meeting, the role of the Roundtable, the Charter and commitments made by members.
- 1.9 Taholo raised the point that several of the commitments made are not addressed by donors. The challenge is how to align these principles with the expectations of donors.
- 2.0 Membership of the RT by governments was raised – the issue is of effective engagement – SPREP is the link to governments and serves as the main focal point for the RT to governments. This should be strengthened. Governments can be invited through SPREP to participate in the RT. Potentially, there could be an RT side discussion at a SPREP meeting. However, probably not strategic to open the meeting to donors and governments. Need to work out how we address special needs of different partners in conservation who are not members (governments, donors)
- 2.1 Working groups – which ones are working, which ones are no longer viable, do we need new ones.
- 2.2 Working with countries – the possibility of a national roundtable process supported by the RT was raised. Currently there are national NBSAP steering committees but national RT process may ensure better partnerships.

- 2.3 Reporting – how can we get a useful snapshot of conservation in the region to give some measure of what is happening. Can the RT contribute or should this be a SPREP-led activity?
- 2.4 Safe spaces for dialogue and action – eg. REDD, palm oil, mining, forests and fisheries – is there space somewhere for how we deal with these issues in the region?
- 2.5 New ideas and issues – bringing together RT heads and governments, new initiatives, new issues – landscapes, agriculture and settlements?
- 2.6 Next steps – national discussions with PNG and Solomons and continued strategic involvement with Fiji.

Presentation attached as Annex.

#### Questions

- 2.7 Paul Lokani – Countries tend to be reporting for compliance on international agreements rather than doing reporting for themselves – what really matters is reporting against what they have set out for themselves.  
Govts are reporting for what is nationally recognized – there are other community programmes that should be monitored and would provide good information for determining priorities, etc.
- 2.8 Kesa - Getting governments engaged is a first step – NGOs are working at community level and providing specific reports.
- 2.9 Reporting done but seldom circulated in useful form – needs to be processed and added to existing information.

#### Session 5: Presentation of Vision, Action Strategy (Objectives and Principles – Greg Sherley

- 3.0 Greg presented on the Strategy and highlighted that it has gone through a lot of consultation and evolution to get to where it is. The strength of conservation in the Pacific is its cooperative nature and the AS highlights this.
- 3.1 There are 4 objectives against which planning, monitoring and assessment is done. The AS supports the implementation of the NBSAPS.

#### Questions

- 3.2 NBSAPs do not drive all the actions in the country and the RT may need to look at how it can assist countries to utilize these documents effectively in their planning.
- 3.3 Willie Atu – NBSAPs may need to be revised as some NBSAPs were prepared mainly to meet the needs of implementing the CBD. In some cases, there has been limited community consultation. However, the NBSAP process has possibly been



the most thorough that we have so far; therefore, need to look at how to make best use of what we have – possibly through reviews.

### **Session 6: Organisational Contributions towards the Action Strategy Objectives**

- 3.4 The purpose of this session is to get an idea fo what each organization is doing under the objectives and to help establish possible monitoring mechanism for the Strategy.

#### TNC

- 3.5 Paul described the objectives and activities under two goals – Coral Triangle, Marine Protected Areas, Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, Conservation of High Priority Natural Areas. Work is in several areas of PNG and Solomon Islands.
- 3.6 Bismarck Sustainable Development Plan Study Area – integrating conservation into development plans and implementing these – working in two provinces. MOUs being signed to ensure conservation is implemented as a development activity. Adelberts Conservation Cooperative Model is used to guide the work.
- 3.7 Sustainable Financing activity in Arnavon Islands Community Managed Conservation Area – establishment of a trust fund with an initial endowment?
- 3.8 Various no-take areas, traditionally established. Success shown in terms of increased species populations.
- 3.9 In Micronesia, TNC works with partners eg. Conservation Society of Pohnpei.

#### SPREP

- 4.0 Seema made a brief presentation on SPREP and its work programme. She highlighted the fact that SPREP supports countries through capacity building, support and facilitation roles. The SPREP Strategic Programme is aligned with all 4 AS objectives.

#### WCS

- 4.1 Stacy presented the work programme of WCS and how it is aligned with the objectives of the AS. She highlighted that the WCS strategic programme is trying to include objectives of the RT and ensure that there is community focus in their work.

#### WWF

- 4.2 Kesa and Louise presented on the WWF strategic programme against the AS objectives.

#### Birdlife International

- 4.3 The Birdlife programme focuses on sites, species, habitats and people. All its objectives and activities are aligned with the AS objectives.

#### Worldfish

- 4.4 Anne-Maree Schwarz presented on Worldfish noting that they already work with a number of partners in the RT. Worldfish is not a conservation organization. It has a mission to reduce poverty and hunger by improving fisheries and aquaculture. In fisheries, focal county is Solomon Islands in the Pacific. Two interlinked agenda - productive and resilient small scale fisheries and expand sustainable aquaculture. People-centred. Traditionally work with Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) and more recently with MECM. Worldfish is moving from a focus on traditional alternative livelihoods projects to CBAM? More recently, it has started work on developing a project to look at quantification of ecosystem services from mangroves. She noted that the various resilience concepts being discussed currently have great potential if grounded and this is what WF is seeking to do through this project.

#### IUCN

- 4.5 Taholo presented IUCN's current activities and highlighted the challenge for policy organizations in aligning themselves with the AS objectives. He provided an overview of the organisation's global strategic priorities and Oceania priorities against the 4 objectives.

#### FSPI

- 4.6 Etika presented on the strategic programmes of FSPI. FSPI is a network of 10 PI NGOs. Its focus is on enabling sustainable livelihoods through supporting national networks and community based arrangements.

#### Questions

- 4.7 It was recommended that consideration be given to assisting communities make their own long term development plans and to support them to integrate conservation into these plans. This would be similar to the work that TNC is doing.

#### Seaweb

- 4.8 Scott presented on Seaweb's work explaining that their key role is to link the science with public awareness – social marketing and media are key approaches. Seaweb's awareness work is targeted - identifying the key points of change (examples are the swordfish and the "Too Precious to Wear" campaigns).
- 4.9 In the Pacific, the focus is currently on work in Fiji and PNG. Work has traditionally involved training of media/journalists, media fellowships, etc and there is now a push for a campaign approach to the Seaweb work in the two countries.
- 5.0 Seaweb is also looking at working in some capacity with the Micronesia Challenge through NOAA and TNC and also to exploring the possibility of working with the Pacific 2020
- 5.1 Looking to ensure consistency of messaging in initiatives
- 5.2 Communications issue ?

PBIF – Pacific Biodiversity Information Forum

- 5.3 Mark presented an update on the status of the databases and raised the issue that databases are not being updated. Who should take on this responsibility? Should it remain the task of the RT?

Session 7: Defining Roundtable 5 Year Strategic Focus

Session 8: Monitoring of Action Strategy

- 5.4 Mark also provided a summary of the earlier organization presentations and raised the issue of how implementation of the AS might be monitored. It was suggested that perhaps the RT can (a) facilitate engagement and capacity development at the country level and (b) monitor members' actions against the stated principles.
- 5.5 Suggested that one of the problems of the RT is that it has been difficult to grasp. However because of the RT and commitment of its members, synergies and partnerships have been created.

Session 9: Monitoring of Principles

- 5.6 Annette presented the “Performance Framework” for the Principles for NC in the Pacific. At the last meeting, it was agreed that a monitoring strategy is needed for the principles.
- 5.7 The principles are groundbreaking – not just for Pacific but worldwide in conservation.
- 5.8 The proposed framework shows 3 levels of monitoring – organizational self assessment; national assessment; and independent monitoring and complaints procedures.
- 5.9 The point was raised that the RT cannot monitor specific conservation targets but that this is the task of members themselves. Thus focus of monitoring for the RT needs to be on what it can actually and realistically do.
- 6.0 ICoordination and collaboration
- 6.1 How do we in doing our work, also have a strategy on how we strengthen country engaging
- 6.0 The idea of monitoring the principles

Point about meeting the need of middle level capacity building in country – more focus is needed in this area (RT, KT)

Review of monitoring and indicators still available as an option now (MF)

Broke into three groups to discuss the following three questions : will the indicators measure progress against the principles; what are the targets for 2010 and 2015; can the round table members commit to annual questionnaires, annual national assessments, independent report and complaints procedure; any general comments..

DAY 3

USP

- 7.0 Randy presented on various activities of the USP and highlighted the fact that good research and science is essential for ongoing conservation. Research must also take into account local and traditional knowledge.

8.0 Phil Cowan – Landcare presentation

Report Back from Breakout Sessions

9.0 Report Back on Targets for Principle Monitoring

Louise.

Exit strategy – transition strategy or sustainability strategy

Work with WWF and others and do something big together –

Regional perspective – joint calendar? Ma’afu St

Island and Ocean Biodiversity as a Foundation for Sustainable Development – Our Island Homes

## **Louise’s NOTES FROM THE ROUNDTABLE MEETING**

### **Feedback on monitoring plan – targets and indicators**

Group 1

Q1 : All indicators match/map to cover all principles

1 = 3,6

2 = 7

3 = 5,8

4 = 1,2,4

5 = 6

1. No baselines on the following :

- a. How many (%) of plans meet national conservation strategy?
- b. What number of national plans meet bullet points?
- c. How many of the plans did Roundtable members contribute?

2. Felt that the way was written – not going to see any progress. Quite a slow process. IN some countries there is an active government policy to streamline and contract out work to NGOs etc. So goal is not feasible as is written. May want to include national organizations with local leadership. How many are collaborating with home grown NGOs.

#### **Suggested targets :**

By 2010 = baseline – counts of answers that currently exist

By 2015 = 100% of plans assisted by RT members

For indicators 2.1 to 2.4 need a baseline. Needs to be reviewed again in a year after the baselines have been set.

3. For 2010 – all 12 members should have a formal agreement with partners.  
By 2015 – there should be as many agreements as there are members.  
Indicator – percentage of agreements that contain all 3 bullet points (By 2010 60%, 2015 100%)

4. By 2010 – 70% would have programmes with best measures incorp; by 2015 100%.

5. BY 2010 – baseline; by 2015 – 70%.

Q3 : Annual questionnaire = YES

Annual national assessment = YES

Independent report and complaints procedure – some discussion – might incite industrial espionage.

Suggestion to do a conservation audit to make sure everyone is up to standard rather than setting up competitive element of how it is currently written.

#### **Discussion :**

How do we measure ownership and capacity.

Big budget doesn't necessarily mean

Paul Lokani : layers of governance – if we can measure according to local governing body – currently there is no budget – now starting to put a budget in.

If Provincial government is putting money into community projects and management – that is a positive step – perhaps that should be where we measure.

Sandeep : Allocation of money to capacity building – could that be a measure.

Annette – not necessarily a measure of success.

Randy : still essentially driven y foreign aid and money.

Should have a goal at government and provincial level – money for environment department and conservation.

Kesa : A lot of countries have been through capacity assessment – is it possible to link the measurement to the capacity assessments.

#### **Feedback Group 2 :**

Indicator 1:4 countries with active national roundtables by 2010, and 12 by 2015.

I2 : By 2010, relevant national departments would increase their salaried staff by 50% of 2008 levels. 100% by 2015

I3 : All RT members review MoUs by 2010.

All RT members reporting on a common template to government

National State of the Environment report compiled from NGO and Government reports (2015)

I4 : RT members participate at relevant government corp. planning 2010 – [not sure if this is a target or a best practice principle].

All RT supported programmes have measures of best practice incorporated into their design.

Felt that the final one reflected the whole RT aims – and perhaps should not be a separate target.

**Feedback Group 3 :**

	Communit y rights	Pacific perspecti ve	Ownersh ip	Sust/reali stic	Good governan ce	Coord	CD	Account
NBSAP	3	2	3	1	3	3	3	3
CD			3				3	
Account	3	2		3	3			3
BP	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Coord & Collab		2			3	3		
Scientific Rigour								

New thoughts – need to add scientific rigour – best available science.

- 1 = weak
- 2 = moderate
- 3 = strong

Felt that sustainability was a partic impt issue and wasn't articulated in any of the principles.

Financial sustainability –

Talked about putting some points under the BP indicator – to see if there is good awareness raising and advocacy.

Mainstream sustainability into other departments – cross sectoral approach.

Summary by Annette

- Scientific rigour
  - Sustainability – financial and resources
1. NBSAP – should be like a catch all so that the NGOs align their programme to the NBSAP.

Get the feeling the groups were happy with I1.

2. More discussion on the Indicator 2.

One of the problems is that Pacific peoples doesn't have ownership, don't have capacity, don't feel the RT work reflects their own needs.

When capacity rests with the NGOs and government is weak – RT members and INGOs have huge responsibility to ensure that their work does not just reflect the International mandate.

The budget that is put into conservation

The number of staff – very different when you look at the Pacific.

3. Groups were comfortable with this Indicator.

4. Groups were comfortable with this Indicator

Talked about including development organizations & agendas into the RT.

Needs to get sorted out a bit first – then include.

Needs somehow to be relaunched.

Paul Lokani : we need to go to development organizations – and embed ourselves into their priorities – they have been here for longer.

### **Working Groups**

Each RT organization – would be a member of the WG.

1. Community WG – Etika is the chair.

2. Country support and capacity building WG – Bill Aalbesberg.

5. Economics for sustainable use – Sandeep is the contact person.

6. Threatened species group – Ana Tiara and Helen Pippard

7. CTI Group – Jackie Thomas

8. Monitoring Group

9. Oceanic fisheries management group

10. Invasives – Alan Tye

Mark will develop a list serve for the WGs.

### **Species Redlist**

Updating this will be a long-term process.

2008 – IUCN meeting. There are a number of species that exist in our region.  
Able to get some funding for redlisting from Fonds Pacifique.  
Will look at assessments – 5 to 6 taxonomic groups need to be assessed – include reptiles and freshwater fish.  
Trying to use local expertise, but if don't have will get in external expertise.

### **Offshore Fisheries**

IUCN, WWF, US, Greenpeace.

Have met and have lots of email discussion.

Intends to collaborate on key oceanic fisheries issues. Tuna, Swordfish and sharks are primary focuses. Key areas currently under discussion :

- (i) Operational
- (ii) High Seas
- (iii) Seamounts
- (iv) Incidental bycatch of endangered species.
- (v) Discards
- (vi) Ecosystem based approach
- (vii) Advocacy and policy development are key strategies.

Group intends to collaborate on key strategic issues to be agreed by members.

Seek to understand what is currently being done and where expertise are available.

Key actions in the next 6 months :

- (i) Collate all organizations working on oceanic fisheries and management
- (ii) Needs to be a framework
- (iii) Identify gaps
- (iv) Develop a WG strategy
- (v) Set timeframes for these actions
- (vi) Intend to hold a side event at an oceanic fisheries management to discuss – invite parties of Nauru agreement.
- (vii) Have discussed with FFA and they are interested in

Want to keep it small and focused

Also raise the impacts of tuna fishing on community based management.

### **Capacity Building WG**

Request for a plan of the year training activities that will happen in 2010 and Bill will disseminate to everyone.

### **Community-based management WG**

Act as 'community' police to see whether policies and strategies are community appropriate/savy.

In terms of cost-effectiveness - need to help the traditional leaders in terms of 'cash based economy'.

Could allow the database to incorporate Pacific relevant categorizations – Mark Fornwall.



Need to be proactive to change this.

Need to come out with a statement or something tomorrow – adapting a more appropriate classification of MPAs/CBMAs – community group to take this on. Need to show the outcomes both nationally and internationally.

Also need to set up a classification for biodiversity which incorporates the sustainable use of species and also protection of populations.- should ask the species group to take that one on.

Would like LMMA to be the community Group for the RT. Recommended not the group but a member.

Next step of the Hugh Govan study should be the categorization.

Greg – recategorisation is a huge task.

NZ govt challenged this and they now have their own classification.

Before you set this up – need to know what you want out of this system.

Huge job and possibly very expensive.

Hugh is OK that we can grade ourselves into that category.

Need to identify a way of reporting the contribution being made by Pacific communities to biodiversity conservation – and of attracting GEF to it. Community Group will come up with a statement.

## **CTI WG**

Kicked off in December 2008.

Connect the RT and action strategy to CTI

Need to identify how CTI connects to Pacific, connectivity and information dissemination.

See Jackie's powerpoint.

Sharing information on ADB GEF and alerting to need to be engaged in that process.

Effort to broaden the engagement of Pacific Reps in CTI process.

How can we maximize the CTI investments so goes wider than CT6.

Palau expressed an interest in being engaged in the CTI.

Emphasise that individual members are being involved in CTI. Broader group are now attending and being engaged in CTI process.

Increasing representation from the Pacific. Vanuatu GEF focal points are starting to engage.

Putting in Pacific priorities to ADB process. Also involved in shaping the USAID programme.

Currently more individual engagement.

Next steps : membership.

Still a lot of work in terms of partner coordination

How do deal with all the investments coming in to support the CTI.

Will hold a meeting to discuss CTI as there is a quorum of us here this week.

Some of USAID funding might fund the RT coordination position.

July – work planning for CTI in Bali.

RETA process – GEF money won't start flowing until March / June 2010.

Kesa : Perhaps one of RT functions is to assess the benefits of these initiatives can be spilled over to the rest of the Pacific.

CTI – should be opportunity to do things properly.

**Working Groups & RT** – please shape up the asks - what are we calling for?

### **FLAGGED ITEMS**

Use of transition rather than exit as a term – becoming a partner rather than the leader.

Use 'expanding/supplementary livelihood bases' – not to use 'alternative livelihoods'.

NBSAP – language differences between departments is part of the problem of integrating and streamlining NBSAP objectives into sectoral plans.

### **Coral Triangle WG**

- Look at engagement in USAID and ADB RETA processes.
- Engagement in RT
- PIF & MSG
- CTI input from the Pacific into partner coordination, M&E and financial structures.

### USAID and ADB process

#### *Immediate action :*

1. Stacy would like a RT consensus statement – aligned consensus.
2. USG and ADB are supposed to be following the priorities of the governments – this will mean that the NGOs will look like they are in the lead.
3. Role should be to support the countries. We have been accused of driving the agenda.
4. NGOs are now setting the agenda which is going to come back and hit us – PL.
5. Country governments need to be aware of our support for the process.
6. Give reinforcement to the government priorities.
7. Concern that Lindsay Saunders will listen to the loudest voice.
8. With Fiji – each Ministry will do their own strategic plan independently of one another.

Recommended that the RT principles are highlighted to ADB and USAID and other donors and promote the need that these donors should follow the national plans.

Concern that there is no national plan for Fiji and Vanuatu to follow.

National priorities to include the NBSAP and other key documents.

**ACTIONS :**

Work with governments and stakeholders to support good process and ensure it is followed by everyone.

Statement first and then work directly with donors on how they behave in the Pacific – i.e. to adopt the principles.

Donor coordination is not happening – why not?

Kate Newman to discuss the issue of donor engagement between ADB and USAID – so they don't overwhelm the governments – so the processes are aligned.

Contact point on ADB design process.

Anna and Willie – SI

Kesa – Fiji

Paul – PNG

Etika – Vanuatu & Timor Leste

MSG discussion

How do we engage the MSG?

Have been discussions with Senior officials in PNG and SI about the MSG as an opportunity to look at environmental issues.

Needs to be a government minister or some such to take this forward.

We need to define the ask – e.g. setting up a sub-group.

Start at PS level and senior officers level – Paul Lokani will take this forward on behalf of the partnership.

Austral Foundation will work with Rence to develop their National Plans.

Information paper to the Pacific Leaders.

**Community Working Group**

How do we want to define the category of MPA which are more appropriate to the Pacific context.

Pick up the paragraph that was written last year.

Asking the working group to develop a classification system for the Pacific???? – opening a whole can of worms.

Hugh has aspects of the classification.

Doesn't want to start up a process – but wants a consensus on what we think they are.  
Task of working group – to define the MPA – “to eat or not to eat your MPA”.

## **Oceanic Fisheries WG**

Inequitable competition for tuna resources to Pacific Communities.

Talk to fisheries departments in countries.

Find out more about the impact of fisheries on African communities from WWF network – need to learn more about this.

Include other partners – agreed.

Link to tuna markets and market transformation.

FFA should be on the working group.

Seaweb to be part of the group.

Annual conference in January – tuna is a priority.

How we involve the private sector : this group to ask Bob Gillette – ask them to be on the WG.

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## **Monitoring Group Feedback**

Roundtable website needs a significant amount of work.

Possibility of having a password or even an outreach mechanism – haven't discussed how this would

There was some concerns about having a complaints – but feel that there is something more formal to monitor our performance in the Pacific.

Changed one of the indicators – measure the RT contribution and assistance to Nature Conservation Strategy – national RT/coordinating bodies – and measure how many have been established as way to improve alignment.

Removed the two that were problematic.

Get countries and in country partners to self describe their capacity development needs.

2010 – establish baselines and then develop a target for 2015.

Will write the questionnaires relating to this and get the Secretariat to disseminate.

### **Bird WG**

Workshop in Melbourne – will send out the invitation and draft action plan for birds by 15<sup>th</sup> July.

IBA desk studies – will circulate those as well to member countries.

Islands integrated biodiversity – looking at opportunities to get bird priorities into the process.

Alan Tye will look after the bird issues until biodiversity person comes on board.

In the next 12 months – will be progressing the Red List – have some funding and waiting to hear about success with a second proposal.

### **Free Form Discussion Groups**

#### **1. GEF V**

Currently GEF funding for biodiversity - fourth cycle of money. Remaining money will finish in Sept 09 – GEF Council meeting.

Next tranche of funding will be available June 2010.

There is a lot of process involved in accessing these funds.

USD 98 million has been provided to the Pacific. This has not been and probably wont be completely spent. Not sure if GEF V will be a GEF PAS type approach.

Need to be organized as a region as far in advance as possible on key topics that need further funding. Need to be sharp and focused – well thought through.

Don't think the funding will be any way as big as the existing GEF PAS commitment – due to financial crisis.

Thinks the RT is the perfect forum to have these discussions.

Will be facilitating the Pacific bids for GEF V.

Have a group discussion on this tomorrow.

#### **2. REDD**

This is an opportunity for countries, communities and projects. Is on most countries agendas.

PNG, SI and Vanuatu are particularly active.

Freeform session to look at this issue.

*Interested parties* : Paul Lokani, Kesaia Tabunakawai, Stacy Jupiter, Taholo Kami.

6.30 pm - Medana

### **3. Ecosystem-Based Approach**

Think about scaling up in terms of processes and strategies.

Consider the whole process – need to set a different –

*Interested participants* : Randy Thaman, Etika Rupeni, Stacy Jupiter, Kesaia Tabunakawai

### **6 pm - cocktail**

### **4. International Year of Biodiversity**

Parties will be looking at what they can achieve in terms of biodiversity loss.

There have been a number of discussions that have occurred around biodiversity.

Put together a draft paper – circulated to RT for comment.

Currently have a discussion paper on this.

Should we celebrate this as a region – need everyone on board.

Do we want to have it and if we do how will we go ahead.

Should we have a year of or not.....

What about having a single focal event each year and have the RT meeting around that.

Randy : theme should be island and ocean biodiversity as a basis for sustainable development.

Scott : May be too broad for Pacific audiences.

Come back with a stronger statement tomorrow –

*Interested Parties* : Scott, Ana and Seema – 8 am.

### **5. Gap between Communities and NBSAPs**

Come to community WG to discuss in some detail.

### **6. Capacity Building**

At national government level. How do we best provide that kind of capacity development. Looking to get a self identification processes – might be good to assess what works and what doesn't.

Paul Lokani : Capacity issues are being dealt with – plenty of capacity building with sole purpose to look at capacity.

Stacy : Political instability – where should we aim capacity building at – top level or lower.

Louise : look at our own contributions to capacity building in the region.

Encourage partners to look at this.

*Interested parties* : Stacy Jupiter, Kesaia Tabunakawai, Louise Heaps, Etika Rupeni, Randy Thaman.

8 am at Lime Lounge tomorrow am.

## **7. PIF**

Discuss the opportunity of PIF in Cairns – do we want to do something. Lead by a government and government leaders.

Might be an opportunity to raise the profile of Pacific to Australian government.

Food security and climate change.

Solomon Islands Government – thinking of taking the lead and hosting that.

90-100 people – looking at AUD 20-25,000.

Don : agrees is a good idea – need to look at the effectiveness of it compared to the cost.

Was it a success or not??? Political atmosphere was not great at that time.....so lots of leaders did not come. Came across as an expensive preaching to the converted.

Randy : GLISPA event – would have to be a CC, food security and Political capital – how far do we keep using that capital.

Policy statement as part of the agenda – it would have to a government.

At the Forum : USP, SPREP,

Does GLISPA have a host government in mind?

Don : another crisis that we should be looking at – the extinction crisis.....frogs etc. Don thinks we should be addressing this and taking to our leaders. Need to champion again with these leaders.

Finish this off tomorrow – discussion with Gerald Miles tonight.

9 am : Museum

Don Stewart : Other business – advancement of the prioritisation of RT on SI, PNG and Fiji – group could meet to look at possibilities for further cooperation. To include in the main plenary discussion tomorrow.

### **Feedback from PIF meeting**

Take notes from Jackie.

Ask : Congratulations SI and PNG governments to their commitments to the CTI. Encouraging greater flow of benefits from the CTI to flow to Pacific Islands Countries – specifically to benefit the

Randy would like a greater focus on biodiversity – include congratulating the PILN network and LMMA network. Highlight the key community initiatives that are working.

Community sustainability mechanisms to underwrite the sustainability of these things.

Need a broader Pacific focus for Australian Government.

Need to make it Pacific wide – so need to talk to all the countries.

SPC – include in this process.

People to take the lead to talking to government – disseminates a list of who to talk to for this issue – Jackie to produce.

### **Ecosystem-based Approach**

Ana, Seema, Randy, Kesa and Scott

Policy briefings – to get IYOB across.

Some themes – guarding our Pacific way of life. Guarding extension

Biodiversity is

Good to celebrate IYOB as a region.

How do we get some sort of commitment and coordination.

Maybe have one or two members to commit to....

Notes from Ana.

Randy : ‘Banking on Biodiversity’

Identifying clear target audiences – and find ways to motivate them.

SPREP and Seaweb to look at core audiences and find ways to enable partners to undertake the campaign.

The forum are a splash, but are not the only occasion.

Take forward by : a working group – as above.

Wanting a good communications working group – will be discussed later.

### **REDD Working Group**

Interest from SI environment minister on what the REDD position is. There is a question of Pacific Islands being neutral on REDD. Minister of Environment in SI may be able to be the intermediary between PNG and Tuvalu.

There is a group looking at REDD for SIDS – TNC, SPREP, USP

Suggestion from Randy to get Sian Weaver’s consultancy group engaged – all linked to adaptation.

Looking at producing a policy advisory on why REDD is good for SIDS.

Please include Diane McFadzien in this group.

CAN working Group in Cooks next week – could be an opportunity to review any statement.

### **Statement from RT**



Include IYOB in the statement and one on communities. Include text on CTI. Sustainable Funding and capacity building.

Principles media release.

### **Capacity Building Group**

Shifted responsibility to country level.

Expecting the national coordinating committees to take this on – but never been effective in the past. This is one of the reasons we have discussed doing it again. What is going to be different this time.

The ownership of the process has to rest with the governments and not the RT members – how do you make that happen.

Need to have leadership, organizational and prioritization skills.

Do they have the resources to manage this process.

A lot of other initiatives going on – e.g. CTI – how do we work with them so we don't add another burden to already overburdened departments.

We have a lot of RT members operating in Melanesia – but how is this going to work for Micronesia and Polynesia. How can we make sure that we can adopt this approach so that is effective in each of the countries that have to adopt the Action Strategy.

RT secretariat support to Fiji has been strong – can that also happen for other countries.

Do what has been done in Fiji – start with the governments themselves – governments to sit down with Cedric ???? to determine what their capacity needs are – vision and priorities before they sit down with RT members. The second process point – we clearly need to support them – with training (they need to id what that is), financial resources – one of reasons they don't meet is don't have money for lunch; often only one person inside the departments and they are overwhelmed- provide them with staff within the department; links across the region – the way that PILN has – so the departments can link and learn from each other.

NBSAPs need to be improved but not rewritten – there is a good framework that this can be pinned to.

Ensure that the process is coordinated with all the other initiatives. Should not be creating new bodies.

Randy : Can't separate building capacity in Government, NGOs and CROPs. Have to look at human resource development needs across whole spectrum of players. They are all relevant and important.

Should be scholarships included in CTI process.

As we build projects – need to included capacity building budgets.

Do we need an action strategy for capacity building in the region?

Even though wont be able to train them –

Possibility of a database for expertise in the region – and getting people who are interested in being involved – way of starting this process.

People are willing to come to the Pacific to support actions here – unfunded. Leave without pay options. Opportunities that we may have not thought of. Idea of mentoring – as an important way forward.

Leadership courses in conservation – these things are available for staff – give people opportunity to train and teach whilst working on the job. Focusing on thinking and problem solving.

Why do they need so much capacity to run conservation programmes. Look at what capacity you have and scale down to meet the existing capacity in place.

Look closely at our own impact – poaching. How about supporting that person to stay to where they can conserve.

Fund people half time or full time.

Need a strategy for Capacity Building – which then needs to be adopted somehow regionally. Suggestion to develop one.

Need to make capacity building a personal mission.

**ACTION :** Follow up with Bill Aalbesberg who is the chair of the RT.

**ACTION :** Annette to develop an action strategy in draft and circulate for comment – focus on how to get national RT coordination going – and implementation of .

**ACTION :** Greg will move forward as much as possible that the RT principles are included in design of three GEF projects for the region.

**Core Group :** Stacy, Etika, Louise, Seema, Bill, Annette.

**Randy :** clear statement that capacity building should be incorporated into all aspects of programmatic management – at all levels and across sectors.

Idea for donor engagement on key issues – before December or early next year.

PIF – donors to commit to supporting contribution to capacity building approaches.

**Statement for RT – see statement**

**GEF IV and V – Greg Shirley**

**PAS :** Big package of money for GEF. Climate Change and CBD etc. funded through GEF.

Help facilitate the generation of ideas and programmes – and see them through the funding process. Get them through the agency that will be implemented through that.

Implementing agency – e.g. UN agencies

Executing agencies – NGOs, SPREP etc. – let the contracts and do admin support and oversee reporting requirements.

Provide opportunity for networking and linkages.

Ideas for how to involve some of the agencies.

Build as much interagency cooperation and collaboration as possible – can do well in the Pacific.

GEF V : 3 to 4 year periods of time that money is dedicated to environment – the fourth year of PAS allocation process is about to finish in November at the GEF council meeting.

Next year starts GEF V. There is a bidding process which will be available for us to engage in to secure funds for further work. This is available for ongoing projects. Wanted to advertise the projects and invite participation and engagement.

The shallow budget for the GEF V – financial crunch will probably hit. Will be much more competitive. Need to be consolidated.

NBSAPs, regional action strats etc. are possibilities for funding. Match funding is 1:1.

Onus is on countries to work out their own priorities.

PIF goes in and is approved by council and project is siloed.

Next step – put in a project preparation grant.

Once project doc is complete goes through for approval, gets reviewed again and the money is released. This can take quite a while.

- 1. Micronesian Challenge** - Includes Guam and Commonwealth of northern Marianas Islands – USD 6 million GEF, USD 6 million CI and TNC and USD 6 million from countries. USD 6 million into a personal endowment fund. Executing agency is the Micronesian Trust. 30% of marine EEZ areas and 20% of their land areas.
- 2. Phoenix Islands Protected Areas** – currently a USD 1 million component. Complex project and has the largest MPA in the world. Executing agency is Govt Dept. Special office has been set up to oversee the project. Offsetting tuna licensing fees. Eradication projects.

3. **Pacific Regional Invasive Species Programme** – involves 10 countries, USD 3.5 million. SPREP is the executing agency. Strong support to make it happen. Align with aspirations of the RT.
4. **Integrated conservation management** – ridge to sea – modeling at community level – Cook Is, Nauru, Tuvalu and ??? Executing agency is SPREP and only have government agencies. Consultant will come around and look at local NGOs, government etc...and fully integrated into project work. USD 2 million, USD 4 million total and should be approved by end Nov – and have applied for project preparation grant as well and hoping will happen by the end of the process. Act as a technical supporting mechanism

Trying to generate thought and discussion for putting in grants. More thinking in advance when the time comes.

Greg is available to advocate to Washington for Pacific based projects.

Ana would be happy to motivate information from GEF focal points to NGOs.

Rex is the GEF – NGO focal point.

Need a process for gathering ideas and informing Greg asap.

Agencies, NGOs and SPREP – send Greg Strategies.

GEF IV : Renewable Energy, technology, sustainable drinking water, POPs monitoring, Integrated Management of solid waste and POPs, DDT alternatives.

NOTE : GEF V should be on people's radar for June 2010.

### **ABD Feedback**

SI and PNG focal point for the ADB.

Uniquet team member.

ADB is the agent for GEF funding.

Two phases – phase I = design and Phase II = implementation.

Design team put together by UNIQUEST – Lindsay Saunders is the design team leader.

Country support for work that supports the CTI

### **2020 Challenge**

Scientific report released last year.

Launched at Manado.

4 main threats have been identified.

Try to find partnerships to develop an economic report.

Arnold Schwarzenegger has committed to a summit before the end of his term next year.

Challenge is the report.

IUCN have cut funding – so has been cut.

Finding that lots of information concerning pollution at the scale it is.  
Is it possible to raise the economics at a scale that can make a difference.  
Regional offices discussing engagements at this point.  
Had hoped for a Pacific champion to be Australia – but not looking good.  
Ensure have the correct economic body to undertake the report.  
Thinking needs to be done to capture  
GEF is undersubscribed due to physical capacity. Greg is wondering whether to think big  
– restructure the whole concept of funding – sit in a whole trust endowment fund. All  
pulled together and funded – continuity, consistency, integration etc.  
Single regional environmental fund – trust endowment fund to use more sustainably.  
Has to be politically driven.  
Not an issue of getting the data – know much of it. Decision makers at the RT.

**ACTION :** those who want to get involved – please do.

**ACTION :** Taholo to give a cost breakdown – USD 700,000 to 1.2 million.

**ACTION :** Taholo to circulate something on how to move forward the 2020 challenge.

**ACTION :** Circulate the ToR on the report.

### **Membership :**

Where are the French – big donors and doers in the region.

NZ has always been key to this process.

Need to engage Australia and NZ on the RT.

May want to consider some of the larger consultancy companies that want to be involved  
in our issues – e.g. Bob Gillette and Sian Weavers.

Churches/PCC.

CSO engagement – need to call a meeting to engage folk.

### **Management Committee**

Process working group – ToR is available – Kesa to review and decide whether she is on  
it or not.

### **Communications for the RT**

See Seema's presentation.

Recommendation for a comms wg – generally agreed and names given.

### **Circulate notes to participants :**

Taholo Kami - 2020

Etika Rupeni - Communities

Randy Thaman

Don Stewart - Birds

Greg Shirley – GEF V

Ana Tiara – Species & IYOB

Hugh Govan

Sandeep Singh – Oceanic fisheries

Jointly ????  
Stacy Jupiter - EBM  
Scott – Seaweb  
Kesaia Tabunakawai  
Jackie Thomas – CTI & PIF  
Louise Heaps  
Seema Deo – Communications & IYOB  
Phil Cowan  
Mark Fornwall  
Annette ????? – Capacity building  
Paul Lokani - REDD  
Willie Atu



## **PARTICIPANT LIST**

### **2009 Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation Meeting, Honiara, Solomon Islands**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Organisation</u></b>
Don Stewart	BirdLife Internation Pacific
Taholo Kami	IUCN Oceania
Kesaia Tabunakawai	WWF South Pacific Programme
Louise Heaps	WWF South Pacific Programme
Jackie Thomas	WWF South Pacific Programme
Paul Lokani	TNC Melanesi Programme - PNG
Willie Atu	TNC Melanesi Programme - Sol
Stacy Jupiter	Wildlife Conservation Society
Seema Deo	SPREP
Ana Tiraa	SPREP
Mark Fonwall	Pacific Basin Information Forum - US Government
Rex Horoi	FSPI
Etika Rupeni	FSPI/Roundtable
Sandeep Singh	US Embassy, Fiji
Hugh Govan	CTI Consultant
Randy Thaman	USP - Islands and Oceans
Annette Lees	Austral Foundation
Greg Sherley	UNEP
Anna Maree	WorlFish Centre Solomon Islands
Phil Cowan	Landcare Research New Zealand Government
Scott Radaway	SeaWeb
John Tanzer	Australian Dept of Environment/CTI



Rence Sore	Solomon Islands -Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology
John Horokou	Solomon Islands -Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology
Angnetha Karamui	Solomon Islands -Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology
Eleni Tokaduadua	Fiji Department of Environment
Kumras Kalim	PNG - Ministry of Environment and Conservation
James Terry	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Dr Richard Pauku	ADB CTI Solomon Islands National Coordinator
Hugo Tafea	SIDT/FSPI Communities and Coasts Programme
Silverio Wale	SIDT/FSPI Communities and Coasts Programme/SILMMA
Joanna Pita	SIDT/FSPI Communities and Coasts Programme
Nelly Kere	WWF Solomon Islands
Julia Maneoli	WWF Solomon Islands