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REGIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR THE PACIFIC REGION ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS, MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY AND INTEGRATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Nadi, Fiji, 2 to 6 February 2009
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

STATUS OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity ^{1/} requires each Party to develop or adapt national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and to integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

2. In its decisions VI/26, on the Strategic Plan for the Convention, and VI/27 A, on implementation of the Convention and, most recently, in decision IX/8, the Conference of the Parties of the Convention stressed that the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans constitute the cornerstone of national implementation of the Convention. This is reflected in goal 3 of the Strategic Plan, namely, that “national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention”.

^{1/} Article 6 of the Convention states that:

“ (a) Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities, develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, *inter alia*, the measures set out in this Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned.

(b) Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities, integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.”

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3. The Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, at its first meeting, in September 2005, examined progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and concluded that there is little progress towards goal 2 and that this remains a major constraint on implementation. The Working Group also noted that progress towards goal 3 is also poor. In view of this slow progress, the Conference of the Parties decided to conduct an in-depth review of the implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan. This note provides a summary of the results of that review, as considered by the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, at its second meeting, in July 2007 (Section II), and presented to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in May 2008 (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/14/Rev.1 and UNEP/CBD/COP/9/4).

4. This series of regional workshops on capacity development for NBSAPs is intended to contribute to the review process. Section III of the note provides information on the status and implementation of NBSAPs in the Pacific Region, as a basis for further work during the workshop (see section IV below).

5. Since considering the issue of national biodiversity strategies and action plans at its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties has issued guidance on the preparation and implementation of such strategies and plans and endorsed third-party guidelines developed to assist countries to fulfil their obligations under Article 6 of the Convention. The second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, held in July 2007, prepared consolidated and updated guidance (see UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/PAC/1/3). The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in May 2008 in Bonn, adopted this guidance in Decision IX/8 (paragraph 8).

II. IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF THE STATUS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NBSAPS: A GLOBAL OVERVIEW

6. As noted above, at its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider, at its ninth meeting, the in-depth review of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan (decision VIII/8). It requested the Working Group on Review of Implementation (WGRI) to prepare for the in-depth review by focusing in particular on the following elements:

- (a) The status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and their updating;
- (b) The extent to which biodiversity concerns have been effectively mainstreamed in accordance with Article 6(b) of the Convention;
- (c) The implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs); and
- (d) The provision of financial resources, capacity development, access to and transfer of technology and technology cooperation.

7. The relevant goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan are:

Goal 2: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical, and technological capacity to implement the Convention.

Objective 2.1: All Parties have adequate capacity for implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans

Objective 2.2: Developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States amongst them, and other Parties with economies in transition, have sufficient resources available to implement the three objectives of the Convention

Objective 2.5: Technical and scientific cooperation is making a significant contribution to building capacity

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Goal 3: National biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention.

Objective 3.1: Every Party has effective national strategies, plans and programmes in place to provide a national framework for implementing the three objectives of the Convention

Objective 3.3: Biodiversity concerns are being integrated into relevant national sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies

Objective 3.4: The priorities in national biodiversity strategies and action plans are being actively implemented, as a means to achieve national implementation of the Convention, and as a significant contribution towards the global biodiversity agenda.

8. In line with decision VIII/8, the Executive Secretary synthesized and analysed information in NBSAPs, the 127 third national reports submitted by Parties by April 2007, ^{2/} and other information submitted by Parties in response to the invitation in decision VIII/8 to provide updates on the status of NBSAPs, obstacles to implementation, national reviews of implementation and the availability of resources. The Secretariat also consulted relevant academic studies and reports prepared by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies. The latter includes evaluations of GEF support for enabling activities, National Capacity Self-Assessment reports and analyses of environment-related issues included in poverty reduction strategies and strategies for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

9. The following provides a summary of the main conclusions of the review, focusing on implementation of NBSAPs and the availability of financial resources^{3/}. It reproduces the conclusions of the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (July 2007) presented to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (May 2008). Data in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) have been updated to 7 July 2008.

(a) From information provided to the Secretariat from Parties, 160 Parties (84% of the total) have finalized their NBSAPs or equivalent instruments. Twenty Parties have informed the secretariat that they are preparing their NBSAP. Ten Parties have not prepared an NBSAP or initiated the process to do so, or have not informed the Secretariat that they have done so;

(b) Twenty Parties have revised NBSAPs, and fourteen more have revisions in progress. Revisions are designed to identify and meet new challenges and to respond to recent guidance from the Conference of the Parties. Some Parties are developing biodiversity strategies and/or action plans at the sub-national level;

^{2/} Third national reports had been received by 142 Parties by 7 July 2008.

^{3/} The full results of the Secretariat's analysis is provided in the following documents:

- Implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/14/Rev.1)
- Report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on the work of its second meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/4)
- Status of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the strategic plan focusing on implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and availability of financial resources: an overview (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2)
- Synthesis and analysis of obstacles to implementation of NBSAPs, lessons learned from the review, effectiveness of policy instruments and strategic priorities for action (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2/Add.1)
- Updated synthesis of information contained in third national reports (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/1)
- NBSAPs: a meta-analysis of earlier reviews (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/9)
- Review of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, biodiversity mainstreaming and implementation of the Convention: a bibliography (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/10).

(c) Stakeholder consultations have been a major part of NBSAP preparation. However, the range of stakeholders involved is often not adequate to ensure effective ownership of NBSAPs or to ensure mainstreaming of biodiversity beyond the environment community;

(d) While most NBSAPs include goals and targets, few are quantitative and few respond directly to the 2010 biodiversity target or other targets established under the Convention. In part, this results from the fact that most NBSAPs pre-date the establishment of the targets by the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(e) Similarly, reference to the Ecosystem Approach is absent from most NBSAPs, and most do not include reference to all of the relevant programmes of work and thematic issues under the Convention;

(f) Most NBSAPs include action plans. However, frequently, these tend to be focused on projects rather than on the fundamental issues that need to be addressed to achieve the objectives of the Convention. Few specify domestic funding sources;

(g) Effective communication programmes are lacking from many NBSAPs;

(h) Most countries report efforts to mainstream biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes. This is probably more effective with some sectors (e.g., forestry, tourism) than others. Mainstreaming of biodiversity into national development and poverty reduction strategies and broader planning processes appears to be generally weak;

(i) Most countries have identified priorities for implementation of their NBSAPs, but few of them have indicated in their national reports whether and to what extent they have been implemented. Some countries may have comprehensive reports on implementation but these are not systematically available to the Secretariat;

(j) Parties report that the most widespread constraints to implementation of the Convention are “lack of financial, human and technical resources” and “lack of economic incentive measures”. Articles 7, 12, 8(h) and 8(a-e) are reported to be the provisions most constrained by lack of resources;

(k) While nearly all countries indicate that they provide some financial support or incentives to national activities that are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention, budget cuts are a serious problem in some countries. There are many examples of private contributions and resources generated from revenue measures, but the resources are generally small at national or international levels;

(l) Several countries have begun to introduce innovative financial mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services, but, generally speaking, they have not yet borne fruit in generating sustainable financing. About one third of the reporting countries have adopted tax exemption status for biodiversity-related donations;

(m) Most countries do not have a process to monitor financial support in their countries, and only one-fifth of reporting countries have conducted a review of how their national budgets (including official development assistance) support of national biodiversity activities;

(n) According to data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), about US\$ 9 billion dollars of biodiversity-related donor assistance have been provided for the period 1998–2005. No clear long-term trends in bilateral assistance can be discerned;

(o) While some positive outcomes are reported for specific activities, in general, technology transfer and cooperation under the Convention appears to have been very limited;

(p) Important progress has been made with respect to the exchange of information and scientific and technical cooperation in general. However, the overall role of the clearing-house mechanism in supporting such cooperation needs to be further elaborated. About one-half of the Parties have developed a national clearing-house mechanism.

10. In their third national report, Parties were asked to indicate the relative importance of various obstacles ^{4/} to implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the thematic programmes of work, by ranking them as “high-level”, “medium-level”, or “low-level” challenges. Taking all reporting Parties together, the following ten challenges were ranked as “high” or “medium-level” by more than 70% of Parties for the implementation of Article 6:

- Lack of financial, human, technical resources (84%);
- Lack of economic incentive measures (82%);
- Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented (76%);
- Lack of public education and awareness at all levels (75%)
- Lack of effective partnerships (74%);
- Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders (73%);
- Unsustainable production and consumption patterns (72%);
- Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors (71%);
- Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness (70%);
- Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management (70%).

III. THE STATUS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NBSAPS IN THE PACIFIC REGION

11. Of the 16 Parties invited to participate in this regional workshop, 13 (81%) have completed a national biodiversity strategy and action plan, while 3 Parties (19%) have not yet finalized their NBSAP document (See Table 1) – a completion rate slightly below the global average. Annex I provides a digest of the NBSAPs as featured in the country profiles on the Convention’s website. In addition, an analysis of the current status of development of NBSAPs across 14 South Pacific states was prepared by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme in October 2007 (UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-PAC/1/INF2).

12. From the Pacific region, no country has yet revised its national biodiversity strategy and action plan, however, the Secretariat is aware that Australia and New Zealand have begun work in this regard.

13. As part of the global analysis, summarized in section II above, Parties were invited to submit information on the status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation and updating, and the extent to which biodiversity concerns have been effectively mainstreamed in accordance with Article 6(b) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. From the Pacific region, information for this compilation, prepared by the Secretariat for the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/WGRI/2/INF/7), was provided by Australia only.

^{4/} See UNEP/CBD/WGRI/2/2/Add.1 These obstacles correspond generally, but not exactly, to the list appended to the Strategic Plan (decision VI/26).

14. To complement and extend the global analysis, the Secretariat requested each participant to the Workshop, nominated by CBD National Focal Points, to provide further information on their country's NBSAP (See UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-PAC/1/Add.1).

15. A review of 152 NBSAPs reveals that only a small minority contain specific objectives or actions to link biodiversity and climate change. From the Pacific region, this would apply to one country (Federated States of Micronesia) only. To date, Australia is the only country to have developed a stand-alone action plan for biodiversity and climate change.

- Eleven Parties^{5/} address biodiversity and climate change as a strategic objective with related actions
- Five Parties^{6/} address biodiversity and climate change as a strategic objective but haven't developed related actions
- Twelve Parties^{7/} have developed actions to address biodiversity and climate change under strategic objectives dealing with research, monitoring, protected areas, forests, energy and transport sector, and carbon sequestration capacity

More information is available in the "Fact Sheet on Climate Change and Biodiversity in the Pacific Region" contained in document UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-PAC/1/5.

IV. ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN DURING THE WORKSHOP

16. As noted in the annotated agenda (UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-PAC/1/Add.1), participants will be invited to discuss national experiences and lessons learned in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, focusing on:

- (a) Status of NBSAPs or similar strategies and programmes;
- (b) Major Features of NBSAPs;
- (c) Priority actions identified for implementing NBSAPs;
- (d) Mechanisms identified for implementing NBSAPs;
- (e) Obstacles encountered in the implementation of NBSAPs; and,
- (f) Reviews undertaken of the implementation of NBSAPs and assessment of the effectiveness of the strategy;

^{5/} Barbados, Cambodia, Czech Republic, Dominica, European Community, Finland, Germany, Japan, Namibia, Peru, South Africa

^{6/} Canada, Nigeria, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden

^{7/} Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, Lithuania, Micronesia, Spain, Tajikistan, United Kingdom, Venezuela, Yemen

Table 1: Status of NBSAPS and national reports in the Pacific Region

Country	NBSAP (year of adoption) *year of completion indicated where year of adoption is unknown or unclear	National reports		
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Australia	Yes (2006) * Informed on 26 March 07 that NBSAP revision was under way and scheduled for completion in 2008	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cook Islands	Yes (2002)	No	No	No
Fiji	Yes (2007) * Year of adoption unclear. Hard copy given to SCBD at SCBD/SPREP workshop in Alotau in November 2007, however, in spite of requests, an electronic copy for posting on the CBD website has not yet been received.	Yes	Yes	No
Kiribati	Yes (2006) * Delegate to WGRI-2 held in Paris in July 2007 confirmed that NBSAP was completed in 2006, however, government approval was still awaited. In spite of requests, SCBD has not to date received hard and electronic copies of the NBSAP document or confirmation of its adoption.	Yes	Yes	No
Marshall Islands	Yes (2000)	Yes	Yes	No
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Yes (2002)	Yes	Yes	No
Nauru	No -- but being finalized * Informed by ministry on 1 June 2008 that they hoped to submit NBSAP by end of 2008, however, SCBD has not to date received a copy of the NBSAP document or confirmation of its completion and adoption.	No	No	No
New Zealand	Yes (2000) * 3rd NR received in July 2006 states that NBSAP review is under way.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Niue	Yes (2001)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Palau	Yes (2005) * Year of adoption unclear	No	No	No
Papua New Guinea	Yes (2007) * Year of adoption unclear. In spite of requests, SCBD has not yet received hard and electronic copies of the NBSAP document.	No	No	No
Samoa	Yes (2001) * SCBD does not have a hard copy of the NBSAP document. Although an HTML version was submitted in 2008, it could not be used for web posting (a Word or PDF copy for web posting has been requested however has not yet been received).	Yes	Yes	Yes
Solomon Islands	No * NBSAP in preparation (SCBD informed on 23 July 2008 that ministry hoped to complete NBSAP by end of 2008, however, SCBD has not to date received a copy of the NBSAP document or confirmation of its completion and adoption).	No	Yes	Yes
Tonga	Yes (2006)	Yes	No	No
Tuvalu	No * NBSAP in preparation	No	No	No
Vanuatu	Yes (2000)	Yes	Yes	Yes

*Annex I***MAJOR FEATURES OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS OF THE PACIFIC REGION**

This annex provides brief outlines of the major features of national biodiversity strategies and action plans as provided on the Convention's website at <http://www.cbd.int/countries/>. Those entries with a tick mark (✓) have been finalized and approved by Parties on the basis of a draft prepared by the Secretariat. For the remaining countries, the profiles have been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information provided in the NBSAP and national reports, but have not been reviewed by the Party concerned.

Australia ✓

The overall goal of the Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity (1996) is to protect biological diversity and maintain ecological processes and systems. There are 6 main objectives, with priorities covering the identification and description of: main ecosystems, existing knowledge about biodiversity, and threats. The strategy also provides the framework to develop a mechanism and management plans for: biodiversity in general, protected areas, information and support of conservation projects, major introduced pests, control of access to genetic resources, bioregional planning and management, private lands to complement the protection provided by the public estate in protected areas, and for local governments to assume a significant role in the conservation of biodiversity.

Cook Islands ✓

Theme A: Endangered Species Management Strategic Goal A1: Conserve Cook Islands native and important naturalised plants and animals, and provide for their sustainable use. Strategic Goal A2: Conserve important agricultural and non-naturalised species and provide for their sustainable use (Agro-biodiversity).

Theme B: Invasive Species Management Strategic Goal B1: Reduce the adverse impacts of invasive species on indigenous species and ecosystems, and prevent new invasions. Strategic Goal B2: Reduce the adverse impacts of invasive species on agricultural species and ecosystems and prevent new invasions.

Theme C: Ecosystem Management Strategic Goal C: Conserve important ecosystems through a system of protected areas with regulated and monitored activities.

Theme D: Equitable Sharing of Benefits Strategic Goal D: Ensure that the uses of biodiversity, including genetic resources, bring equitable benefits to relevant stakeholders.

Theme E: Management of Knowledge related to Biodiversity Strategic Goal E: Record and maintain records of scientific and traditional knowledge related to biodiversity, with consideration of Intellectual Property Rights.

Theme F: Biodiversity Awareness and Education Strategic Goal F: Make biodiversity information more readily available to all stakeholders and interested people.

Theme G: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Strategic Goal G: Integrate biodiversity into national and sectoral legislation, policies, plans and programmes.

Fiji

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The Fijian Biodiversity Strategy, completed in 2007, stresses the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial, freshwater and marine biological diversity in order to preserve ecological biodiversity for national and local development. The importance of maintaining protected areas, as well as the further development of a “core” system of protected areas and additional protected and conservation areas, is recognized by the government of Fiji. The strategy also focuses on the critical role of traditional resource owners and users in biodiversity conservation and encourages the development of assistance to resource owners to establish protected areas, assist in the management of protected areas, as well as the establishment of remuneration mechanisms for resource owners that engage in such activities.

Kiribati

Not available

Marshall Islands

The 16 goals of the strategy are grouped into the following strategic themes: conservation of biodiversity and biological resources, protection of the marine environment, traditional culture and practices, people and biodiversity, biotechnology and biodiversity, and biosafety and biodiversity. For example, one of the goals for traditional culture and practices is to move toward more use of local products, whereas a goal for people and biodiversity is to achieve self-reliance through traditional values and culture. Each goal is associated with specific key actions to be implemented. These actions can also be found in the action plan, but there they have been grouped into four key results to be achieved, which are awareness raising and capacity building at the community level, strengthening the educational system, revision of legislation and enforcement procedures, and research and development.

Micronesia (Federated States of)

The national vision described in the NBSAP consists of having more extensive, diverse, and higher quality of marine, freshwater, and terrestrial ecosystems, which meet human needs and aspirations fairly, preserve and utilize traditional knowledge and practices, and fulfill the ecosystem functions necessary for all life on Earth. To this end, eleven strategic themes were developed: ecosystem management; species management; genetic resources use; agrobiodiversity; ecological sustainable industry development; biosafety; waste management; human resources and institutional development; resource owners; mainstreaming biodiversity; and financial resources. To each of the above themes is assigned a strategy goal, which, if pursued effectively, would steer the nation on a sustainable voyage towards the NBSAP vision.

Nauru

Not available

New Zealand ✓

The strategy revolves around four main themes, which are (i) community and individual action, responsibility and benefits, (ii) the Treaty of Waitangi, protecting Iwi and Hapu interests and building partnerships between Government and Maori, (iii) halting the decline of indigenous biodiversity, and (iv) the genetic resources of introduced species important for economic, biological and cultural reasons. The objectives and actions are then grouped into ten topic areas such as freshwater biodiversity, biosecurity and biodiversity, governance, and Maori and biodiversity.

Niue

Niue's NBSAP contains a vision, six goals and actions grouped under seven themes. The vision is to turn Niue into an environmentally friendly nation that supports the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity to support all the living community. Six goals include: retaining and enhancing existing biodiversity; integrating biodiversity into government development policies and plans; improving local community understanding about biodiversity and mobilizing their participation in biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing; improving capacities for sustainable management of natural resources; developing financial mechanisms at various levels for conservation and sustainable management; and strengthening environmental education and awareness and improving information sharing. Seven themes cover terrestrial habitats, terrestrial species, marine biodiversity, governance, waste management and water resources, alien invasive species and public awareness and education. Priority actions identified include: protection of traditional knowledge, in-situ and ex-situ conservation, protection of threatened species and establishing a database of biodiversity. Niue's NBSAP was developed on the basis of two legislations: the Environment Bill and the Integrated Environment Planning and Management Bill. Biodiversity is also included in Niue's Integrated Strategic Plan as well as some policies and laws, such as National Inshore Fisheries Management Plan and Domestic Fishing Regulation.

Palau

Palau's NBSAP was developed using an extensive multi-sectoral approach, involving federal and state ministries, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the communities of all sixteen states. The document contains 8 strategic themes, namely: Protected/Managed Areas; Species Protection; Biosecurity -- Invasive Species and Biosafety; Sharing Benefits of Genetic Resources; Sustainable Economic Development; Prevent or Minimize Waste; Agricultural Biodiversity; Mainstreaming of Biodiversity Conservation. Recognizing that implementation of the NBSAP is crucial for sustainable economic development, and that a merging of traditional and modern approaches is required, the government of Palau stresses the development of partnerships with, among others, traditional leaders, state governments and the private sector. The NBSAP supplements Palau's Master Development Plan, strategies for sustainable development and climate change strategy.

Papua New Guinea

Not available

Samoa

Not available

Solomon Islands ✓

Solomon Islands is developing a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. There is a State of Environment Report (1992) that is in progress for it to be reviewed and updated. There is also a National Environmental and Management Strategy, that is still the blueprint for environmental management in the country, also in the pipeline of being reviewed. The Medium term development Strategy has been a national guide in implementation of all domestic activities and is currently being reviewed. Various sectoral action plans/policies have been developed. The country however has two important pieces of environmental legislation: the Environment Act 1998 and the Wild life protection and management Act 1998. Both are currently being reviewed and their regulations are also being developed. The implementation of the National Capacity Self Assessment resulted in stocktaking, thematic report for the UNFCCC, UNCBD and UNCBD. The Action is currently being developed to address issues identified to address major convention obligations.

Tonga

The NBSAP emphasizes both the ecosystem approach and species-specific approach in dealing with key biodiversity issues, with the most prominent threat to biodiversity at present being indiscriminate agricultural expansion. Agro-biodiversity is both economically and culturally important for the country and, as a result, the need for integrated and holistic approaches to land use cannot be over-stated. Issues such as access and benefit-sharing, the participation of local communities and civil society and mainstreaming, are treated separately in order to signify their relative importance to NBSAP implementation. Actions for eight themes comprised of forest ecosystems, marine ecosystems, species conservation, agro-biodiversity, local community and civil society, access and benefit-sharing from the use of genetic resources and TEK, mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, financial resources and mechanisms, have been identified, with monitoring indicators having been developed to assess implementation of actions.

Tuvalu ✓

Tuvalu has not been fortunate enough to develop its NBSAP although, as mentioned earlier, there have been similar or related documents produced such as the (NEMs), which have been the basis for environment management in the country over the past few years. The intended strategy will involve the establishment of the country's objectives on the following: biodiversity conservation; sustainable use of biological resources; equitable sharing of benefits; conservation of agro-biodiversity; biosafety. The sets of objectives developed will then be defined in order to provide a clear path on how they will be achieved. Following completion of the strategy, action plans will be developed to implement the strategy. These action plans will define institutional roles and responsibilities and also identify the necessary resources and timescale for implementing the strategy.

Vanuatu

Vanuatu completed its National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy in 1999. The strategy highlights six key objectives for effective management of biological resources: (a) Ensure sustainable management and conservation of Vanuatu's biodiversity; (b) Develop appropriate policy, planning and legal mechanisms for the management of biodiversity; (c) Improve knowledge about biodiversity in Vanuatu; (d) Improve the capacity of national, provincial, NGO and community organisations to manage biodiversity; (e) Increase local awareness of the importance and value of biodiversity; (f) Foster community participation in the management and conservation of biodiversity. The strategy has identified 20 priority actions to meet the objectives mentioned above.
