

ACTION STRATEGY FOR NATURE CONSERVATION
IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

RoundTable Meeting III

17-19 February 1999, Forum Secretariat, Suva, Fiji

Meeting Report

1. OPENING SESSION

- 1.1 The RoundTable meeting was hosted by WWF World Wide Fund for Nature. WWF Pacific Director Peter Hunnam greeted delegates and introduced Fiji's Minister for Local Government and Environment, Mr Vilisoni Cagimaivei.
- 1.2 The Minister welcomed delegates to Fiji and to the third meeting of the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation, before formally opening the meeting. The Minister's opening speech forms Annex 1.1 to this meeting report.
- 1.3 Mr Iosefatu Reti responded to the Minister on behalf of the regional environment agency SPREP. He welcomed old friends and new colleagues, and drew attention to the exciting achievements of the RoundTable in its first year, the endorsement of the regional *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region, 1999-2003* by all SPREP members, the strong list of signatories to the Action Strategy, and the hard work of the conservation Indicators Working Group since RoundTable II. Mr Reti went on to highlight the initial analysis of gaps in effective implementation of the Action Strategy, and the importance of the national Biodiversity Strategic Action Planning being conducted currently across the region and being supported strongly by SPREP and WWF. Mr Reti's speech forms Annex 1.2 to this report.
- 1.4 Mr Hunnam concluded the opening remarks for the meeting, commenting on the state of conservation efforts in the Pacific Islands region, and the need for planners and managers to give more critical thought to the nature of their craft, and more clarity to their objectives. Mr Hunnam's notes form Annex 1.3 to this report.
- 1.5 Meeting Facilitator Peter Adler organised personal introductions from each of the initial 28 participants. Annex 2 is a List of RoundTable Participants and contact details.

2. ACTION STRATEGY UPDATE

- 2.1 TNC Director Audrey Newman presented an overview of progress made with the regional Action Strategy and RoundTable process, and outlined the tasks ahead for the meeting and beyond, to the next regional Conference on Nature Conservation, in Solomon Islands in 2001. The main points covered are summarised below.
- 2.2 History of the Action Strategy and the RoundTable – The Action Strategy evolution since 1985 has moved from a long wishlist to a structured set of key actions to be implemented over the 4 year period. There has been increased input from communities, national, regional and international groups. An increased sense of shared responsibility for implementation has developed progressively. The Action Strategy is now a valuable planning tool for governments, ngos and donors. It complements the SPREP Action Plan. The 1997 Pohnpei Conference called for a meeting of regional and international organisations; this led to the RoundTable.

2.3 The initial RoundTable Mandate – The 1997 Pohnpei Conference asked regional and international organisations to cooperate in implementing the Action Strategy, specifically to update regional and international key actions in the Action Strategy, to voluntarily implement and monitor key actions relevant to their priorities and work programmes and to measure progress, identify difficulties and address special needs at least once a year.

2.4 The RoundTable has adopted a number of principles for its operation.

- RoundTable participants are knowledgeable, committed individuals with authority to represent their organisations
- RoundTable activities are voluntary, the agenda is focused on Action rather than lengthy debate or discussion.
- Respect is given for different priorities and positions.
- The aim is to build trust and cooperative action.

2.5 At the 1998 meeting of SPREP member governments, they endorsed the Action Strategy and approved an ongoing RoundTable process with a mandate to increase effective conservation action in the Pacific Islands by:

- fostering greater coordination and collaboration among regional and international organizations,
- providing feedback on effectiveness through monitoring and evaluation of the Action Strategy,
- identifying and addressing critical gaps in regional conservation activities, and
- recruiting new partners for conservation work in the Pacific islands region.

2.6 Tasks for RoundTable III were identified as follows:

- (a) completion of working set of practical indicators
- (b) provide the charge for monitoring working groups to implement
- (c) compile an updated inventory of activities
- (d) identify and address critical gaps
- (e) plan the schedule of work through to the Solomon Islands Conference in 2001.

2.7 Longer term tasks for the RoundTable were identified as follows:

- (a) implement monitoring programme
- (b) update inventory of activities and gap analysis annually
- (c) begin to address critical gaps through new players, partnerships and initiatives
- (d) prepare for Solomon Islands Conference & Action Strategy review
- (e) report to Solomon Islands Conference in 2001 (Schedule in Indicator Report - p16)

2.8 Accomplishments to date

Products

Regional Conference
Pohnpei, October 1997

Action Strategy Mission and Objectives
Input for Action Strategy revision
Call for RoundTable

RoundTable I
Apia, February 1998

1st Inventory of Regional Activities
Revised Action Strategy

RoundTable II
Apia, September 1998

Action Strategy endorsements
Draft Indicators
Charge to Indicator Working Groups

3 ACTIVITIES INVENTORY UPDATE

3.1 Sam Sesega from SPREP reported on the status of the Activities Inventory and the findings of the group who had provisionally analysed the Inventory for Gaps. The main points raised are summarised below.

3.2 Issues with the Activities Inventory or Matrix that were identified at RoundTable II were as follows:

- individual activities listed should correspond with specific key actions
- the numbers need to match
- “Target” should be changed to “location”
- updates received from RoundTable members need entering
- an explanatory preface is needed.

3.3 A working group had met briefly before RoundTable III to plan how best to develop the Activities Inventory. They had considered how to identify gaps and overlaps, the need to review and revise the matrix format and the need to communicate the Inventory to donors and countries.

The group confirmed the intended uses of the matrix as:

- an inventory of inputs from agencies
- to facilitate coordination and avoidance of duplication
- to facilitate the identification of gaps and building of partnerships
- a presentation tool to promote conservation among potential donors.

The users of the Inventory are primarily RoundTable members, secondarily countries, other donors, global inventories and researchers.

Concerns that information in the Inventory (e.g. level of funding) might be used inappropriately were discussed. It was agreed that, as the Inventory would become available widely, a preamble should clearly state any disclaimers or stipulations on how the information should be used.

3.4 The working group considered the use of the Inventory to identify gaps. The group affirmed that the Inventory is a tool for coordinating the activities of RoundTable members, not a monitoring tool for the Action Strategy. The group distributed a new format for the Inventory sheet, for comment. Suggestions from the RoundTable included making a clear Data Entry sheet for use by an agency. Each sheet would need to identify the pertinent Action Strategy Objective and Key Action. An electronic file could be copied to members. A clear key to each field/ column, and a note on who to contact about each activity are also needed. The RoundTable agreed that having funding indicated is valuable, even though there would inevitably be some double entry – by donor and implementing agency. Other points agreed included the need for Activities to be clearly entered, so as to indicate the planned results rather than just the project title; the need for Location to include local site detail as well as the country; for completed Activities to remain in the Inventory at least until the next 4-yearly Conference; for the Inventory to be up-dated by members, preferably annually prior to the next RoundTable meeting.

3.5 Several RoundTable members confirmed that they had already been able to make good use of the Inventory – for their own planning and programming, looking for case studies, for promotion among potential new donors, for country or sectoral reviews and analyses.

3.6 ACTIONS:

- a) The RoundTable requested **all members** to update their entries in the Inventory using the revised format by March 31. **Sam Sesega**
- b) **Audrey Newman** undertook to convert the Inventory into a simple database using an Excel spreadsheet.
- c) **Susanna Rosen** for the EU offered to look into providing support for the development of the Inventory as a tool for the region, particularly in the light of its support for the Forum Secretariat and its coordinating role with the various regional institutions.
- d) **Roger Cornforth** for NZ ODA agreed to examine how to link the Inventory with the database he had developed for the regional donor forum.

4 REPORT ON REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIC ACTION PLANNING (NBSAP)

4.1 Sue Miller from SPREP gave a brief outline of the regional workshop for national BSAP Coordinators, held in Fiji on 8-12 February 1999. SPREP and WWF had run the workshop and 11 national coordinators had attended from Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Fiji, Palau, Tonga, Vanuatu, PNG, Samoa, Niue, Solomon Islands and Cook Islands. Tuvalu is the only Pacific Island country left to join the Convention on Biological Diversity. The regional workshop focussed on capacity building and information sharing. Five countries have started their NBSAP whereas the others are still at initial stages or have not started at all. The workshop addressed frameworks for developing NBSAPs such as getting organised, stocktaking and inventory assessment, strategy and action plan development, integration of NBSAP to sectoral and cross sectoral policies, monitoring and evaluation.

4.2 Three particular issues were noted from the regional workshop. They were:

- Article 6B – integrating conservation and sustainable use into national and sectoral plans and policies
- The general need for training and capacity building
- The lack of skills in monitoring and evaluation. There was evidence that only one coordinator had the experience on the project level.

4.3 The regional Action Strategy had been well received by the national BSAP coordinators although many did not know its existence. The potential strategic links between the countries and the regional Action Strategy need to be strengthened.

5 ROUNDTABLE HOPES & FEARS

A quick assessment was taken of RoundTable members' "worst fears & highest hopes." Views expressed included the following:

- endless planning and no action – the concern is that it will always be a planning exercise and will not be implemented
- the hope is that the RoundTable process works well
- the fear will be the difficulty in collaborating these strategies with national and regional organisations– how do these ideas get communicated to them?
- the Action Strategy should be related to government and local ngos in the region in the hope that it will strengthen projects in the region

- another concern expressed was if the RoundTable doesn't link conservation with the rest of life in the Pacific, it will not achieve its mandate.
- conservation is about natural resources, heritage, people and culture; incorporating all these is not reflected in the Action Strategy and this is a concern.
- a hope is that this RoundTable will be taking the Action Strategy further. Unlike the meeting in Tonga, nothing happened with the indicators that derived of that meeting.
- collective actions and "committee processes" will result in lowest common denominator solutions if the RoundTable is not careful
- the hope would be to use the results and mainstream it to higher level
- the RoundTable should try to get results periodically, and integrate them into Forum Secretariat meetings, meetings of donors and Economic Ministers
- the fear is not being able to measure and implement the monitoring plan; conscious of the resources required to do that; not able to implement plan
- highest hope is to see more collaboration around the RoundTable.

6 MONITORING THE ACTION STRATEGY – THE INDICATORS FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 Audrey Newman presented the outcome from the Indicators Working Group (IWG) and how they developed a set of proposed indicators for the Action Strategy (presented in the IWG's report titled *Proposed Action Strategy Monitoring Programme*).

Small group sessions reviewed all six sections of the Indicators Framework to provide further clarification and a "charge" to the Monitoring Working Groups (see discussion below) . Comments were discussed in plenary. This enabled the Indicators Framework, with the various clarifications and amendments, to be endorsed by RoundTable III.

- 6.2 ACTION: **Peter Hunnam** agreed to produce the revised and endorsed Indicators Framework and Proposed Action Strategy Monitoring Programme as an output from the Round Table to accompany this meeting report.

7. PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIONAL COOPERATION MECHANISMS

- 7.1 Iosefa Maiava, Deputy Director at the Forum Secretariat (FS), thanked Peter Hunnam and WWF for inviting him to make a presentation to the RoundTable on the regional cooperation mechanisms being promoted and facilitated through the South Pacific Organisations' Coordinating Committee (SPOCC). SPOCC enables the seven regional institutions to track and understand their collective activities, to facilitate agreement on issues and 'talk with one voice'. It draws the sectors' work together and helps with collaboration and programming.
- 7.2 The SPOCC members are the Forum Secretariat, University of the South Pacific (USP), Tourism Council of the South Pacific (TCSP), Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Pacific Community (SPC), South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) and South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP).
- 7.3 SPOCC has a number of Working Groups to assist their detailed thinking and planning – Health, Marine Resources, Land Resources, Energy, Information, Trade/ Tourism/ Private Sector. The Working Groups meet every 6 months. The Forum Secretariat is becoming convinced that these Working Groups need to include NGOs and other groups besides the seven SPOCC institutions.
- 7.4 Iosefa noted that the natural environment was not adequately dealt with at present by the SPOCC or its Working Groups. He was excited by the prospect of linking the Pacific Islands Conservation Round Table with the SPOCC process.
- 7.5 Iosefa presented an analysis of Factors Contributing to the Primary Constraint to Development of the Pacific region. (refer to Annex 3).

8. MONITORING THE ACTION STRATEGY – WORKING GROUPS

8.1 The RoundTable members formed five Working Groups for developing the monitoring of the Action Strategy. Each of these groups will take the lead in developing and implementing specific monitoring methods in the field. The five groups are concerned with monitoring effectiveness on major objectives or approaches called for in the Action Strategy -- Sites, Threats, National, Capacity Building, Environmental Education and Awareness. The mandates for the Working Groups were developed, the convenor and group members were identified. The meeting noted that additional members will be accepted. The Working Groups are as follows:

8.2 Sites Working Group

8.2.1 Mandate

To develop a site scorecard that can be used to assess the effectiveness of conservation/protected areas based on the following set of indicators:

1. Change in incidence and severity of threats (Indicator 1.1.2)
2. Change in health and integrity of up to 10 conservation targets (species, habitats, processes at each CA site) (Indicator 1.2.1)
3. The number of conservation areas with effective management in place (Indicator 1.2.2b)
4. Number of protected/conservation area using capacity self-assessment every 1-2 years (Indicator 4.1.1b)
5. Number and % of indigenous/local consultants and staff engaged in conservation work at /in the PA/Cas (4.2.1)
6. Public awareness, priority and willingness to act on conservation issues in communities associated with P/CA.
7. Total annual funding with the following breakdown:
 - a) % of funding from local, national & international sources
 - b) # of local, national & international donors
 - c) # of funding commitments of >5 years
 - d) # of new funding mechanisms in process or established, with description and approximate level of funding provided. (6.1.1/6.2.1, 6.2.2, 6.3.1)

8.2.2 Guidelines

See last paragraph pg.13

8.2.3 Members

Convenor: Sam Sesega (SPBCP)

Founding Members: NZODA (Wingham), TNC (Saxon), WWF (tba), SPBCP (Ward, Sesega), USP (Aalbersberg)

Possible Additions

AusAID (M King), Conservation International (Gai Kula)

8.2 Threats Working Group

8.2.1 Mandate

To develop a current list of significant threats to biodiversity and natural resources in the Pacific Islands region that can be used by the RoundTable Working Groups (primarily the National and Site Working Groups), and to recommend a simple process for periodic updating.

8.2.2 Guidelines

1. The threats should be characterized in terms of the follow criteria:

- types of threats
 - distribution (local & geographic)
 - intensity/severity of impact
 - short term impacts of threat
 - urgency/immediacy
 - feasibility of addressing/eliminating/rectifying the effects of the threat
2. Document how the threat can be addressed.
 3. Note: Biodiversity is defined as the diversity of ecosystems/habitats, species and taxa, genetic diversity and the knowledge, uses, beliefs, language and management systems that people have for their biodiversity.

8.2.3 Members

Convenor: Randy Thaman (USP Suva)

Founding Members: USP Suva (Thaman(convenor), USP Alafua (Lafitai), SPBCP (Sesega, Ward), WWF (Hunnam), World Bank (Gillett)

Possible Additions: FFA, Pacific Community (Noumea/Suva), SOPAC, SPFTDP (Regional Forestry), PIDP (East/West Centre), UNDP (Bryant-Tokalau)

8.3 National Working Group

8.3.1 Mandate

To devise mechanisms for monitoring the six indicators identified for the group.

8.3.2 Guidelines

Targets: a. National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan and Steering Committees

b. SPREP focal point (government environmental and conservation agencies)

Approach:

1. To provide capacity building training using Action Strategy indicator development for NBSAP coordinators and biodiversity planning committee's to integrate monitoring and evaluation into NBSAP's.
2. To provide capacity building training for non-CBD countries and territories on monitoring and evaluation for as part of their own biodiversity related strategies.
3. To design evaluation sheet with input from coordinators and biodiversity planning committee's.
4. Information Sources: GEF/IA's – for NBSAP reporting, CBD – national reporting, IUCN – WCPA (for protected areas), SPREP-State of Environment reporting

8.3.3 Members

Convenors & Founding Members: WWF (Schuster), SPREP (Miller)

Possible Additions: BSAP Coordinators – the coordinators can be added as members when they have completed NBSAPs, as they realise the need as part of BSAP development and implementation and also priority in their meeting their monitoring and evaluation/implementation needs through training and capacity building. This will be a phased process.

8.4 Capacity Building Working Group

8.4.1 Mandate

1. to focus on developing appropriate monitoring/self assessment tools and data gathering to start.
2. to involve representatives from at least one local non government organisation, national government and local conservation area partner organisation in the development of these tools.

3. to feel free to address other capacity building, indicators and key actions in the Action Strategy.

8.4.2 Guidelines

Background: SPREP survey of training programs and proposal for protected area training program; possible funding from PIC and UNESCO

Ideal Working Group member: has expertise in technical or organisational capacity building and will use or fund capacity building monitoring tools.

8.4.3 Members

Convenor: Betsy McGean (TNC)

Founding Members: TNC (McGean), WWF (Kath Means), Packard Foundation (Kibbe), SPREP (Training officer or Environmental Education officer), Peace Corps (Steve Nagler or Regional Training officer), NZODA (Roger Cornforth will identify)

Possible Additions: FSPI (Kathy Fry will discuss)

Reviewers: UNESCO (Sarah will identify)

8.5 **Environmental Education & Awareness Working Group**

8.5.1 Mandate

to define the methodology for polling, which should be completed every four years for the 3 target groups:

- Pacific Island urban populations
- Pacific Island rural populations and if possible CA sites
- Pacific Island leaders, international leaders and decision makers

8.5.2 Guidelines

1. Identify resources for polling (financial, human and corporate)
2. Poll results analysed for feedback into existing education and awareness strategies

8.5.3 Members

Convenor: SPREP Francois Martel

Founding Members: SPREP (Francois Martel), UNESCO (Sarah Titchen to contact and secure agreement from UNESCO, Apia), European Commission Delegation for the Pacific (Gorne), WWF (Goodwillie), USP (Randy Thaman to contact and secure agreement from Institute of Education for Neil Taylor)

Possible Additions: RARE (Paul Butler)

Reviewers: TNC has some experience with polling in the US and Greater China.

9. **GAPS & OPPORTUNITIES**

- 9.1 Sam Sesega reported that a quick assessment of the Activities Inventory revealed the following gaps: Key Actions 2.11 (Development Process), 4.8 (Innovative approaches), 6.8 (Debt for Nature Swaps) and 6.13 (Design and adapt external assistance programmes to be flexible in schedules and budgets, so they can respond to and build upon participatory planning processes, set realistic expectations and clear mutual goals), each having few activities listed against them.
- 9.2 There was a preliminary discussion about definitions of gaps. Ideas included the following: failure to address a need, threat or opportunity; gaps in the vertical logic of the Action Strategy; big gaps in the Action Strategy; noting gaps in the Assumptions column of the logical framework; the lack of understanding of the Action Strategy; poor communication to regional and national organisations; missing participants from the RoundTable; missing key issues.
- 9.3 A small group was assigned the overnight task of devising simple mechanisms for the RoundTable to identify, and track gaps. Peter Hunnam reported the group's recommendations:

Recapitulation:

- the aim of the RoundTable process is to promote greater activity, collaboration and effectiveness in Pacific Islands conservation.
- the process comprises the RT forum and Working Groups, using the Action Strategy, Indicators Matrix and Activities Inventory.
- the RT process is a continuing effort by the RT members, to track, monitor and communicate activities and achievements against an agreed regional strategy.
- The RT process reveals **Gaps** – areas where there is inadequate or no activity, coverage or capacity; or where there is limited understanding of some factors or issues – and **Opportunities** – for increased collaboration and assistance, for advocating policy developments, for tackling emergent issues, for shared learning, and for influencing investment and development assistance programs in the region.

Proposed RT Mechanism:

1. Improve the utility of the Activities Inventory for Tracking and Communication
 - develop the Inventory format and up-dating procedure for RT members
 2. Review and Monitor
 - rely on continuing monitoring by individual RT member agencies and relevant Working Groups to discern, draw attention to, and resolve to act (singly or via ad hoc collaborations) on specific Gaps or Opportunities; and
 - at the (annual) RT, as a group, review the up-dated Inventory, identify any critical, outstanding gaps and resolve to act on them, singly or collectively;or
 - “find funds to pay someone to drive it”- a core group, project officer or secretary.
 3. Key Questions (Audrey Newman added the following set of key questions to the Review and Monitoring Mechanism):
 - how is the RoundTable doing on this Key Action/ Objective ? One or more members of the group should briefly describe current situation, needs or opportunities
 - RATING: (1) there’s lots happening and has a coordinator, (2) lots happening but needs a coordinator, (3) OK as is, (4) there needs to be more action here , (5) we don’t know
 - If the answer was either 2 or 4 or 5, the next question to ask would be: Can anyone help with addressing these needs ? either a RoundTable member or an organisation outside the Roundtable? How can this organisation get involved?
- 9.4 Small break-out groups were asked to test the practicality of this mechanism and the series of questions. The break-outs considered three of the Action Strategy’s main Objectives – Policy, Planning & Legal Frameworks (aka MainStreaming, Obj. 2), Capacity Building (Obj 4), and Financial Sustainability (Obj 6). The break-out groups reported back that overall the mechanism worked reasonably well.
- 9.5 ACTION: It was agreed that the mechanism should be applied in earnest at the next RT meeting.

10. MONITORING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ROUNDTABLE PROCESS & TOOLS

- 10.1 Sue Miller presented recommendations for Process Indicators to be used to evaluate the RT process and tools. This evaluation would be especially important at the 4-year Conference in Solomon Islands in 2001.
- 10.2 Two groups who will be instrumental in monitoring the Process Indicators are :

(a) PI governments and national NGOs

- the mechanism would be to work with the NBSAP coordinators and steering committees

(a) donors, regional bodies and international NGOs

- the mechanism would be individual evaluation by RT members and the overall evaluation by the 4-year Conference. Feedback could be through questionnaires and/ or interviews.

10.3 Proposed Indicators :

- number and type of RT members
- number of new organisations and new donors
- number of new partnerships formed by RT members
- number of Gaps or new actions identified and addressed
- number of activities implemented.

10.4 ACTION: **Sue Miller, Roger Cornforth, Audrey Newman, and Cedric Schuster** to meet to refine and develop a system for monitoring these indicators.

11. OVERALL ASSESSMENT

11.1 An overall assessment of the RoundTable III was discussed. Several views were as follows:

- it was useful for baseline info and measure progress
- there is a need for close coordination between our activity inventories [RoundTable, NZODA, Forum]. Feed in needs and opportunities into higher level strategies. Need to mainstream cultural norms and practices into national strategies/plans etc.
- there is a need to know what level of coverage we are talking about eg capacity building.
- Gaps are easier to identify than opportunities especially where there are lots of actions as opportunities for collaboration are more difficult to elucidate. Quick pass doesn't get at that.
- the RoundTable needs to keep an eye on the big picture.
- important to look at current status of the project – questions can lead to linkages. Took a while to get to the “next steps” stage of key actions. A key question was what do we need to do before we get back together again?
- this RoundTable meeting assisted in the progress of the matrix but it has to roll up to check for gaps.
- For next meeting, we need longer breaks to allow these discussions to happen.

12. COMMUNICATIONS DISCUSSION

12.1 It was agreed that the RoundTable needs a full communications strategy discussion before the next RoundTable meeting.

12.2 ACTION: **Elisabeth Mealey**, WWF agreed to send out a one-page “think piece” to all RoundTable members triggering thoughts on the scale of communications work we want to do and how. **Audrey** offered assistance of San Francisco colleague for strategic comments. Suggestions from floor were that WWF link up with other info officers from RoundTable organisations and ensure RoundTable input into regional media strategies.

13. RECOMMENDATION FROM ROUNDTABLE III

In recognition of the need to monitor the overall impact of the Action Strategy and the RoundTable process, the RoundTable III strongly recommends that donor assistance be

urgently identified to monitor the key threats to and changes in the size, health and integrity of key ecosystems in the PI region.

Also, that the monitoring of key threats to and changes in the size, health and integrity of key ecosystems be made an agenda item of RoundTable IV

14. AGENDA FOR ROUNDTABLE IV

14.1 The following agenda points were suggested:

- Need for monitoring ecosystems and their health. Key threats and changes to health of the major ecosystems.
- Session devoted to mainstreaming culture into conservation activities. Focusing on the how to...
- Working groups to feed in their reports. Have monitoring protocols in place.
- Presentation from SPBCP field test of indicators
- Presentation on World Bank coastal study
- Update on inventory
- Communications strategy – internal and external
- Forum (SPOCC) regional strategy incorporating outcomes of RoundTableIII
- Identifying actions on gaps and opportunities
- Future donors meeting

14.2 Invitees to Next RoundTable: Discussion about pros and cons of widening the group to include donors/ observers etc. The RoundTable members felt that new participants must be recognized as an international organisation with significant active conservation programs in the Pacific island region. The RoundTable considered the proposed agenda for RoundTable IV, changing the nature of the group and how to get through the agenda.

The following will be invited to the RoundTable IV meeting:

- Packard Foundation
- JICA
- PIDP
- USAID
- Pacific Science Association

14.3 Next Meeting will be held in Hawaii. Peter Hunnam and Gai Kula will contact Audrey on their availability in November 1999 but it was suggested that RoundTable IV be held around the first or second week.

15. CLOSING

Appreciation was accorded to Mr Peter Adler in doing tremendous work once again as facilitator extraordinaire, to Peter Hunnam and WWF for hosting the meeting and to Iosefa Maiava and the Forum Secretariat for the venue. The meeting concluded at 1.30pm.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS FROM ROUNDTABLE III

Mtg. Item	Lead	Date	Topic	Action
2	Sue		Action Strategy	- to be printed and distributed [SPREP]; to resend email re numbers required.

3.6	Sam all RT Audrey Sussana Roger Sam, Iosefa, Roger	31 March	Activity Inventory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- revised format- update own entries- place in simple Excel database- inquire about support for development of AI as tool- link AI with regional donors database- add expected outputs; resolve financial report issue
6.3	Peter		Indicators Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- revise and produce final version- change 1.2.3(b) – biodiversity in region – into Mission Indicator
8	Working Groups	- - midSept		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- do your things !- submit report ready for RT IV
10.5	Sue, Roger, Audrey, Cedric		RT Process Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- meet to refine and develop these Indicators
12.2	Elisabeth, Audrey's SF colleague		Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- write and circulate one-page 'think piece'
13	Sofia		HICS Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- RT III Recommendation to be promoted

ANNEX 1.1

OPENING ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF FIJI'S MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT, HONOURABLE VILISONI CAGIMAIVEI

Official Opening of the Third Regional Meeting of the Nature Conservation Roundtable held at the Forum Secretariat, Ratu Sukuna Road, Suva, Fiji – 17 February 1999

Distinguished Guests.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Ni sa bula and welcome to Fiji and to the Third Meeting of the Regional Nature Conservation Roundtable. I am pleased to be here today to offer some opening remarks on this very unique regional gathering. However, before commenting on your week's work, I would like to extend a warm greeting to you all on behalf of the Government and people of Fiji.

As I am sure you are aware your Nature conservation Roundtable is unique in that it is the only forum in which both regional and international agencies active in nature conservation in the Pacific Islands meet with the overall aim of assisting our countries to better effect nature conservation initiatives. This is achieved under the umbrella of the 1999-2002 Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region. I note with pleasure that the strategy was endorsed by SPREP member governments, including my own, in September 1998 at which time they also endorsed the Roundtable process itself.

I can assure you. Ladies and Gentlemen, that Pacific island governments are watching with keen interest to see results from the Roundtable in terms of better effecting nature conservation in the region. To date you have achieved some impressive milestones with:

- The successful, participatory review of the strategy's regional and international actions,
- The completion and endorsement of the Action Strategy itself, and
- The design of the strategy's programme, which I understand will be finalised this week.

Your mandate itself also gives island countries hope for useful outcomes with its focus on:

- Fostering greater coordination and collaboration among regional and international organisations
- Providing feedback on the effectiveness of conservation activities through monitoring and evaluation of the Action Strategy
- Identifying and addressing critical gaps in regional conservation and activities, and
- Recruiting new partners for Pacific Island conservation.

These are admirable goals and the existence of the Roundtable gives me growing confidence that actions in the Strategy will be implemented.

Implementation, Ladies and Gentlemen, is the key. Like many regions of the world there have been many strategies and when you look back it is fair to say that whilst the development of these strategies was strong, the momentum for its implementation faded with time. I am sure you will find maintaining this momentum the greatest challenge and I urge you to keep faith with your mandate.

The second major challenge that I see for the Action Strategy and the Roundtable is in forging strong links with countries themselves. The key opportunity for making these links is happening right now with the development of national Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (BSAPs) in the countries that are party to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Fiji is in the final stages of BSAP Workshop convened by SPREP and WWF countries not only looked at links between their BSAPs and the regional Action Strategy but also examined priorities for training and capacity building. I strongly urge you to focus on these priorities to help countries with their BSAPs and thus make working links with the Action Strategy.

An example of this is the development of measures of success or indicators and all countries at the workshop last week requested assistance with this aspect. This is exactly the same monitoring issue that you are addressing at this meeting at regional level. It is obvious that we need to work together.

Before concluding Ladies and Gentleman, I want to note with pleasure the growing partnerships and spirit of cooperation that is evident in the Roundtable. Often you see words such as cooperation that is evident in the Roundtable. Often you words such as cooperation and partnership in documents, however it is very pleasing to see your Roundtable actually doing this. This is exemplified in the hosting of this Third Roundtable meeting by the non-government agency WWF. It is direct evidence of the trust and commitment you have to the entire strategy process and its implementation. By this example, I encourage you all to share the workload of the Roundtable.

With these remarks, it gives me great pleasure to no officially declare the Third Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation open!

ANNEX 1.2

SPREP'S Welcoming Remarks for the Third Regional Meeting of the Nature Conservation Roundtable, held at the Forum Secretariat, Ratu Sukuna Road, Suva, Fiji 17 February, 1999 delivered by South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP) 's Programme Manager, Muli a' gatele Iosefatu Reti.

Minister, The Honourable Vilisoni Cagimaivei
Iosefa Maiava, Deputy Secretary General, Forum Secretariat
Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Honourable Minister, on behalf of those gathered here I would like to thank you for your opening remarks that clearly set out the goals and challenges for the third Nature Conservation Roundtable. I would also like to thank you for your interest in and support for our meeting, held this week in Fiji. In particular, your comments on the importance of the development of national Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans ring very true with my own thoughts and I will return to this point in a moment.

However, firstly, to old friends and colleagues to the Roundtable – on behalf of SPREP welcome back! It is good to see your commitment to this process is strong as evidenced by your participation this week.

To all the new faces to the Roundtable I would like to extend a special warm welcome and hope that you will enjoy the experience of this week in working as part of the Nature Conservation Roundtable. Please do not hesitate to ask questions – the strength of the Roundtable is that we are working together under the common vision of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands region.

To Peter Adler – our Roundtable II facilitator – a special welcome. I am sure that with your guidance we will be able to move substantively forward on the work of the Roundtable this week.

Recent Roundtable achievements.

Since we met in Samoa in September 1998 three significant achievements have been made. Firstly the endorsement of the Action Strategy by all SPREP members and secondly the endorsement of the Roundtable process – both of which occurred at the Tenth SPREP Meeting in September 1998.

This endorsement is reflected in the signature list on the Action Strategy's Foreword where the Chairperson of the SPREP member governments. As many of you know a number of other important signatures are on this Foreword, including those of WWF, The Nature Conservancy, IUCN – the World conservation Union, Foundation for Peoples of the South Pacific, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the University of the South Pacific and Tamari i' Tutagata on behalf of the SPREP Secretariat.

This is a strong and growing group and signature of the Action Strategy represents an important, visible sign of the commitment to work together. One of the Roundtable's mandates is to encourage new partners for conservation in the region and this is no better demonstrated than in signature of the Foreword to the Action Strategy itself.

It is important to note that this list will not be closed during the life of the Strategy and will be produced as an updated list for distribution with the Strategy – so in other words you are still welcome to sign! I strongly recommend your organisations to consider this.

Indicators

I mentioned three significant achievements since we last met. The third lies in front of you in the form of the report from the Roundtable's Indicators Working Group. I would like to acknowledge the great work done by your indicators Working Group – Peter, Audrey, Cedric, Trevor and Sue.

You would of thought that will all the conservation and environment strategies the world today that processes and experience of developing indicators and associated monitoring programmes is well developed. I was thus surprised to find out that it is not. In fact in reality indicator use has not developed much from project design, certainly not much into strategy design.

The Roundtable's work on indicators and the results you have from your Working Group are thus ground breaking and at the cutting edge of conservation work in the world today. In finalising this programme I urge the Roundtable to document well not only the products from the indicators programme but also the process used, as I believe this will have wider benefits and use both in the region and elsewhere.

Gaps

One of the newer tasks facing the Roundtable this week is the identification of gaps in conservation effort at the regional and international level and ways to fill these gaps. I recall we first looked at where we thought gaps were at RoundtableI. Although only a preliminary brainstorming step, these gaps identified at the first meeting of the Roundtable are a good place to start. Gaps identified were:

- The need to actively engage the private sector in developing sustainable alternatives to currently destructive resource extraction industries,
- Focusing much more attention on the need to “mainstream” nature conservation into development policies, plans, legislation and budget processes at all levels,
- The need to begin to develop some self-sufficiency in conservation, and a commitment to raise funds from regional, national and local sources,
- Clarification of key issues surrounding intellectual property rights and
- The recognition of education as an essential missing element.

When I look around the region I see the glaring lack of private sector involvement in conservation and sustainable use initiatives and the lack of integration or ‘mainstreaming’ of nature conservation into wider country processes. These are probably the two greatest cross cutting challenges for the Action Strategy to make progress on in the coming four years.

However, there is one gap, or perhaps partial gap, that I see in the Action Strategy not on this list and I would like to add it to your discussions. This is the building of effective strategic linkages with countries themselves in the implementation of the Action Strategy.

Although SPREP member governments have all endorsed the Action Strategy, I suspect that the level of awareness of the strategy, where it came from, what it contains and the associated Roundtable process is still low in many of the countries themselves. A gap of limited awareness and understanding will lead to limited use and thus limit the effectiveness of the Action Strategy itself. It is an issue that we cannot ignore. It is also not a new issue and is paralleled, for example, in the lack of in-country awareness and understanding of commitments involved in most convention memberships, such as that of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

BSAPs and the Action Strategy

The Convention on the Biological Diversity now has 13 Pacific Island country members – the most of any biodiversity related convention in the region. Only Tuvalu remains eligible to join. As the Minister noted this convention currently offers a key strategic opportunity to link the regional Action Strategy with the development and implementation of national Biodiversity strategies and Action Plans – commonly referred to as BSAPs.

Many Pacific island countries are working on their BSAPs, however, it is still early days for most of them.

Last week SPREP and WWF brought the BSAP national coordinators together for the first time in the region to look at products, processes, problems, lessons learnt and possible solutions for follow up to support BSAP development. A special session was held on the Action Strategy which was well received by the BSAP coordinators.

Priorities for support from the regional and international levels were discussed at the workshop and a key area that surfaced was in developing indicators for monitoring and evaluation programmes as part of BSAP implementation. No BSAP had developed to a stage of really considering monitoring and evaluation issues or had not thought to include it at all. Only one country BSAP coordinator had any experience in indicator development as part of project design.

Here then is a gap and a top country priority for linking the implementation of the two strategic processes. The Roundtable's development of an indicators programme for monitoring the Action Strategy implementation needs to be strongly linked and supportive of country's BSAPs.

WWF hosting acknowledgement

Collaborative efforts between WWF and SPREP seem to be the flavour of the moment with the BSAP workshop and now with WWF hosting the third Roundtable. It is a very welcome trend. And before concluding I would like to give special thanks to WWF for taking the initiative to host this Roundtable. The first not organised by SPREP.

Hosting meetings involves a lot of work behind the scenes – more than most people realise. I would like to take this opportunity to thank WWF especially Peter, Sereana and Cedric for their work in putting this meeting together. It is a real working example of the cooperative spirit of the Roundtable which is fundamental to its success.

Finally, I wish you well in your discussions. I am sorry that because of other commitments I will not be able to stay with you the whole three days, however, there is a good, representative group here from SPREP and the team. I am sure that the results of this Roundtable will be as successful as the previous two meetings and I look forward to seeing the outcomes.

Thank you.

ANNEX 1.3

Opening Remarks by Peter Hunnam, WWF Director in the Pacific Islands Region

Thank you Minister for your kind words of welcome and encouragement. Especially from WWF, I thank you and your government. You have always made us welcome here in Fiji, and have helped our work both here and in the region. We have a strong and positive partnership in conservation between the Government of Fiji and the international organisation, World Wide Fund for Nature.

It gives me great pleasure to see many friends and colleagues here for the third Conservation Round Table. We are all looking forward to solid progress over the next few days. Certainly, I am looking forward to participating than making a speech. In these short opening remarks, I shall stress two points. First, that we need to continue to try to get our own act together. We need to be clearer and more precise about what we promote and want to achieve as conservationists. Second, that we need to get the whole of society to buy into, to sign on to the vision for conservation in the Pacific Islands region that we are pursuing through the Action Strategy and Round Table process.

Most of us are “conservationists”. We think full time about how to ensure that the future of the Pacific Islands is one in which nature and humans can live and flourish together. Achieving this goal is tricky, primarily I believe because conservation is a process of managing change. It is not one of maintaining the status quo.

While the region’s nature has evolved over great periods of time, humans and their demands on nature have increased dramatically, fairly recently and inexorably. As we get into the substance of this meeting, we can reflect on the massive increases in the extent, scope and intensity of human activities that use the natural environment, and the trends that are matters of great concern to us.

I believe that in order for our advocacy to be more convincing and compelling, we need to be clearer about our targets for conservation. In the Action Strategy for conservation in the region, we make a single leap, of faith almost, not merely of logic, all the way from addressing threats and improving our other tools for managing our conservation activities, to the Goal of “Protecting the Pacific Islands’ Rich Natural Heritage...”. We find it harder to be clear about the conservation objectives between these levels: how much forest cover, harvest of fish, agricultural conversion; how many local species extinction; how much pollution; how much loss of natural landscape, or of amenity ? How quickly; what rate of change is tolerable ?

These questions of what levels of change are acceptable, what is reasonable, are judgements that communities and societies have to make.

I believe that the process we have embarked on through the Action Strategy and the Round Table is excellent. We are committed to continuing with it and making it part of our own programming process. Let us use our meetings to continue to clarify our collective objectives, and to get this vision shared and adopted widely in the communities and societies in which we work.

Annex 2

Third Roundtable for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands
17-19 February 1999
Forum Secretariat, Suva, FIJI

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NATURE CONSERVATION ROUNDTABLE III
17-19 February 1999, Forum Secretariat, Suva Fiji

Draft Agenda

Monday 15- Tuesday 16 February 1999

- **Opportunity for small pre-Roundtable III Working Group meetings on:**
 - ⇒ Matrix Revision and preliminary discussion on Gaps & Overlaps (*contact Sam Sesega, SPREP*)
 - ⇒ Action Strategy Monitoring - Process indicators and monitoring framework for Action Strategy & Roundtable (*contact Sue Miller SPREP or Audrey Newman TNC*)

Wednesday 17 February 1999

am

- **Welcome** (WWF and SPREP)
- **Opening by the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Environment** (*tbc*)
- **Meeting Arrangements** (WWF)
- **Introductions** (*Peter Adler, Facilitator*)

Note that Roundtable II Facilitator Mr. Peter Adler will facilitate Roundtable III from this point.

- **Action Strategy Update**
 - ⇒ 1999-2002 Action Strategy Launch (*Joe Reti, SPREP*)
 - ⇒ Action Strategy process and achievements to date (*Audrey Newman, TNC*)
 - ⇒ Roundtable Matrix Update & Revision Process (*Sam Sesega, SPREP*)
 - ⇒ Working Links made to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) (*Cedric Schuster, WWF*)
- **From Roundtable II to III - tasks at hand...agree agenda.**

pm

- **Action Strategy Indicators**
 - ⇒ Report from Indicators Working Group (*Audrey Newman, TNC & Peter Hunnam, WWF*)
 - ⇒ Report Indicators discussion at NBSAP Workshop (*Cedric Schuster, WWF*)
 - ⇒ RT Discuss and Agree Indicators and follow up design and implementation process.

Thursday 18 February 1999

am

- **Action Strategy and Roundtable Processes - Monitoring and Implementation - the whole system...**
 - ⇒ Report from Action Strategy Monitoring Working Group (*Sue Miller, SPREP & Audrey Newman, TNC*)
 - ⇒ Roundtable III discussion
- **Regional cooperation mechanisms being developed through SPOCC** (*Iosefa Maiava*)

pm

- **Gaps, Overlaps & Opportunities for Collaboration in Implementing the Action Strategy**
 - ⇒ Working Group Report on Matrix Revision & Preliminary Gap & Overlap Discussion (*Sam Sesega, SPREP*)
 - ⇒ Roundtable Discussion

Friday 19 February 1999

am

- **Gaps, Overlaps & Opportunities for Collaboration in Implementing the Action Strategy** *contd.*
- **Roundtable calendar & Host for Roundtable IV**
- **Other Business**

Note that it is hoped that the Meeting will close by 12:30pm to enable those attending Field Trips on Saturday 20 February to travel.