



WORKSHOP REPORT

Pacific Islands Regional Workshop

Capacity Building for and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management

1st – 4th October 2007: Tanoa Hotel, Nadi, Fiji:

Jointly organized and implemented by:

Global Support Unit of the UNDP-GEF - Portfolio Project for SIDS/LDC
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
UNDP Country Offices in Fiji and Samoa (UNDP)
South Pacific Applied Geo-Science Commission (SOPAC)
University of the South Pacific (USP)
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (ForSec)

And attended by delegates from the following 13 Pacific Island Countries:

Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Republic of Vanuatu.

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Introduction and background

The 14 PICs are part of a bigger number of SIDS/LDCs that are benefiting from a GEF-UNDP initiative aimed at building capacity of countries to address land degradation and achieve SLM. This initiative, known as the SIDS/LDC Targeted Portfolio Project for Capacity Development and Mainstreaming of SLM enables countries to develop and implement projects addressing four main outcomes including: Capacity development for SLM, Mainstreaming of SLM, Completion and mainstreaming of UNCCD NAP and, development of Medium Term Investment Plans and Resource Mobilization Strategies to support SLM implementation. For more information on the Portfolio Project visit the web site: www.gsu.co.za

This workshop is the 3rd to be held in the Pacific Region and jointly planned and hosted by the UNDP-GEF SLM GSU, SPREP and SPC. Two previous workshops were held in August 2005 and June 2006. These focused on having the 14 Pacific Countries familiarize with the GEF-UNDP SIDS/LDC Portfolio Project and the process for developing and submitting proposals to the GEF through UNDP. The 2006 workshop also saw the informal re-establishment of the CROP Land Resources Working Group (LRWG). Members of the LRWG also pledged to support countries in the development of their project proposals. Soon after this workshop the GSU commissioned a Institutional Capacity Assessment to gauge the relative capacities of the Members of the LRWG to support countries with implementation of their SLM projects.

The development of SLM project proposals has been a long drawn out process. Since PDFA funding of USD 25,000 was first announced and made available in 2005 the pace at which countries secured the PDF funding and developed their proposals was rather slow due to a number of reasons including, inter-alia, limited staff to take on the task, staff having busy schedules, difficulties in identification of consultants, delays in getting government endorsements etc. Also, in 2006, countries were requested to submit their 3rd National Reports to the UNCCD. Supplementary funding for this undertaking was kindly made available by the Government of Switzerland and administered through the GSU. Each country received USD 12,000 to develop their 3rd National Reports and many country officers who were involved with the SLM proposal development process had to also commit their time to assisting with the 3rd National Reports.

When the UNCCD CRIC5 Meeting was held in Buenos Aires in March 2007, the Global Advisory Committee of the SLM Portfolio Project also met and resolved that 30th September 2007 be the deadline for all SLM Project Proposals to be submitted to the GEF. The Committee was concerned that the time taken to develop the proposals was getting too long. At that time only two PICs, Niue and Samoa had obtained approval for their proposals. Niue went on to initiate the project inception phase in July while Samoa held theirs in August 2007.

This 3rd workshop began a few days after the deadline for submission of proposals to the GEF had lapsed. Fortunately all 12 outstanding proposals had been submitted with the untiring and strong support of the GSU, UNDP-GEF RTA, UNDP Country Offices in Fiji and Samoa and SPREP. During the workshop, it was announced that, with the exception of the Cook Islands and PNG proposals that needed some minor revisions, all proposals had been accepted by the GEF. All countries were now on board ready for implementation and the workshop proceeded with sessions intended to assist countries with their upcoming tasks.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

DAY 1 - Monday 1st October

1:1 Opening Prayer and Worship

As is the custom in the Pacific Islands the workshop was opened with a word of prayer and a message from a church Minister of the Methodist Christian Church in Fiji.

1:2 Opening Statements

i) Mr Hans Eschweiller on behalf of UNDP and the GSU

Hans welcomed all delegates to the workshop and thanked the Government of Fiji for hosting the workshop and SPREP and SPC for its organization. He gave a brief background on the Targeted Portfolio Project, its objectives and outcomes and the GSU experiences with the Pacific Region. The rather slow rate of progress in the development of proposals was highlighted and the need for countries to ensure timely inception and implementation emphasised. The GSU was pleased and encouraged to see the involvement of the CROP LRWG and looked forward to witnessing a strong support from the group during inception and implementation phases. Hans also informed the workshop that the GSU may likely close in the first quarter of 2008 and that it was very important that there be some form of support mechanism to enable countries to implement their activities and achieve the project outputs and outcomes within the project duration.

ii) Mr Aleki Sisifa on behalf of the CROP Land Resources Working Group

Aleki welcomed all participants and thanked the GSU for funding the workshop and enabling PICs to meet and plan ahead for the inception and implementation of the SLM projects. He highlighted the importance of SLM in the Pacific in light of the growing pressures on land resources and that the SLM project is a welcome initiative to build and strengthen capacity of PICs to address land degradation and achieve SLM. While there are no specific targets in the Pacific Plan that are related to land resources management, there are now moves to have this incorporated in future reviews of the Plan. On the LRWG, Aleki informed the workshop that with the formal endorsement by the Heads of CROP on the re-establishment of the LRWG, the group is now in a good position to collaborate, coordinate and assist countries with the SLM project.

iii) Introduction of participants

Following the opening statements each participant (country delegates, resources persons and observers) introduced themselves. (see Participant List in Annex 2)

1:3 Workshop Objective and Outcomes (Frank Wickham)

Frank introduced the workshop agenda (See Annex 1) and the workshop objectives and main outcomes;

Workshop Objective

To prepare countries for the implementation of the GEF- SLM Medium Size Projects

Main Outcomes expected from the Workshop

- Identify and prepare for challenges that will be faced during implementation of the project
- Identify ways to progress and complete the National Action Plans
- Awareness raised on how a Medium Term Investment Plan and Resource Mobilization Strategy can be developed
- Familiarization with the use of the Environmental Economics tool kit
- Identify an approach for developing the Pacific Sub-Regional Action Plan (SRA) and potential themes
- Identify support roles for Members of the Land Resources Working Group

1:2 GEF SLM Portfolio Project, Adaptation, Carbon Financing, NCSA and other related UNDP/GEF initiatives (Laututu Andrea Volentras)

Andrea gave an overview presentation on the background and recent developments in the GEF LD Focal Area, Strategic Roadmap, Operational Programme 15, and the SIDS/LDC Targeted Portfolio Project. Countries were informed where they were at with their SLM Project Proposals and additional information was provided on a range of funding windows and Pacific Islands Regional and National Projects that are currently being designed or implemented and are linked to the SLM project and included the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project (PACC), Pacific Islands Green-House Gas Abatement and Renewable Energy Project (PIGARREP), opportunities for Carbon Financing and the NCSA.

1:3 Country Presentations on experiences with development of the SLM Project Proposals

13 Countries present during the workshop were given the opportunity to share their experiences with the development of project proposals highlighting any challenges encountered and how they were able to address them. (Note: Only Palau was not able to attend the workshop)

Cook Islands

The National Environment Service (NES) of the Government of Cook Islands has been involved in securing the PDF funding and engaged an international consultant (Matt McIntyre) to assist in developing the proposal. A draft was developed in 2006 and put through the review process. Feedback provided by the GSU was not made known to the NES for a while and so there was no move to make revisions. Communication between consultant, GSU and NES was one of the difficulties experienced. The project is to be jointly implemented by the NES and Ministry of Works (MOW).

Although the project framework was already determined the process seemed to be very tedious and one needed to have a good understanding of the GEF Project templates used in the proposal. The limit of USD 50,000 for project management expenses over a three-year period is rather low and will be an area that will need special attention during implementation.

Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

The FSM SLM MSP is to be implemented by the National Government and four State Governments with overall coordination by the national government. A workshop was organized to develop the proposal and attended by representatives from the national and state governments. SPREP provided guidance in developing the proposal and a national consultant was engaged and completed a draft for submission to the UNDP.

Challenges experienced during proposal development stage and will be encountered during implementation include: understanding the requirements of the UNCCD, having an appropriate management and coordination arrangement, coordination with technical advisory bodies within the national government system, compliance with State Government finance requirements and keeping up with monitoring and reporting requirements and schedules.

Fiji

The Land Use Section of the Department of Land Resources Planning & Development within the Ministry of Agriculture is the focal point for the UNCCD and took on responsibility for drafting the MSP. The Land Use Section hosts the Secretariat to the Land Conservation Board of Fiji, has been actively involved in SLM initiatives in the country over the past years and has the capacity to manage and implement the SLM MSP under the NEX arrangement.

While approval for the PDFA was given in 2004, drafting of the proposal began in 2006. Officers in the Section took up the opportunity to learn about the GEF, UNCCD and how to develop a MSP by developing the SLM proposal on their own. The lengthy bureaucratic process within the government system would have also made it difficult to engage a consultant on time. A presentation was given on key stages of the proposal development process leading up to the presentation to the GEF.

Bottle necks experienced during the proposal development process included: changes in the composition of the project development team, delays in reviews and feedback from UNDP, lack of on-going consultation resulting in some misunderstanding, additional templates required by the GEF, and the heavy load experienced by officers who also had other national duties to attend to.

Kiribati

The SLM MSP for Kiribati is under the responsibility of the Director of Environment of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development (MELAD) Initial contract was established with the Queensland University of Technology for the development of the proposal. After experiencing difficulties with this contractor MELAD requested assistance from SPREP who continued with the development of the proposal in collaboration with the Director of Environment and staff. This approach was convenient but it did not provide a good opportunity for staff to learn about the GEF and UNDP process and how to develop a MSP proposal, a need that still exists.

Kiribati outlined various areas that it will need assistance and requested that there be a strong regional backstopping mechanism to provide needed assistance. Very good communication between countries and regional organizations will be crucial and Capacity and clarity about planning and approach is needed prior to inception and implementation, understanding of outcomes, expectations and indicators.

Marshall Islands

The SLM MSP is overseen by the Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination (OEPPC) which is also the focal point for the coordination of the Rio Conventions and SPREP Focal Point. The OEPPC obtained the assistance from SPREP, UNDP CO in Fiji, on the development of the proposal.

Prior to the planned inception phase the government will establish a national steering committee that will oversee the activities of SLM. Membership on this steering committee will include land owners, traditional leaders, community representatives, Government agencies, NGO's, academic institutions, private sector and technical experts. This committee will provide guidance and monitor implementation of the SLM.

Nauru

Nauru gave a very good overview of land degradation issue in the country and its effects on a range of socio-economic and environmental sectors. The SLM MSP was developed with the assistance of Dr. Mahendra Kumar of the USP and the Division of Environment within the Department of Commerce, Industry & Resources, will oversee the project. This department will also be overseeing future GEF projects in the country. Nauru has a range of systemic and institutional capacity needs that will be addressed in the SLM and should contribute to SLM. An immediate priority and area of need is assistance for the development of the NAP.

Niue

Niue is the first of the Pacific countries to begin the project inception phase in July 2007 and has started implementing project activities. The Niue SLM FSM was developed by local consultants, Mr Ernest Nemaia and his wife. There was a period of over a year between acceptance of the proposal by the GEF and drawdown of project funds for the inception so many of the stakeholders had to familiarize again with the project document as there had been changes in staff and many had not been involved with the proposal.

The project is being managed by the Department of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries and the is being implemented by a number of government agencies.

(Note: Niue's experience with the inception stage of the project was presented on Day 2 of the workshop. See Sessions for Day 2)

Papua New Guinea

The Papua New Guinea presentation began with highlighting the challenge a developing nation like PNG faces in addressing global environmental agendas and streamlining them into national agendas, policies and strategies. This is the case with the SLM project and it has been a challenge for a country like PNG with the biggest land mass and population and the largest size of government in the region, to identify how best to utilize the GEF 500,000 SLM project. This has been addressed during project design and target areas have been identified which fit in with PNG's national policies and plans.

The SLM proposal was developed and submitted to the UNDP by the PNG Environment Department along with the UNCCD 3rd National Report. Assistance was obtained from Professor Chalapan Kaluwin of the University of Papua New Guinea who is also technical advisor to the PNG Government. The SLM MSP is already contributing to strengthening coordination and integration of SLM programmes and project in the country.

The PNG presentation also highlighted PNG's priority areas linked to the GEF RAF. The SLM MSP has linkages to other national programs and strategies and will be making full use of available expertise in the country. While PNG has the expertise to plan and implement the SLM project activities challenges are anticipated in relation to having an integrated approach and completing the NAP.

Samoa

The SLM MSP is being managed and coordinated by the Lands Division of MNRE. Samoa has also had its SLM proposal approved by the GEF in 2007 and held its inception workshop in July of the same year. The UNCCD NAP and 3rd National Report has also been completed, endorsed by cabinet and presented to the UNCCD Secretariat early this year. The SLM proposal was developed by officers of MNRE in collaboration with other national stakeholders and with assistance from a local consultant.

A national coordinator for the SLM MSP has been appointed, Project Management Unit established as well as a project advisory committee. The inception workshop brought together the main stakeholder representatives and focused on roles and responsibilities, review of the log-frame activities, outputs, indicators and assumptions and identification and confirmation of activities for the first year of implementation. Implementation of the project is now being progressed.

Solomon Islands

The SLM MSP proposal was developed in 2006 with the assistance of an international consultant working alongside a national counterpart. It is intended that the MSP will be a UNDP Directly Executed Project and the main implementing agency will be the Department of Agriculture and Livestock. Some difficulties were experienced during proposal development when communications between the international consultant and national counterpart did not include the government agencies involved with the SLM and the UNCCD Operational Focal Point. Follow up to feedback from GSU and UNDP was slow due to this.

In preparation for project inception assistance will be needed with understanding of GEF and UNDP requirements, review of the log-frame, project monitoring approaches, the development of a MTIP and on how to mainstream SLM into national plans and strategies.

Tonga

The design and implementation of the SLM MSP is being overseen by the MLSNRE and MAFF of the Government of Tonga. The project proposal was developed with the assistance of a regional consultant and is now awaiting endorsement from GEF. The design phase included a national workshop that was attended by representatives of national stakeholders. There has been difficulties securing co-financing letters in a timely manner and the very limited staff numbers, due to a recent government redundancy exercise, has resulted in a few officers having to take on many responsibilities including the development of the SLM proposal.

Tuvalu

Tuvalu completed its NAP and had it approved by Cabinet in July 2006. During the same year Tuvalu also completed and submitted its 3rd National Report to the UNCCD. In May this year the government contracted Mr Matt McIntyre to develop the SLM proposal. Matt worked alongside national counterparts and developed a final draft which was submitted to UNDP. Tuvalu will need support during implementation particularly when a range of skills required for many of the project activities need to be learnt. Tuvalu looks to the LRWG for support and aims to complete the project within the given time frame.

Vanuatu

Vanuatu is yet to develop its NAP but has successfully lodged its SLM proposal with the UNDP as a result of assistance provided by an international consultant. The Vanuatu government is looking forward to having the SLM project complement and support its efforts in improving land administration and management throughout the country at the national, provincial and community levels. Past national consultations with traditional leaders have also identified strategies and actions that will need to be supported by the SLM project. Challenges anticipated during implementation of the SLM project include: limited number of government officers able to commit a lot of time to the project, other projects and programmes placing expectations on staff, likely slow disbursement rate of funds by UNDP, timely implementation of project activities in the outer islands and likely changes in staffing positions.

1:4 Group discussions and presentations on the range of Project Outputs and Activities identified by countries.

The purpose of this session was to have country delegates reflect on the range of activities in their project proposals and identify those that they have in common with other countries as well as those that were unique to their own projects. As a good number of the country delegates were not very familiar with the project proposals, this exercise helped them familiarize with their own projects.

The second purpose of this exercise was to enable the LRWG to have an overview of the range of activities in the country's project proposals. In this way members of the LRWG would then be able to identify activities their organizations may be able to be involved to support countries during project implementation.

Country delegates divided into three groups to undertake the following:

- Each country team to review their Detailed Work Plan in the Project Proposals, compare with other country teams and identify commonalities and differences in the project activities proposed. Activities were identified under each Project Outcome.
- Develop a matrix for presentation in the plenary, showing the countries and the activities or themes identified under each project outcome.

Delegates were divided along the following groupings:

- Group 1: Atoll and low-lying islands (Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Nauru)
- Group 2: Small high islands (Cook Is, Samoa, FSM, Palau)
- Group 3: Large mountainous islands (PNG, Solomon Is, Vanuatu, Fiji)

Following the group discussions each group gave a presentation on their matrices. These were later compiled and amalgamated to produce one matrix for all the countries. This is presented in **Annex 3** and shows the range of activities under each of the Project Outcomes that countries have included in their project proposals. The matrix also shows the activities that were more common compared with others that were specific to each country.

1:6 Meeting of the Pacific Land Resources Working Group

The LRWG held its first meeting following the end of the last session of Day 1. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how the group can support countries over the next few days of the workshop and to start

considering what kinds of support each organization can provide to countries during implementation of the SLM project.

The LRWG had a few meetings following the regional SLM in Samoa during August 2006. Earlier in the year the working group was formally re-established during a meeting of the Heads of Pacific regional inter-governmental organizations (CROP). A paper submitted to the Head of CROP Meeting this year is attached in **Annex 7**. Officials representing their organizations on the LRWG Core Group meetings during this workshop included:

Name	Designation	Organization	e-mail Contact
Mr. Aleki Sisifa	Director - Land Resources Division	SPC	alekis@spc.int
Mr. Inoke Ratukalou	Land use and Resources Policy Adviser	SPC	inokeR@spc.int
Mr. David Leslie	Consultant	Land Care Research NZ Ltd	Leslie_DandM@xtra.co.nz
Ms Bale Tamata	Fellow & Head of Environment Unit,	USP - Institute of Applied Sciences	Tamata_B@usp.ac.fj
Mr. Ioane Malaki	Lecturer in Agriculture Engineering	USP - School of Agriculture	malaki_i@samoa.usp.ac.fj
Ms Paula Holland	Senior adviser - Natural Resources Governance	SOPAC	paulah@sopac.org
Ms Netatua Pelesikoti	Adviser Sustainable Development - EDF9	SOPAC	Netatua@sopac.org
Mr James Dalton	Project advisor - Integrated Water Resources Management	SOPAC	jamesd@sopac.org
Mr Andrea Volentras	Pacific Regional Technical Advisor	UNDP-GEF	andrea.volentras@undp.org
Mr Alvin Chandra	Environment Associate	UNDP	alvin.chandra@undp.org
Mr Meapelo Maiiai	Programme Officer	UNDP	meapelo.maiiai@undp.org
Mr Bruce Chapman	Manager - Pacific Futures Program	SPREP	brucec@sprep.org
Mr Frank Wickham	Capacity Development Advisor	SPREP	frankw@sprep.org

Apologies were received from:

Mr. Aru Mathias - Forestry Advisor, FAO Pacific Sub-Regional Office
 Dr. Padma Lal - Sustainable Development Advisor, Pacific Forum Secretariat
 Professor Bill Aalbersberg - Head of Institute of Applied Science, USP.

The Chair, Aleki Sisifa of SPC, thanked all members for making it to the workshop and requested Frank Wickham to brief the group on how it can assist during the workshop and any expectations that the group will need to consider.

Frank briefed the group that the workshop is aimed at assisting countries prepare for the inception and implementation of their SLM projects and that countries will be asked to identify areas they will need help

from the working group during implementation. At the end of the workshop it is anticipated that the working group will inform the countries of the following:

- National and regional activities identified by countries to which assistance can be provided by members of the LRWG. This assistance can be in the form of advice, technical support for in-country capacity building activities, technical support for regional or sub-regional activities identified by countries identification of expertise to address specific requests.
- Members of the working group who shall be liaising between countries and the groups
- Methods for communication between countries and the working group.

A number of topics raised and discussed during the meeting included:

i) Update on the formalization of the LRWG

Inoke Ratukalou presented Members with the paper presented to the Heads of CROP Meeting in July and informed the group that the LRWG was now formally recognized as a CROP working group.

ii) The need to take a holistic approach to sustainable land management in the Pacific and the need for stronger coordination and integration between the CROP working groups.

The Chair of the LRWG suggested that the group consider ways to promote strengthening of coordination and integration amongst the working groups. SLM is broad in its scope and covers issues like climate change, conservation, waste management etc and there needs to be an approach where CROP Working Groups can coordinate and integrate their efforts so that there is limited duplication and greater complementarities. There are increasing calls for mainstreaming of climate change and conservation of biodiversity into development planning and land resource management is a significant development sector in all of the Pacific Island Countries.

After some discussions the group agreed that the Chair inform the Sustainable Development Working Group of this in the hope that as the coordinator of all working group, the SDWG will develop a mechanism to strengthen integration and coordination and minimize duplication.

iii) Capacity to support countries with technical back-stopping and advice.

The Chair informed the meeting that one of the challenges to be faced by members of the working group is that of securing the resources (time, people and funds) to support countries. Organizations will find it difficult to quickly respond to country's needs because officers will have their own work programs and normally there will need to be funding to enable officers to travel and assist countries. As the SLM are nationally driven projects, it will be up to the countries to decide as to when and what form of assistance is needed. They will be expected to meet the cost of engaging officers from organizations that are members of the working group. Where opportunities permit, cost-saving approaches can be pursued and support to countries arranged at times when officers are traveling to countries on other matters.

Frank Wickham informed the meeting that it has not always been easy for countries to pay for expenses of CROP organizations when support is needed. In the case of the SLM the working group will need to remind and encourage countries to make provision in their project work plans and budgets to meet the costs related to services provided by members of the working group.

The meeting agreed for the Chair to inform the countries of these matters during the workshop.

2:1 Environmental Economics Tool Kit

Hans Eschweiller of the SLM GSU introduced the session by providing some background on the Environmental Economics Tool Kit intended for 'Analyzing the Economic Costs of Land Degradation & the Benefits of Sustainable Land Management'. The Tool Kit was developed with funding support from the GSU and written by Lars Hein of Wageningen, the Netherlands. It is being promoted for use by all countries participating in the SLM Portfolio Project and was officially launched during the UNCCD CRIC5 Meeting in Buenos Aires in March 2007.

Ms. Mishka Stuip - Environmental Researcher of the University of Wageningen and Nature Valuation and Financing Network gave a presentation, on behalf of Lars Hein, explaining the purpose of the tool kit, its various features and gave examples of how it can be used.

Following this presentation country delegates divided into groups and were given an exercise to determine the economic valuation of ecosystem services. Following the group exercise each group were requested to present their findings to the plenary. This provided a very good opportunity for delegates to learn more about the application of the toolkit.

Throughout this exercise, a number of salient points raised by delegates included :

- It would be useful to include Pacific Island case studies in the exercises.
- More time would be needed for delegates to become more familiar with the use of the toolkit and more exercises are needed.
- The tool kit is user-friendly but it would be useful for users to have some basic understanding of economics.
- Countries will try and find opportunities in their projects to use the tool kit.

An electronic copy of the tool kit can be found at the following web-site:

<http://www.gsu.co.za/>

2:2 Project activities and themes that can be approached through regional collaboration and coordination.

Following on from the group exercise in Day 1, which produced a matrix showing the range of themes and Project Activities to be implemented by the different countries (see Annex 3), country delegates were further requested to go into their same groupings to go through the range of activities and identify those that have the potential of or will need to be addressed through some form of regional collaboration and coordination such as:

- Country to country training attachments
- Coordinated regional training activity
- Exchange of information

The feedback provided by each of the three groups and summarized in one matrix is presented in **Annex 5 - Summary of Project Outputs and Activities that can be addressed through a regional approach**. This information also enabled the LRWG to be in a better position to identify potential areas for collaboration and coordination amongst regional agencies.

2:3 A country's experience with SLM Project Inception

The delegate from Niue and also the SLM Project Coordinator, Ms Inangaro M. Motufou Vakaafi gave a presentation on her country's experience with the inception stage of the SLM Project. The presentation attracted a lot of interest particularly on the following issues and topics:

- Challenges encountered during acquisition of land for the demonstration project
- Approach taken in implementing the consultations during the inception stage
- The UNDP procedures that needed to be followed during inception phase
- How the 1st Year Work Plan and Budget was developed
- The use of the project log-frame during inception

Detailed information on the Niue presentation is presented in **Annex 4: Niue's experience with SLM Project Inception**.

2:4 Progress on development of UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP) in the Pacific

Yang Yaoulin, OIC, Asia Regional Coordinator Unit / UNCCD Secretariat gave a brief presentation on the importance for countries to complete the NAP. As Parties to the UNCCD all 14 Pacific Countries are required to develop a National Action Plan for addressing land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought. One of the main Outcomes of the SLM Project is the development of the NAP and countries were asked to provide a summary of progress and updates in the development and implementation of their NAPs. **Table 2.4** in the next page presents the summary of progress across the 14 countries:

Support for the development of NAPs in the Pacific has been mixed and spread out over the past years. In 2005 the Global Mechanism provided funding for six countries (PNG, Solomon Islands, Palau, Niue, Tuvalu and Fiji) Of this group Palau, Niue and Tuvalu have completed their NAPs.

In 2006 the UNDP, through the Governance in the Pacific Project (GovPac) provided funding support to the remaining 8 countries that were not able to get assistance from the GM in 2005. These included: Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Marshall Islands and Vanuatu. This support package is being coordinated by SPREP and funds and guidelines have been sent to countries to start work in development of their NAPs.

One of the main causes of delay in the development of the NAP was the introduction of the requirement for countries to complete their UNCCD 3rd National Reports and the SLM MSP proposals. Because of the urgency needed to complete and submit the 3rd National Report and SLM MSP proposals countries focussed their attention on these and left the NAP work for later. At the same time, many of these countries were also conducting Thematic Assessments under the GEF National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) Project. This required countries to identify capacity needs to address the issues and requirements covered in the UNCCD. A number of countries have used the NCSA findings to help develop the NAP.

Table 2.4: Status and progress on the development and implementation of UNCCD NAPs in the Pacific.

Countries	Status	Comments
Cook Islands	Draft NAP being developed	Final NAP should be ready by end of 2007. Local consultant engaged and assistance provided by SPREP
Federated States of Micronesia	Draft NAP being developed	Final NAP should be ready by end of 2007. Local consultant engaged and assistance provided by SPREP
Fiji	Draft NAP being developed	Fiji will use the National Land Use Policy as the guiding document for the NAP.
Kiribati	Draft NAP completed and about to be presented to a validation workshop	Local consultant engaged and assistance provided by SPREP
Marshall Islands	Draft NAP to be developed beginning November 2007	NAP development will be coordinated by the OEPPC and technical assistance sought from SPREP. Draft should be ready by end of 2007.
Nauru	Draft NAP to be developed.	Assistance to be sought from SPREP and draft should be ready by end of 2007.
Niue	NAP completed in 2004	Measures are being taken to identify resources to implement actions identified in the NAP.
Palau	NAP completed in 2005	Measures are being taken to identify resources to implement actions identified in the NAP.
Papua New Guinea	NAP being developed	Work is currently underway and it is hoped that a draft NAP will be ready by the end of the year.
Samoa	NAP completed in July 2007	Samoa is now identifying funding opportunities to support implementation of the NAP.
Solomon Islands	NAP being developed	A team has been put together to hold consultations throughout the 9 Provinces and it is envisaged that a draft NAP will be ready by end of December 2007.
Tonga	NAP draft completed	Draft will be presented to a national validation workshop and hopefully a final version to be ready by end of 2007
Tuvalu	NAP completed in July 2007 and endorsed by Cabinet	Measures are being taken to identify resources to implement actions identified in the NAP
Vanuatu	NAP draft to be developed.	Local consultant to be engaged and assistance to be sought from SPREP.

3:1 Guidelines for the development of Medium-Term-Investment Plans (MTIP) to support SLM and NAP implementation

Guideline for assessing and developing capacity for SLM

Ms. Joanna Talafre : Director of International Programmes, Unisféra International Centre introduced the set of guidelines being developed to assist countries develop MTIP aimed at supporting implementation of SLM and NAP programs and actions in countries.

Unisfera International Centre has been engaged by the SLM GSU to develop the guidelines and they will be used as a trial during a workshop in the Caribbean region during October 2007. The purpose of this presentation was to obtain some initial feedback from countries on the draft.

Joanna went through the guide and sought feedback from delegates. Countries responded with the following main points:

- i) Guidelines for the development of Medium-Term-Investment Plans (MTIP) to support SLM and NAP implementation
 - The MTIP guide is easy to follow and use but will require very good coordinated efforts at the national level.
 - Planning and Finance officials in the countries will need to be involved and play a key role in development of the MTIP. Getting them to take on the roles expected of them may be a challenge for some countries.
 - More elaboration of this guide and practical use of it will be possible when countries implement activities in the SLM project to develop the MTIP.
 - Countries will need expert assistance in developing the MTIP during implementation of the SLM.

- ii) Guideline for assessing and developing capacity for SLM
 - The general feedback was that the tools are useful and can be used across other thematic areas.
 - Countries that have done their NCSA Thematic Assessments saw many similarities between this guide and that used for the NCSA stocktaking and thematic assessment exercise.
 - Countries that have not done their NCSA assessments indicated that this tool will be very useful for the NCSA as well.

3:3 Country needs for inception and implementation of the SLM Project

During this session country delegates were asked to identify any areas they will want support with during inception and when they start implementing their projects. This was intended to provide Members of the LRWG an opportunity to note the more specific needs of countries. Each country delegate provided feedback and the range of needs is listed below:

- Understanding of UNDP and GEF Project Cycle, procedures and requirements
- Understanding of the requirements for the inception phase of the MSP
- Training in use of the Log-Frame for reviewing the assumptions and indicators and activities.
- Communication strategies to promote the project and its activities
- Understanding of the UNCCD
- Better understanding of concepts promoted in the project including; mainstreaming, resource mobilization.
- Training on monitoring of projects
- GIS and EIA training
- Support with completion of the NAP
- Understanding of the principles of Sustainable Land Management

During these discussions Frank Wickham suggested to countries to consider incorporating a gender analysis approach in the planning of their project activities.

3:4 2nd Meeting of the Pacific Land Resources Working Group

During lunch hour of the 3rd day the LRWG Members met to discuss the following outcomes of the workshop:

- The range of activities and themes presented by countries
- The range of activities and themes that could be addressed through regional collaboration and coordination
- Assistance needed for inception and implementation

Each of the LRWG Members provided feedback to the Chair on areas they felt their respective organizations could support countries in. A matrix was developed showing the LRWG Members and the activities or themes they can support countries with. This is presented in **Annex 6: Potential areas of support by the Pacific Land Resources Working Group**.

In addition to this the LRWG Members agreed to inform countries that:

- They can make direct contact with each of the separate organizations on specific needs for in-country support or for technical and policy advice.
- They contact Inoke Ratukalou of SPC and Frank Wickham of SPREP on activities or themes that they wish to address through a regional approach.
- Any request for assistance will need to be sent at least 6 months in advance and that countries be prepared to meet cost of officers travel and DSA , if in-country assistance is needed.

3:5 Opportunities for support by the LRWG Members towards implementation of the SLM MSP by countries.

During this session, the Chair of the LRWG provided feedback to countries on the discussions of the LRWG and a presentation was made on the Matrix that was developed.

4:1 Women, gender and land resources management - Pacific Islands Case Studies

The workshop had an opportunity to be given presentations from a team that has been undertaking studies in the Pacific Region on Matrilineal land ownership systems and implications for planning and implementation of programmes and initiatives in land resources management. The presenters included:

- Ms Gina Houg Lee, Chief Resource Trainer - Community Development. Pacific Regional Rights Resources Team (PRRT)
- Ruth Maetala - Consultant (Gender), Ministry of Women, Youth and Children's affairs, Solomon Islands
- Joel Simo: Vanuatu Cultural Centre

1st Presentation: Ms Gina Houg Lee - Putting Gender on the Sustainable Land Agenda

Gina introduced the presentations and informed delegates that this was part of a joint study by the Forum Secretariat, SPC and USP on role of women in decision-making on land resources management.

The presentation was aimed at the following objectives:

- To provide a background of research covering adequate housing and land
- To highlight importance of women in decision making with respect to land use and management
- To review with case studies women in decision making roles and access to land.
- To seek recommendation and support to include gender in relation to regional planning.

The study came about as a result of a consultative meeting by women in the region that looked into the growing difficulties and marginalization of women when it comes to deciding on land use and benefits to be derived from land-based activities.

The consultation led to the development of a project having three components:

Component 1: Primary Research; *Evolving Land Tenure in the Matrilineal Pacific: Impact on Women and Governance in the Republic of Marshall Islands, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands*

Component 2: Primary Research; *Women's Access to Adequate Housing and Land: Pacific Women's experience in accessing adequate housing and land in 5 Pacific Island Countries*

Component 3: One day presentation on "Women and the Right to Adequate Housing and Land" at 10th Triennial Conference on Pacific Women and the Third Pacific Ministerial on Women from May 21-25, 2007

The presentation highlighted the range of issues and problems women face in accessing proper housing and in relation to deciding on and using land resources and presented a range of recommendations on ways to address this issue.

Gina's presentation can be viewed or downloaded from: www.sprep.org/landdegradation

2nd Presentation: Ruth Maetala - Gender and L and Study, Solomon Islands

Ruth's presentation summarised findings of a study recently carried out in Solomon Islands. The study is a part of three case studies conducted in Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands and Vanuatu. The study in Solomon Islands took place between November 2006 and October 2007 and involved the islands of Santa Isabel, Guadalcanal and Makira where there are matrilineal land ownership systems.

The presentation highlighted the methodology used and the main findings, which included:

- Women in the Solomon Islands context
- The important role women play in land ownership, transfer of user-rights and the challenges women now face with increasing pressures on land and communities by development activities.
- Matrilineal land tenure principles
- Gender and land issues in Solomon Islands
- Positive steps taken by the Solomon Islands government to promote and support women's involvement in land resources management and development activities
- Recommendations on measures to be taken by the Solomon Islands government in addressing the challenges faced by women in the country.

Ruth's presentation can be viewed or downloaded from the following site: www.sprep.org/landdegradation

3rd Presentation: Joel Simo - Matrilineal land tenure in Vanuatu: Case studies of Raga and South Efate

Joel was involved in a similar study as Ruth, which was intended to:

- Examine the role, past and present, of women in decision-making about land tenure and access to land.
- Focus on matrilineal land tenure therefore allowing for close scrutiny of gender relations in a system that typically acknowledges women's political role in land matters.
- Document changes in attitude and policy with respect to land tenure, access to land and land management, and the role of women therein in Raga and South Efate, Vanuatu.

Joel's presentation included sections on:

- Land in Vanuatu and the recognition of women
- Basic information on women in Vanuatu
- Main findings from two case studies in Efate and Pentecost islands.
- Main conclusions of the studies which included:
 - i) Matrilineal system does not necessarily mean that women and men have equal rights to land
 - ii) Traditional social security systems are breaking down due to population pressure and mobility, inter-island marriages, and pressures to commodify land.
 - iii) 'Foreign' widows in a matrilineal system do not necessarily have indisputable rights to their deceased husband's land

Joel's presentation can be viewed or downloaded from: www.sprep.org/

Following the presentations there was a good discussion on the need to plan and implement SLM projects that takes into account gender considerations, decision-making processes in communities, impacts of projects on both men and women.

Frank Wickham of SPREP continued to encourage countries to consider undertaking gender analysis when designing and implementing SLM Project activities.

4:2 Development of a UNCCD Pacific Sub-Regional Action Programme (SRAP)

The Pacific Sub-Region is the only UNCCD sub-region that has not yet developed a Sub-Regional Action Programme (SRAP) to address land degradation.

The presentation by Yang Youlin (OIC, Asia Regional Coordinator Unit / UNCCD Secretariat) was aimed at making countries aware of the existence of SRAPs in other sub-regions, the purpose and contents of a SRAP and to encourage countries to consider developing a SRAP for the Pacific.

The presentation can be viewed or downloaded at:

The discussions following the presentation reached the following consensus:

- i) Countries that have yet to develop their NAPs to consider this an urgent priority
- ii) That the UNCCD Regional Office for Asia and the LRWG initiate an approach to developing the SRAP and inform countries of on-going developments.
- iii) That resources be sought to have countries convene in the future in a workshop to develop the Pacific SRAP.

4:3 Follow-up actions and workshop closure

The workshop ended with a discussion by countries on priority follow-up actions and the official closing remarks by country delegates and resource persons.

On follow-up actions the following was agreed on:

- LRWG communicate with countries to discuss the possibility of holding a regional workshop for all new Project Coordinators and Managers to prepare them for inception and implementation, Frank Wickham (SPREP) and Inoke Ratukalou (SPC) to follow up with countries.
- UNDP to inform countries on necessary documentation prior to disbursement of funding
- Countries to look into advertising the National Project Coordinator positions now and have a person appointed preferably prior to project inception.
- Countries to follow up on outstanding co-financing letters and have them sent to UNDP

Closing remarks were made by:

Mr Hans Eschweiller on behalf of UNDP

Mr Aleki Sisifa on behalf of the LRWG

Professor Chalapan Kaluwin on behalf of the country delegates.

4:4 Workshop evaluation

A workshop evaluation form was distributed to participants on the last day and participants provided whereby most (more than 80%) agreed that:

- i) The workshop material was well organized and helpful
 - There was good partnership between the GSU, SPREP and SPC in planning and implementing the workshop
 - Would have been better for participants if the material were distributed much earlier by SPREP.
 - Most of the materials are directly linked to the implementation of the SLM and therefore very useful.
- ii) The instructors were knowledgeable and presented information effectively
 - Would have been useful to have more time allotted to the session on Environmental Tool Kit and do more exercises to increase confidence in its use.
- iii) The pace was very good, enabling them to absorb and understand well the topics covered

About half of the participants didn't have much involvement with and understanding of the SLM project and the range of outcomes, outputs and activities. Note: This continues to be an on-going challenge in the Pacific region where it is not easy to maintain continuity with the same people attending follow-up workshops. The limited number of officers in national agencies coupled with the relatively high turnover is the main cause for this.

The majority of participants felt that the workshop outcomes were accomplished and were confident in returning to their countries to play a role in supporting the inception and implementation of the workshop. For many (90% of respondents) the workshop was also very relevant to their jobs and they felt that the workshop has provided them with valuable information and knowledge to carry out their jobs better.

There was mixed reaction to the benefits of the group discussions sessions. While many felt that the group sessions enabled more interaction amongst all participants and resource person a few respondents mentioned that their groups were dominated by one or two individuals and this did not allow effective participation by others. The recommended measure to address this is to set down rules of engagement for the group discussions and that the facilitators be aware of this.

In terms of what were the most beneficial part of the workshop the common response was:

- Learning from experts
- Interacting with and sharing experiences with other countries
- Having the countries interact with the LRWG Members and the GSU and strengthening of networks

Suggestions for improvement to the workshop:

- Try and ensure that people that are familiar with the SLM project in their countries attend this kind of workshop. In this way there can be continuity and more active participation by participants
- Include a field trip to visit a land area that has been degraded or disturbed as a result of development activities.

- Countries should be encouraged to provide more information during such workshops, on their experiences in addressing land degradation and what the main issues are in their respective countries.
- Have a specific learning module during such workshops, on gender and gender analysis.
- Next time provide more time for topics that will help participants prepare well for immediate follow-up activities after the workshop. E.g. there could have been more time set aside for presentations and discussions on the range of requirements for the inception stage of the SLM project.

Annex 1: Workshop Agenda



AGENDA for Sustainable Land Management Workshop (for countries participating in the SLM Portfolio Project for LDC/SIDs)

1st - 4th October 2007, Tanoa Hotel, Nadi - Fiji

Day 1 Monday, 01 October 07			
Time	Activity	Detail	Presenter Facilitator
	Registration, Welcome and Introductions		
8:00	Registration	SPREP	
9:00	Opening Prayer		
9:10	Welcoming address	Government of Fiji representative	
9:20	Opening statement	UNDP Global Support Unit (GSU)	
9:40	Opening Statement	SPREP/SPC	
	Photo session	SPREP/SPC	
9:40	Tea/Coffee Break		
10:10	Presentation of workshop objectives and expected outcomes	SPREP/SPC	Frank Wickham/Inoke Ratukalou
10:20	Adoption of agenda	SPREP/SPC	Frank Wickham/Inoke Ratukalou
10:30	Overview of the GEF LD focal area and portfolio The SLM Portfolio Project for LDC/SIDS; update	UNDP/RCU UNDP-GSU	Andrea Volentras Hans Eschweiler
10:50	SLM MSP: status, bottlenecks and implementation priority Issues – country presentations	Country delegates (PPT presentations - max. 5 min. per country)	Country delegates Frank Wickham
	<i>Purpose of Session:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To gain an initial overview of prevailing issues that countries have in common To identify challenges in project inception and implementation To identify issues for discussion in the afternoon (commonalities amongst country MSPs) 		
12:30	Lunch		
13:30	Commonalities amongst country MSPs: scope for a collaborative effort, common strategy and approach	Country delegates working in groups	Inoke Ratukalou

	<i>Purpose:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixed teams to discuss the presentation results; compare similarities of priority issues and formulate some initial ideas on how to take these forward Presentation of group-work results Plenary discussion to lead to concrete proposals for the last session on Wednesday 		Resource persons to facilitate group discussions
15:00	Tea/Coffee Break		
15:15	Challenges and experiences with mainstreaming sustainable development principles into national planning and monitoring processes and opportunities in the SLM Project.	Forum Secretariat – Padma Lal	Padma Lal Andrea Volentras
16:30	Adaptation, Carbon Financing, NCSA and other related UNDP/GEF initiatives	UNDP/RCU	Padma Lal Andrea Volentras
17:00	Close		
19:00	Land Resource Working Group discussions		
Day 2 Tuesday, 02 Oct 2007			
Time	Activity	Detail	Presenter Facilitator
	Environmental Economics		
8:00	Practical training in the application of the Environmental Economics Tool Kit	GSU Consultant	Mishka Stuip Yang Youlin
10:30	Tea/Coffee Break		
10:45	Cont'd	GSU Consultant	Mishka Stuip Yang Youlin
12:30	Lunch		
13:30	Use and role of indicators in SLM – challenges and opportunities.	LRWG	LRWG members
15:00	Tea/Coffee Break		
15:15	Experiences with Inception of the SLM workshop and lessons	Niue	Frank Wickham
16:00	Progress of NAPs in the Pacific	Country delegates SPREP	Country reps SPREP Yang Youlin
17:00	Reception hosted by GSU		

Day 3 Wednesday, 03 Oct 2007			
Time	Activity	Detail	Presenter Facilitator
8:00	SLM Financing/Alternative Financing Mechanisms Guidelines for the development of Medium-Term-Investment Plans that follow-on to NAPs and address SLM	GSU Consultant	Joana Talafre LRWG Member
10:30	Tea/Coffee Break		
10:45	Capacity Development for and Mainstreaming SLM	GSU consultant	Joana Talafre LRWG Member
12:30	Lunch		
13:30	Country needs in terms of technical backstopping Conversion of project proposal to project document (pre-implementation: administrative and financial procedures)	Country delegates	Hans Eschweiller LRWG Member
15:00	Tea/Coffee Break		
15:30	Opportunities for support by the LRWG Members towards implementation of the SLM MSP by countries.	LRWG	Frank Wickham/Inoke Ratukalou
17:00	End of Day 3		
Day 4 Thursday, 04 Oct 2007			
Time	Activity	Detail	Facilitator: SPREP/SPC Rapporteur: SPREP/SPC Presenter
8:30	Women, gender and land resources management	Elsie Huffer and team	Frank Wickham
10:30	Tea/Coffee Break		
11:00	Guidelines for the development of the SRAP	UNCCD	Yang Yaoulin Inoke Ratukalou
12:00	Potential themes for the Pacific SRAP	Country delegates Group discussions and presentations	Yang Yaoulin/Inoke Ratukalou
12:30	Lunch		
1:30	Potential themes for the Pacific SRAP	Country delegates Group discussions and presentations	Yang Yaoulin/Inoke Ratukalou
2:30	Support by the LRWG for the development of the SRAP	LRWG	Frank Wickham/Inoke Ratukalou
15:30	Tea/Coffee Break		
14:00 16:30	Wrap up, way forward and, Official closure	SPREP/SPC	Frank Wickham/Inoke Ratukalou Hans Eschweiler,
17:00	End of Workshop		

ANNEX 2: PARTICIPANTS LIST



Pacific Regional Workshop: UNDP- GEF's Sustainable Land Management Portfolio Project,
UNCCD – Land Degradation National Action Plans (NAPs)
Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi-Fiji
1st –4th October, 2007

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ANNEX 3: Summary of Countries' Project Outcomes and Activities

COUNTRIES PROJECT OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES

Project Outcomes and Activities	Countries													Total
	CI	FSM	FJ	KIR	RMI	NAU	NIU	PNG	SAM	SOL	TON	TUV	VAN	
Capacity Building														
Training activities in SLM	1				1	1		1		1			1	6
Educational Activities					1	1								2
Institutional Strengthening					1	1						1		3
Integrated Landuse Planning		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
Research in SLM	1			1	1				1	1				5
Soil Management		1					1							2
Forest management		1					1		1					3
Water Catchment/resource mangt	1	1			1		1		1					5
Resource Survey				1										1
Baseline Data				1										1
Sustainable Agriculture	1	1		1			1		1		1			6
Land rehabilitation	1	1		1		1	1		1		1			7
EIA/EIS	1	1					1		1					4
Solid Waste Management		1												1
Drought prone area management									1					1
Mainstreaming SLM														
SLM into national strategies	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	11
SLM into sector policies				1					1					2
SLM into Forestry Action Plans			1					1		1			1	4
SLM into Community management plans									1					1
SLM into curriculum						1			1					2
Review/Develop Policy - Regulation	1	1	1				1	1	1	1			1	8
Policy/Options/Actions for Beach Mining				1	1									2
Gender Promotion				1	1						1			3
Review legislation	1		1				1		1	1				5

Project Outcomes and Activities	Countries													
	CI	FSM	FJ	KIR	RMI	NAU	NIU	PNG	SAM	SOL	TON	TUV	VAN	Total
Increase Knowledge & Awareness														
Improve Information System			1		1	1		1		1			1	6
Participatory consultations & Demos			1			1		1				1		4
Tools/Guidelines/Manuals						1						1		2
Traditional Knowledge & SLM						1						1		2
GIS/Remote Sensing	1	1		1		1	1		1	1		1		8
Monitoring & Evaluation	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
Awareness Materials		1		1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	9
Hosting national awareness events			1							1				2
Knowledge sharing/networks on SLM			1					1		1			1	4
Marketing Plans					1					1		1	1	4
Technical support - tool kits	1	1					1		1					4
Medium Term Investment Plan														
MTIP	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
Resource Mobilization Plan	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
Development of NAP														
Development of NAP	1	1	1		1	1		1		1			1	8
Mainstreaming of NAP	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13

ANNEX 4: Niue's experiences with SLM Project Inception

Niue's SLM Project Long Term Goal: "Sustainable management of Niue's unique natural terrestrial resources while at the same time promoting sustainable productive systems contributing to the social well being of its present and future generations."

Main Objective: "Capacities for sustainable land management are built in appropriate governmental departments, civil society groups, resource users and mainstreamed into government planning and strategy development."

Niue has taken a two pronged approach at addressing Sustainable Land Management by

- 1) enhancing capacities for economic and financial sustainability of the agricultural, agro-forestry and forest use systems of Niue through practical training on pilot demonstration unit.
- 2) the establishment of a commercially viable farm incorporating sustainable land management principles.

Niue's project document for the Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management Project was signed and endorsed by the Niue Government and UNDP-GEF on the 27th of February 2007 and project personnel were recruited at the same time. As part of the implementation phase of the project an Inception Workshop was held on the 30th of April 2007 at Salim Hall, Mutalau (the pilot project village). It was a one week process which basically made way for an introduction to the SLM project and also provided an opportunity for a brief overview of the project background, the visions and objectives as well as the proposed outcomes. It also gave the Project Management Team a chance to gauge an understanding of what the key stakeholders expectations were of the Project.

In terms of lessons learnt, the planning and organization of the Inception workshop itself went according to plan besides having to change the dates a few times due to the availability of resource people (sourced from abroad). There was also a good turnout with representation from all key stakeholders.

Presentations presented on the day were delivered by Ernest Nemaia (advisor to the project) who was able to give a background on the history of Niue's UNCCD MSP SLM project especially because of his involvement right from the beginning in the development of reports and preparation of the project document, work plans and budget. Another presentation was delivered by Frank Wickham (SPREP) who was able to elaborate a little bit more on the UNCCD Convention itself and the background of the MSP SLM project. Meapelo Mai'ai from UNDP had a presentation on the UNDP reporting requirements and importance of monitoring and evaluation.

The Inception phase also provided training for the Project Management team mainly the newly recruited project coordinator and technical assistant. These sessions were carried out by Frank Wickham (SPREP) to assist project personnel to build their capacity and understanding of the project and what their roles would require of them. Various lessons were learnt from these sessions such as the meanings of Assumptions, Risks and Indicators and the implications they have on project design and implementation. During this training session the team critically reviewed the following project assumptions:

*Land would be readily available for the establishment of the organic farm.

*Labor would be provided freely by the community within the pilot project village.

When reviewing these assumptions the reality of it is that when it comes to dealing with land matters it is never that easy, but we realize that due to the nature of our project, acquiring the land is an integral if not the most important part and it is something that must be addressed. Without the land we will not be able to achieve the various project objectives. We also identified that there were various reasons behind the reluctance of landowners to make their available due to uncertainty, misinformation, lack of information, suspicion as to how their land would be used and some were just unwilling to participate. Measures were planned and implemented to minimize the risk of this assumption not holding out during the life of the project.

The labour factor or the shortage of labour on the island is a problem at the national level and became a concern that the assumption that labour would be available and 'freely' provided may not hold. It was realized that the approach taken was rather ambitious and required a lot of labour. Project activities were therefore planned to ensure that the workload was within the ability of the available labor force to handle.

During the training sessions we also had the opportunity to go through the log frame matrix to review the Indicators and found that there were indicators that were rather broad, unclear and areas that needed to be reworded. It was also noted that trying to understand and interpret the workplan and activities within were difficult due mainly to the fact that the newly recruited staff were not involved in the preparation of the document. Therefore it was very important for them to understand what was required of them and their roles and responsibilities within the project. Work is in progress in line with the project document but the Project Management team work closely with Ernest Nemaia for the finer details.

Main Risks and Challenges that were identified were

- 1) Land Issues
- 2) Labour Shortage
- 3) Risk in change of Government and national priorities
- 4) Confusion and mis-information as Public Awareness was not factored into the project design.

Some ways we have discussed to address those issues:

- 1) A village land committee has been formed as a sub committee to the Mutalau Village Council, a TOR has been developed and this committee play a mediator role between the land owners, project team and government to develop an understanding and get an agreement from landowners to be made available to the project. This project will provide an avenue to find new ways of dealing with land issues. Due to the nature of the project a land lease is being developed where government have agreed to lease land from landowners and then sublease it to the project.
- 2) At the moment the project is utilizing labour from the NZ Aid funded Vanilla/Nonu & Young Farmers Project however these will be phased out by the end of this year. There are other alternatives which are in discussion, one option would be a redeployment scheme which is already being used by government where public servants are allowed to take time off from work to be redeployed to assist with village developments or large village developments however special conditions apply. There is also the option of sourcing labour from outside.

- 3) The political will and support from the Niue government is strong but there is a risk that if the government were to change there would be no guarantee that the national priorities would be the same with a new government. However this is highly unlikely but we will have to see when we go to the polls next year.
- 4) Public Awareness is a very important part of any project to familiarize the public before implementation begins. However it was identified by looking through the workplan and various activities awareness campaigns were not factored into the project design. Following discussions we found that there may be a need to amend the budget to include it as part of our activities. But at present we are piggy backing on other projects and utilizing some of our stakeholders resources such as the radio programs of DAFF, DoE, and EPDSU to create awareness while we consider other avenues.

In terms of changes that we have made following the inception workshop:

- There were discussions on ways we could try to factor in public awareness component into our project.
- Amendments would have to be made to the work plan timeframe for activities(realistic timeframes)
- The scale of the project itself due to the land issues may have to be scaled down. We could still use a small area of land for the demonstration plots. A smaller area could be used to deliver on training and outputs to meet obligations of the project. Lessons learnt would be documented and based on success would be replicated to other areas as long as we are able to show SLM principles are being incorporated. But on the other hand one of our objectives is to establish a commercial scale sustainable agriculture unit integrating SLM principles relevant to atoll agriculture. Targeted bottom up practical participatory approach to SLM with tangible outputs allowing for the continuation beyond the life of the project and bring economic benefits for Niue as a whole.
- Also noted was that the project itself is rather heavy on the front end in the sense that a lot of the resources and funds would be utilized in the first year with most of the focus going into developing the farm in preparation for training to follow.

Some of the activities that will be carried out in the first year includes:

- Development of a full scale pilot demonstration unit integrating applicable SLM practices relevant to Niue
- Procurement of tools, machinery, equipment and planting materials for the establishment and running of the full scale demonstration unit.
- Conduct practical participatory training on sustainable agriculture particularly integrated cropping management practices, restocking of soil organic matter and machinery safety. Integrated with DSAP.
- Practical Participatory training in the introduction of indigenous tree species on demo unit (agro-forestry)
- Development of cost effective strategies for land rehabilitation and restoration through participatory research trials at the demo unit.
- Conduct practical participatory training in the use of the Integrated Environment and Land use Planning Guidelines as a working tool for the proposed demo unit.

It was also decided following discussions with key stakeholders that in an attempt to create a sense of ownership amongst stakeholders and to develop and strengthen links between institutions or departments that roles and responsibilities would be divided up at the outcome level. This meant that a certain department would take a leading role in spearheading and delivering outputs and activities within an OUTCOME

(DAFF)OUTCOME 1-Human resources and institutional capacities are adequately trained in SLM

(DJLS)OUTCOME 2- Capacities for knowledge development and management for SLM are developed

(EPDSU)OUTCOME 3- Resources are mobilized for the implementation of Niue's completed NAP.

(DoE)OUTCOME 4- SLM principles are mainstreamed into national policies, plans and legislation.

Advice for other countries

- * Be prepared for implementation phase
- * When recruiting personnel or staff, make sure they have time to fully understand the project and have a good induction process into the project.
- Do not wait for funds to arrive but start working on some areas which don't require much funding such as advertising project personnel positions

Annex 5 Project activities and themes that can be approached through regional collaboration and coordination.

Project themes / activities	Types of regional-level collaboration		
	Country-country learning	Information Exchange	Regional training workshops
Training for national coordinators on UNDP/GEF requirements, project cycle, monitoring, gender analysis			
Mainstreaming of SLM into national policies, strategies and plans			
EIA training			
Development of Medium Term Investment Plans			
Information management			
Water shed management			
Rehabilitation of degraded lands			
Developing baselines to monitor land use and land degradation			

ANNEX 6: Potential areas of support by the Pacific Land Resources Working Group

			Regional/international support available						
			SPREP	SPC	SOPAC	PIFS	USP-Alafua USP	UNDP	UNDP-GSU
No	SLM Outcomes and activities/themes	Total							
Capacity Building									
1	Training activities in SLM	6		✓			✓		
2	Educational Activities	2						✓	✓
3	Institutional Strengthening	3							✓
4	Integrated Landuse Planning	12	✓	✓			✓		
5	Research in SLM	5		✓			✓	✓	
6	Soil Management	2		✓			✓		
7	Forest management	3		✓					
8	Water Catchment/resource mangt	5			✓				
9	Resource Survey	1			✓ [watersheds, coasts]				
10	Baseline Data	1			✓ [watersheds, coasts]			✓ [soil surveys]	
11	Sustainable Agriculture	6	[mgt of agr pollutants]	✓			✓		
12	Land rehabilitation	7		✓			✓		
13	EIA/EIS	4	✓ [also training]					✓	✓
14	Solid Waste Management	1	✓					✓	✓
15	Drought prone area management	1			[watershed modeling, mapping]				
Mainstreaming SLM									
16	SLM into national strategies	11			[re disaster]	✓			✓

17	SLM into sector policies	2				✓				
18	SLM into Forestry Action Plans	4		✓		✓				
19	SLM into Community management plans	1				✓				
20	SLM into curriculum	2					✓			
21	Review/Develop Policy - Regulation	8				✓				
						*				

		Regional/international support available								
		SPREP	SPC	SOPAC	PIFS	USP-Alafua	USP	UNDP	UNDP-GSU	
22	Policy/Options/Actions for Beach Mining	2		✓						
23	Gender Promotion	3		[water and energy sectors]				✓		
24	Review legislation	5			✓					
					✓					
Knowledge & Awareness										
25	Improve Information System	6		[map servers, ICT training]		✓	✓			
26	Participatory consultations & Demos	4		[water and disaster]						
27	Tools/Guidelines/Manuals	2		✓		✓				
28	Traditional Knowledge & SLM	2				✓				
29	GIS/Remote Sensing	8		✓			✓			
30	Monitoring & Evaluation	13	✓				✓			
31	Awareness Materials	9		✓ [water]		✓				
32	Hosting national awareness events	2								
33	Knowledge sharing/networks on SLM	4	✓							
34	Marketing Plans	4								
35	Technical support - tool kits	4							✓	
Medium Term Investment Plan										
36	MTIP	13	✓	✓ [fin/ econ assess'ts re water, disas]	✓ [fin/ econ assess'ts]					
37	Resource Mobilization Plan	13	✓					✓		

National Action Plans						
38	Development of NAP	11	✓	✓	[disaster]	[NSDS]
39	Implementation of NAP	2	✓		[disaster]	

			Regional/international support available						
			SPREP	SPC	SOPAC	PIFS	USP-Alafua USP	UNDP	UNDP-GSU
Adaptive Management									
40	Project cycle management training	13						✓	
41	UNDP & GEF procedures	13						✓	

Annex 7 Paper presented to Heads of CROP Meeting on the LRWG

Re-establishment of the Land Resources Working Group

1. Background

Just about all of the CROP agencies are in one way or another assisting their Members with provision of advice or implementation of activities associated with the management, sustainable utilization and conservation of land resources. A number of agencies are implementing separate yet very closely related activities aimed at assisting Members better plan and use their land resources. The need for establishing a coordinating mechanism was earlier recognized by CROP, giving rise to the formation of the LRWG.

However due to various reasons the Heads of CROP Meeting in Vanuatu during July 2004, recommended that the LRWG be disbanded. The same meeting also concluded; “that future work through the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) may necessitate its reestablishment”¹

SPREP is currently implementing a Component of the Governance in the Pacific (GovPac) Project aimed at assisting 8 Pacific Island Countries develop their National Action Programmes for the UNCCD. In relation to strengthening and coordinating collaboration amongst CROP agencies to support countries address land degradation, this project component has the following Objective and Output;

Objective 4: Regional collaborative mechanisms established to enhance environmental governance focusing on land degradation

Output 6: Use of CROP Land Resources Working Group to enhance regional collaboration

SPREP, SPC, UNDP and its Global Support Unit are assisting the 14 countries which are signatory to the UNCCD to develop GEF Medium Sized Project to a total cost of US\$500,000 per country for capacity building and mainstreaming of sustainable land management. This accounts for a total of US\$7million.

Just recently in conjunction with the UNCCD Program the Venezuela Government had provided US\$ 2 million to support the 14 PICs which are members of the UNCCD to implement some of their sustainable land management programs while awaiting the approval of their MSP.

SPC/LRD's term of reference is to ensure the sustainable development of the agriculture and forestry sector in the Pacific. It is also working with countries to develop their National Land Use Policy, for countries which find it necessary and are ready to develop them. But for all PICTs the development and implementation of the Participatory Landcare Concept will be the way forward for them in regards to sustainable land resources management.

The Forum Secretariat (PIFS) had developed a Land Management and Conflict Project to enhance the drive towards the economic development of the land for the economic and social benefit of the PICTs.

¹ Record of Heads of CROP Meeting, July 2004

2.Rationale

While the link between the Heads of CROP resolution in 2004 and the Objective and Output of the GovPac Project provide a starting point to justify the reestablishment of the LRWG, there are also other pertinent justifications;

- The LRWG would promote and strengthen collaboration and coordination amongst CROP agencies towards achieving effective and efficient support for Members in relation the sustainable use and management of land resources.
- The LRWG would be an example for Members, of an inter-agency collaboration mechanism that needs promoting and/or strengthening also at the national level amongst national agencies.
- The LRWG would provide the technical support and advise where the national capacities is not available in view of the implementation of their MSP for capacity building and mainstreaming of SLM and other related projects.

3. Meetings:

Following the Sustainable Land Management / UNCCD meeting in Apia, June 2006, with the leadership of SPREP, representatives of some CROP organizations including PIFS, SOPAC, SPREP, SPC and international organizations such as the FAO, UNDP, ESCAP and ADB met and agreed that the LRWG should be reestablished.

At the SDWG meeting, on the 20th of November,2006, representatives of PIFS, SPREP,SOPAC, USP, SPTO,FSPI , and SPC agreed that they should meet and explore the opportunity of re-establishment of the LRWG.

The First meeting of the LRWG was held on the 23rd of November,2007,at the SPC/LRD Conference room where they discussed about LRWG TOR which was developed by SPREP for the LRWG. The representatives (SPC,SPREP,USP,UNDP,SOPAC,PIFS and GTZ) who were present in the meeting agreed unanimously for the re-establishment of the LRWG.

The Second meeting of the LRWG was held on the 30th of January,2007, at the Green Room , USP, where the TOR was finalized and to be officially sent to the Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and then to be submitted to the CROP Heads Meeting in 2007.The representatives (SPC, SOPAC, USP, and GTZ) were present but the SPREP representative was connected to the meeting through Video Conferencing system at USP.

4. LRWG Term of Reference

After considerable discussions about the content of the TOR the members in their second meeting held at USP agreed on the inclusion of the amendments to the final TOR.

The finalized TOR is attached in Annex 1.

5. Recommendation

1. The Sustainable Development Working Group to note the re-establishment of the Land Resources Working Group.
2. The CROP Heads to approve the re-establishment of the Land Resources Working Group.

ANNEX 1:

1.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE – Land Resources Working Group (LRWG)

1.1 Objectives

The objectives of the Working Group, through the CROP mechanism are to:

- Progressively work towards an integrated approach to land resource management;
- Share information and seek out areas of common interest for collaboration;
- Raise the profile of land resources management and community level activities in it as a development issue to underpin economic growth in PICs.

The working group will assist regional organisations and partners to coordinate efforts and combine skills and resources to assist Pacific Islands Countries and Territories develop and implement strategies, action plans and programmes pertaining to land resources management.

1.2 Form

The working group will comprise two units:

- A ‘core’ working group. This group shall pursue the objectives listed above, ensure continuity of the group and shall report to the Heads of CROP agencies as required;
- A broader partnership of other key organisations (including the core group) that, in pursuit of the objectives above, supports information sharing, cooperation, collaboration and provision of general advice on land resources management.

Additionally, and as required, the core group shall establish working groups to look at specific issues, also drawing on non member agency involvement, if necessary.

1.3 Membership

The membership is open to relevant regional non-governmental organisations and development partners.

Membership of the ‘core’ working group is recommended to involve:

PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geo-science Commission
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program
USP	University of the South Pacific
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FSPI	Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International
GTZ	German Technical Co-operation
UNDP	United Nation Development Programme
PIANGO	Pacific Island Association of Non Governmental Organisation

Membership of the broader partnership will be open to all interested agencies involved in the sustainable management of land based resources in the Pacific.

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1.5. Administrative arrangements

The Director of the Land Resources Division of the SPC will Chair the group.

Minutes will be taken by working group members on a rotational basis.

1.6 Areas of involvement

The activities of the working group will cover all key land resource based sectors including agriculture, forestry, energy, minerals and water. In working toward its objectives the Working Group is to coordinate as appropriate the activities relevant to the sustainable management of land based resources such as:

- the development of National Action Programmes on land, including under the UNCCD;
- support for national and regional programmes and projects that address land resources;
- governance issues in relation to land resource management; and
- land administration, including land-use planning.

The LRWG shall promote involvement of non-state actors and stakeholders in the consultation processes as well as planning and implementation arrangements.

1.6. Working Group Tasks

The LRWG shall:

- Where possible jointly develop their respective land related activities taking into account the cross cutting nature of the issues at hand, their core areas of interest and disciplinary skills and strengths;
- Jointly develop strategies on how best to assist countries to address their land management issues;
- Jointly prepare proposals for regional projects on land management for joint submission to development partners wherever possible;
- Strengthen sharing and organization of information and databases on Land Resources Management;
- Coordinate the planning, implementation and review of initiatives in relation to Land Resource Management as presented in the Pacific Plan Indicative Implementation and Reporting Matrix; and
- Liaise with other CROP working groups as necessary.
- Ensure Land Resources (LR) achieve and maintain a high profile in the Pacific Plan and other key strategies, agreements and conventions.
- Where possible, raise public awareness of the importance of LR for the Pacific.

1.7 Meetings

The working group shall convene a total of at least three formal meetings per year. These meetings shall be as follows:

- The 'core' working group will meet at least twice a year;

- The broader partnership will meet once a year. To this meeting, other parties interested in sustainable management of land based resources (such as aid and government agencies) will be welcome. This meeting will ideally be held back to back with a relevant CROP Heads meeting (similar to the SOPAC/STAR arrangement) to maximise relevant attendance at a minimum cost.

Additionally, *ad hoc* meetings shall be arranged, as needed, to accommodate urgent or important issues that arise out of session. In particular, any CROP-specific issues will be accommodated through separate side meetings of CROP members of the LRWG, as the need arises.

Attendance at all meetings will occur on a self-funded basis.

