

# Pacific Regional UNCCD COP10 Preparatory Workshop

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Tanoa Skylodge Hotel, Nadi, Fiji



## Contents

<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	3
<b>Acronyms</b> .....	4
<b>Workshop Overview</b> .....	6
Workshop objectives.....	6
Workshop outputs.....	6
Pacific Island Brief for UNCCD COP10 .....	6
Negotiations Training.....	6
Media Training .....	6
Resource People.....	7
<b>Opening remarks</b> .....	8
<b>Session 1 Introduction</b> .....	8
<b>Session 2 Setting the Scene – Global Context</b> .....	8
Overview of the UNCCD and COP10 Agenda.....	8
UNCCD Strategy and Monitoring System PRAIS.....	10
UNCCD in the context of the Rio+20.....	12
<b>Session 3 Setting the Scene – Regional and National Context</b> .....	14
National sustainable land management priorities and key issues.....	14
Regional sustainable land management priorities and key issues.....	15
<b>Session 4 Lessons Learned from past COP Meetings</b> .....	15
Country experiences .....	15
Lessons learned from CBD COP10 .....	17
<b>Session 5 Identification of priority issues</b> .....	17
Identification of priority issues in the COP10 agenda .....	17
<b>Session 6 Working Groups on Priority Issues</b> .....	18
<b>Session 7 Plenary – Working Group Report Back</b> .....	18
Atoll country working group .....	18
Medium sized volcanic island country working group.....	19
Large volcanic island country working group.....	20
<b>Session 8 Strategies for Coordination, Communications and Negotiations</b> .....	26
Coordination strategies.....	26
Communication strategies.....	26
Negotiation strategies .....	26
<b>Session 9 Meeting Outcomes Statement</b> .....	27
<b>Session 10 Media and Communication Training</b> .....	27
<b>Session 11 Introduction to MEAs</b> .....	27
Negotiating MEAs .....	28
Implementing MEAs .....	29
Institutional frameworks.....	30
Legal frameworks.....	30

<b>Session 12 The Negotiating Process</b> .....	31
The role of ministers.....	32
<b>Session 13 COP Meetings</b> .....	32
<b>Session 14 Negotiation skills practical exercise</b> .....	33
<b>Session 15 Workshop Conclusion</b> .....	33
Communication plan.....	33
Key meeting outcomes and next steps.....	33
ClosureClosing remarks were given by country representatives and Ms Easter Galuvao, Biodiversity Adviser, SPREP.....	33
<b>Annex 1. Agenda</b> .....	35
<b>Annex 2. Participants List</b> .....	41
<b>Annex 3. Meeting Outcome Statement</b> .....	45
<b>Annex 4. Draft Pacific Communications Plan, as at 2 September 2011</b> .....	48
<b>Annex 5. Next steps</b> .....	53



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## Acronyms

Acronym	Term in full
ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
ACP MEA	Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Countries Multilateral Environmental Agreements
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AHEG	Ad Hoc Expert Group
AOSIS	Association of Small Island States
BINGO	Bi International Non-Governmental Organisation
CBD	Convention for Biological Diversity
CC	Climate Change
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CEPA	Communications, education and public awareness
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CI	Conservation International
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
COP	Conference of the Parties
COP10	10 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties
CRIC	Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CST	Committee on Science and Technology
COW	Committee of the Whole
DLDD	Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ENB	Earth Negotiations Bulletin
e-SMART	Economic, specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely
FEM	Forum Economic Ministers
FP	Focal Point
GEF	Global Environment Facility
G77	Group of 77 states and China
GEFPAS	Global Environment Facility Pacific Alliance for Sustainability
GHG	Green House Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit = German Society for International Cooperation
GM	Global Mechanism
IA	Implementing Agency
IAE	Integrated Environmental Assessment
ICCD	International Convention to Combat Desertification
IIF	Integrated Investment Frameworks
IFS	Integrated Funding Strategy
IGO	Inter-governmental Organisations
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LDC	Least Developed Country
MAT	Mutually Agreed Terms
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements

MOP	Meeting of the Parties
NAP	National Action Plan
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan
NCSA	National Capacity Self Assessments
NEMS	National Environmental Management Strategy
NIP	National Implementation Plan
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
OFP	Operational Focal Point
PICs	Pacific Island Countries
POA	Programme of Action
PRAIS	Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System
PSIDS	Pacific Small Island Developing States
RAP	Regional Action Plan
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Land Degradation
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
RCU	Regional Coordination Unit
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SOPAC	Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission at SPC
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community – a CROP agency
SRAP	Subregional Action Programme
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme – a CROP agency
STC	Science and Technology Correspondent
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNCCD	United Nations Convention for Combating Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UN ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change
USP	University of the South Pacific – a CROP agency
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

## **Workshop Overview**

### Workshop objectives

- To provide an opportunity for PICs and partners to discuss and reach a consensus on common positions
- Enhance negotiation skills of country delegates to prepare them for negotiations on priority issues at COP 10
- Develop a Strategy for effective participation and successful attainment of PIC positions at COP 10.
- Strengthen negotiating positions.
- Apply a ***One Pacific Voice*** at COP10 through side events and exhibitions showcasing success stories and sustainable land management (SLM) products from the Pacific and to highlight Pacific challenges and gaps in SLM
- Coordinate and deliver joint support from key regional organizations and partners to assist Pacific Island Countries at COP10

### Workshop outputs

- Draft consolidated COP10 briefs on priority COP10 agenda items. These would be used to assist with national discussions and consultations for COP10
- A list of lead and key people/experts who will continue to provide support in the lead up to COP 10 with a focus on providing technical and policy advice and support on specific issues
- A COP 10 Strategy for effective participation and advancement of issues
- A Road Map and strategy to follow the *One Pacific Voice* at COP 10
- Pre-COP Workshop outcome statement endorsed by all participants
- Draft pre-COP Workshop report

### Pacific Island Brief for UNCCD COP10

- A consolidated Pacific Island Brief (PIB) will be developed with the intention of making the document concise and focused. The PIB will be developed around priority issues as identified by a majority of PICs and will be no longer than **10 A4 pages**.
- Each issue will consist of a one page statement and a set of supporting annexes.

### Negotiations Training

- A 1.5 day negotiations training session will complement the pre-COP sessions
- The training targets PIC delegates to COP 10 but is also open to partners

### Media Training

- A half day media training session has been included in the programme.

Resource People

- Resource people have been identified from SPREPs collaborating partners - particularly those who have expressed interest to participate and provide expert advice on a specific topic relevant to the COP10.



## Opening remarks

Prayer given by Ms. Faainoino Laulala, Samoan representative

Opening remarks by Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, Sustainable Development Adviser, SPREP.

- Workshop will not be a one-way process, it is a sharing exercise, helping each other to prepare for CCD COP meeting.
- It builds on past exercises SPREP has done for COP preparations. Countries have found this useful.
- Fitting to prepare this year, it will be 20 years since Rio next year. Rio+20<sup>1</sup> meeting held in Apia in July. This adds to the bigger picture, things to keep in mind as we discuss things.
- Need to look at opportunities which arise from new approaches. May not be very different, but new opportunities for funding, to push our issues, to get our issues on the agenda.
- I used to work in Fiji when I first learned about the UNCCD. Desertification is not obviously an issue in Fiji, but the Convention is about good management of resources, so it is important.
- The success of the workshop depends on participants, not resource people, you will articulate issues want to take forward, the sharing process will come up with regional positions, commonalities, help to see best how to put these forward.
- Some of us have just returned from Kiribati, helping an exercise to put environmental issues in context, we can learn from this.
- I declare this workshop open.

## Session 1 Introduction

Agenda objectives and overview presented and adopted.

- Donors supporting the workshop acknowledged.
- It is important to develop a joint voice, the *One Pacific Voice*, as the Pacific is underrepresented at UNCCD meetings.
- Also important to get to know each other and enjoy ourselves.
- ACP MEA project outlined
- The agenda is given in Annex 1 and participants list in Annex 2.

## Session 2 Setting the Scene – Global Context

### Overview of the UNCCD and COP10 Agenda

- UNCCD primarily a convention for desertification, primarily for Africa. Came into being in 1994, from Rio process. About 193 parties.
- Generally 6 major elements of a convention: introduction, obligations, action programmes, institutional arrangements, procedures, ratification and annexes.
- “Desertification” defined as land degradation – in “arid, semi arid and dry sub humid areas”.
  - Reduction or loss of biological or economic productivity. Broad definition includes soil erosion and long term loss of natural vegetation.
- “Drought” defined a naturally occurring phenomenon.
- Two types of parties “affected areas” (arid or semi arid areas) and “affected countries” (countries whose lands include affected areas)

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<sup>1</sup> Rio+20 refers to the United Nation Conference for Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, 20 years later.



- So is this convention relevant to us? Yes - Convention has changed and now has broader understanding, as it was realized that more countries have issues apart from drylands.
- Participation of local communities is core element.
- List of main obligations given, include apply an integrated approach, and give due attention with regard to international trade, marketing arrangements and debts (link to ACP MEA project, as the ACP group is essentially a trade relationship).
- Convention outlined, article by article.
- The Basic Approach is to develop a NAP; NAP purpose and content outlined.
- There are Annexes for different regions in the world. Pacific is part of Asia region<sup>2</sup> (Annex II).
- Financial resources
  - UNCCD didn't initially have GEF as its financial mechanism, GEF was designated at COP6 as a financial mechanism of this convention.
  - Global Mechanism was created, is a financial coordinating mechanism.
  - Africa priority, but important to note "without neglecting affected developing country Parties in other regions"
  - "Incremental costs" - can get over this by doing regional projects
- Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC)
- CRIC review in February 2011 of sub-regional action plans (SRAP), South Pacific only one which hasn't done one within the Asia Pacific region.

### Questions

1. Is there a movement to move us out of Asia region?
  - Is a UN classification. No reason why we couldn't get our own classification.
2. South Pacific sub region. What about North Pacific?
  - Is how it's named, but old phraseology. Now is referred to as "Pacific"
3. COP9 committee on science and technology (CST). What were the outcomes and have they been disseminated to SLM projects?
  - Was a 2-day conference held at COP as part of the CRIC. SLM was one of the thematic discussions. A lot of discussions were on impact indicators. There is a summary report produced by Earth Negotiations Bulletin. Dissemination is through UNCCD website.
4. Is it true that priority is in terms of resource allocation to Africa?
  - Yes. Is ongoing challenge, a lot of discussion at last COP about a better allocation of funding. One of most contentious issues of the convention.
5. Do we need a regional plan for the Pacific as it is so spread out? Maybe good NAPs are more important.
  - Most of other sub regions are finding their SRAPs are not being implemented well. NAPs are more important.
6. Asia Pacific pre-COP meeting also happening. What is the link between this meeting and that one?
  - Convention meetings are regional. This one is for Pacific, for our purposes. Can also take our issues from here to Asia regional one. Some countries will go. Opportunity for us. Asia Pacific meeting is important, we need to take Pacific voice to it, our voice is stronger if more PICs go.
  - Good to attend all, but have to coordinate SLM projects too, is hard to spare the time.
7. Internal coordination for countries is also important. When you come to a meeting a lot of issues are already pre-negotiated.

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<sup>2</sup> The region has now been officially renamed the "Group of Asia and Pacific Small Islands Developing States", short form "Asia Pacific"

8. Continuity is important, of people who are familiar with issues discussed at all pre-meetings and taken to COP. It is difficult for the Pacific region because of small number of people. Try as much as possible.
9. Does SPREP plan for pre-CRIC meetings?
  - Resources are an issue. Will try to coordinate that.

#### UNCCD Strategy and Monitoring System PRAIS

- Some of participants were also involved in PRAIS training last year. Familiar with first trial of monitoring system.
- Decisions of COP9 relevant to the monitoring system outlined
- Vision of the 10-year strategy is about “forging a global partnership to reverse and prevent land degradation”
- The four strategic objectives:
  - Populations
  - Ecosystems
  - Global benefits
  - Partnerships
- The five operational objectives:
  - Awareness
  - Policy
  - Science
  - Capacity
  - Resources
- PRAIS – performance review and assessment of implementation. Reporting entities are Parties and GM
- Performance indicators provisionally adopted at CRIC8/COP9. Are e-SMART. Iterative process adopted so that they can incorporate amendments. UNCCD Secretariat is working on indicators up to COP10
- First trial of PRAIS 2010 – 2011, funded by GEF and UNCCD, executed by UNEP-WCMC with assistance of regional reference centres (Pacific – SPREP). Includes training of national focal points, national reports, global synthesis of reports and review in upcoming COP.
- Key achievements on operational objectives (7 PICs completed reports on time).
  - Awareness
    - Population participation has doubled
    - Decrease in civil society organisation initiatives
  - Policy
    - No PIC has done NAP alignment
    - 4 PICs held joint Rio convention initiatives
  - Science
    - 2 PICs started land degradation issues
  - Capacity
    - Double in NCSA related national initiatives
    - 2 PICs have assessed capacity needs
  - Resources
    - No PIC has established a financing framework
    - No PIC has received sufficient resources for implementation
    - But all 7 have received capacity building support
- Key documents noted to understand strategy and templates for reporting and guidelines. All available to share.

## Questions

1. Which countries didn't submit the 4<sup>th</sup> national reports?
  - 7 submitted: Cook Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, Palau, Tonga, Nauru and Fiji, the others didn't submit
  - Cook Islands experience: helped show where gaps were in information management, reporting back from 2008 and had to guess a lot. Are putting systems in place ready for next reporting in 2012. Wasn't that difficult to fill out after training. Problem was finding the data. Tedious to put it on-line due to poor internet connection, takes a long time. Secretariat can make off-line version available.
  - Samoa experience: same issues as Cooks. Lack data. Uploading is difficult. First country to be piloted in training, thanks to SPREP for help.
2. Not all participants know what PRAIS is about and the system is about. Explain it?
  - On-line reporting system. Content from reporting will form agenda items in COPs.
  - Handout on PRAIS distributed.
3. Who can access the PRAIS system?
  - Anybody can access it but templates for reporting are only for national focal points. Should other stakeholders have input access? Can make recommendations on system as part of regional voice at COP.
4. Is a problem when focal points move on, may be change of view with new one. Can SPREP give wider accessibility, would be useful?
  - SPREP is only for training etc, need to communicate with Convention secretariat. In some countries national focal point may be different to coordinator, so issues with communication.
5. 3 PICs had alignment support. How did they get this?
  - Between country and Secretariat. To ensure NAP objectives reflects UNCCD strategy and vice versa.
  - Asia preparatory meeting, first 2 days is about NAP alignment. Want 100% alignment by 2014.
6. What is the baseline given in PRAIS? "Doubled" – from what? Need a baseline to know if interventions are making a difference.
  - Baseline is 2008 – 2009. Second round of reporting will be better to clarify trends, longer time scale and more data.
7. Funding support for reporting?
  - \$4k for each country from UNCCD available. National focal point has to follow this up. Future funding from GEF for 3 Rio conventions.
8. Kiribati experience: hasn't submitted report due to movement of staff, person assigned to PRAIS training has moved on. Big problem. Need another capacity building workshop.
  - Funding from reference centre is now closed but will be next phase in 2012. Not sure yet if will be all countries or pilot.
9. Have sustainable financial plan as part of Micronesia Challenge for each jurisdiction. Primarily CBD objectives, but some of work also addresses UNCCD issues, especially coastal erosion in RMI.
10. Micronesia Challenge is heavily based on marine protected areas. Still weak on terrestrial and are working on this. Can use it as rough template.
11. Scoping study of IFS under UNCCD GM to be done by SPREP, tenders close today. Micronesia Challenge comment useful input.

## UNCCD in the context of the Rio+20

- 2012 is 20 years on from initial Rio convention, 1992. “Earth summit”. Three major MEAs – FCCC, CBD, CCD.
  - Other issues brought up but not made it to convention stage – eg forests, fisheries. Agenda 21 – first agenda for action on sustainable development at global level.
  - Emergence of small island developing states (SIDS) as group for special consideration
  - Is on-going negotiating process, take your package of issues to the table. Package it attractively to others – commonalities, look for bigger blocks of countries to back you.
  - Barbados Plan of Action for SIDS in 1994.
- Rio +10 meeting held in Johannesburg. Key outcome was emergence of partnerships as new governance mechanism. Opens door for NGOs, civil society, etc. Pacific put forward 14 partnerships – SLM, Water, Climate Change, and Disaster. Last 3 are very active, not sure about SLM?
- Mauritius Strategy of Implementation for SIDS in 2005, takes stock of Barbados POA
- 2010 regional review of Mauritius strategy. Major outcome was noting that vulnerability of SIDS remain the same, despite a lot of action. Rate of degradation of environmental issues had overtaken work being done to manage it better.
- Preparations for Rio+20
  - Led by the Pacific Ambassadors to the UN in New York. Major players in pushing Pacific SIDS (PSIDS) issues.
    - Other MEA processes involved.
    - Blue Economy concept raised – is a packaging of issues, marine and coastal.
  - In region
    - CROP agencies have working groups, Sustainable Development WG is the lead group for Rio+20
    - Preparatory meeting in July 2011
    - Development partners invited.
    - Offer of National Assessment by UNESCAP for 2 broad themes of Rio+20, interested countries can ask. Need to talk to planning department to get issues included in TORs for National Assessment.
    - New partnership on NSDS and Green Growth
- Two broad themes of Rio+20 are green economy and institutional framework for sustainable development.
- Way forward:
  - Finalization of Meeting Outcomes Statement done last week. Not a regional positions document, can be used by countries to develop own positions.
  - Discussed in regional fora such as Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation, SPREP meeting, etc.
- Need to make sure our issues are supported by Asia.
- Closing date for countries input to Rio+20 is 1 November 2011. Note that all input is pre-negotiated long before meeting itself.
- Pacific Environment Forum before SPREP meeting. Three issues, two directly related: green economy and environmental governance.
- Theme 1: green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Five pathways outlined.
  - Rio+20 prep meeting recommendations presented. Highlight marine and coastal issues. Draft regional green growth roadmap.

- Theme 2: institutional framework for sustainable development.
  - Rio+20 prep meeting recommendations presented. Sustainable development recognized as the focus for all actions. NSDS is platform for this, and NAPs should be aligned.
  - Recent work carried out in Kiribati, aligning Action Plans with Kiribati Development Plan.
  - Climate change is no longer an environmental issue but a development issue.
  - Four higher level calls from the Pacific also made, including to adopt “Green Economy in a Blue World”, the Pacific Ocean to be seen as a global resource, call for developed countries to meet their commitments, and recognize continued special case for SIDS.
- Implications for CCD COP outlined. Include:
  - Pacific is not just ocean/marine, we also have land issues
  - In PICs CCD = SLM
- Summary: linkages: Rio+20 process can add value to UNCCD process and vice versa, national and regional level.

### Questions

1. Is UNCCD included in the process for the way forward?
  - Yes, in CROP preparations.
2. Customary land – 93% is customary land in PNG. Degradation comes from these people, problem is how to communicate with them and form partnerships. For land reforms are talking about their livelihoods.
  - Good environmental land management must mean something to people who own the land. UNCCD don’t understand the context of this in the PICs. Are regional initiatives which have demonstrated this, for example LMMAs, forest parks, etc. Key challenge is communication.
  - Customary land tenure is theoretically strong, but seems to be easily overcome – mining and logging companies can overcome it but government can’t. Is an issue. Companies come in with bigger resources and very short term, sometimes go straight to land owner.
  - Participation of customary landowners underpins any real progress in the implementation of sustainable landuse planning frameworks
3. What about population as part of continued vulnerability? Competition of increasing users on finite arable land resources is creating key issues in our islands a key issue in this sustainable land use. Demands on environmental resources is exceeding supply by 20 to 30%, there are too many people. Why isn’t that issue at the front? We are dealing with effects, not root causes.
  - Is politically sensitive. Have to go around it, use other approaches eg family planning.
  - Some PICs are facing this issue, lack of agricultural land, eg Fiji, 25% available. Competition for land, people using steep slopes, marginal areas. Need good land management.
  - Issues is partly customary landowners and governments - landowners giving access to developments and government allowing developments that heavily exploits land resources
4. Financial resources and collaboration between conventions, Kyoto Protocol and adaptation fund, each country to establish implementing entity to get direct access for funding. Could be opportunity to facilitate national implementing entities across all three Rio conventions? SPREP can help to build capacity for this?

- Opportunities are there. Also REDD, mangroves, wetlands. Need to coordinate how to access funding.
- Kiribati example: linkages between regional and national actions, and between sectoral thematic areas nationally. Aim to get national integrated policy, capture in one framework.
- Suggest considering a position supporting the establishment of national funding entities to access funding for the adaptation fund that could extend to the needs of sustainable lands and others

### **Session 3 Setting the Scene – Regional and National Context**

#### National sustainable land management priorities and key issues

##### **Palau**

- Aim to synchronise all of projects. SLM project housed in the GIS office.
- 16 states, 4 lack master development plans. NEMS, NAP, NBSAP and 1<sup>st</sup> national communication completed, based on Palau master national development plan, cross-sectoral.
- Issues include lack of coordination, and data management systems.
- Accomplishments include mainstreaming policy making, development of national terrestrial development indicators (marine indicators developed through Micronesia Challenge), identify champions in congress, and building stronger partnerships with various organisations and foundations.
- Challenges include misconception that SLM project provides funding, technical assistance, procurement process, reporting, and getting public buy-in.
- Opportunities include forming a consortium, perseverance in follow-through, find and connect links, champions.
- Summary:
  - Make SLM everybody's business.
  - Political will and strong leadership are key.
  - Mainstream communication strategy.
  - National priorities and strategies in place.

##### **Fiji**

- 25% of land is arable land , there are visible impacts of land degradation and poor management practices.
- Need to generate more awareness of the need for SLM.
- Two main issues:
  - Completion of NAP and development of IFS
  - Mainstreaming SLM at all levels (national to household)
- Accomplishments include capacity building at community level, review of legislation, integrating SLM into traditional farming practices.
- Challenges includes SLM at catchment level, and incentives, as benefits will be realized in the long term, and market the use of SLM
- Opportunities include the development of community action plans, and focus and engagement of SLM to be multi-level (upwards, downwards and outwards).

##### **Tuvalu**

- Tuvalu context described. Atoll country, vulnerable to coastal erosion.
- Issues include lack of time to complete remaining activities, lack of experts, long selection process for consultants, and changing of coordinators

- Accomplishments include 4 demonstration sites (pulaka<sup>3</sup> pits, mangrove planting), awareness workshops (all levels), various training.
- Challenges include lack of available experts/stakeholders from different sectors for activities, waste management.
- Opportunities include collaboration with NGOs, SPREP, UNDP for complete land use plan and policy, cross sectoral work.

### Questions

1. Tuvalu - what is the "How to make Atoll Gold" activity?
  - Is video for Tuvalu community, awareness on SLM. How to protect land and make it gold.
2. Fiji - integrated finance strategies, how are you proceeding with this?
  - Waiting for the initial GM support offered in 2009. This is now being actively pursued by SPREP
3. Tuvalu – mangrove rehabilitation, why did the mangroves disappear?
  - Co-financed with national councils of women, coastal erosion demonstration sites. Each island identifies its most affected areas.
4. Why has Fiji shifted from local community to wider inter-communities approach on their wider water catchments?
  - It is an integrated approach for addressing land and drought issues with work of other stakeholders – IGOs, NGOs, village landowners, etc. Does it mean communities are still involved? Yes they are both in upstream and downstream affected areas – meaning that upstream is mostly local communities and downstream are where most business communities are – the wider catchment approach linked the two sets of stakeholders on addressing together their common and specific needs.

### Regional sustainable land management priorities and key issues

- Pacific context described. 2% is land area, spread over 20 million sqkm of ocean, highest point from 4000m to 3m, population density from 6 persons/sqkm in Niue to 546 persons/sqkm in Nauru
- SLM defined, are 5 pillars: productivity, stability, protection, economic viability, and social acceptability.
- Land use planning provides information and data for SLM, a holistic integrated approach to land resources
- SPC land resource division strategic plan 2009 -2012, second objective concerns SLM.
- SLM initiative. Various activities, limited funding so partnering with GIZ and looking for other funding sources. Technical advice during UNCCD COPs.
- Various projects described.
- Land Resource Working Group to provide technical support and advice. SPC chair, no meeting for some time, now meetings are held back to back with UNCCD regional meetings.

### **Session 4 Lessons Learned from past COP Meetings**

#### Country experiences

##### **Cook Islands**

- Attended 4 CRIC sessions and 1 COP session.
- At each of COPs and CRIC Asia regional group has daily meetings, usually 0900am each morning. Negotiators report back, briefings, can invite specific people to make presentations

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<sup>3</sup> Pulaka pits are sunken areas where taro is grown

where want clarification etc., is one of most important sources of information at meeting. Very important to attend to know what is going on.

- COP9 first week was disorganized. It was difficult to get views incorporated in interventions; felt if chair didn't agree with views then didn't include them. Chair will change at next meeting, hope to be better.
- Always a lot of issues on agenda. Contact groups formed to specific issues, run parallel to main sessions. In last COP was hard to find colleagues in Asia group willing to follow contact groups, is best to have team.
- Negotiating language is technical, have to get to know it. Argue over words, punctuation, realized that it does make a difference.
- Useful to have a few days to get used to how it works.
- Large country groups form strong positions, don't budge. Long frustrating process, can end very late at night / overnight.
- This is an opportunity to get to know other Pacific participants going, need to also get to know Asia colleagues; some have a lot of experience, are good sources of information, especially history of negotiating positions. Introduce yourself and talk to them.

### **Samoa**

- Attended CRICs, never been to a COP.
- History of Samoa with UNCCD and projects outlined. Key issue is the sustainability of the SLM project. GEF5 solution
- Similar experience to the Cook Islands at CRICs.
- Plenary sessions in the evening, all regions come together. Scary experience, get thrown in, had SPREP support.
- Constraints:
  - Weak Pacific voice.
  - Asia – Pacific voice used to channel Pacific issues at international level
  - Lack of consistency with participation to various UNCCD meetings and workshops

### **Vanuatu**

- Have to be consistent in participation. When you don't know what to do have a problem. Starts with National focal point.
- Arrive tired, if you sleep late you'll miss attend daily meetings.
- Have to be prepared. Vanuatu sends only 1 person, need to send more delegates to get a stronger voice. Are a lot of side events, 1 person can't attend them all.
- If selected to go, make sure you are in the loop, check your emails, to find logistic details – hotel, meeting rooms, etc.
- Pacific group needs to make a lot of interventions, Louisa (Cook Islands) was very active for Pacific at COP, her role acknowledged by applause. Need more people like her.
- Need to be consistent, starting with national governments.

### **Timor Leste**

- Timor Leste lies between Australia and Indonesia.
- Have projects with GIZ, JICA, NZ Aid, AusAid. A number of land degradation and SLM projects initiated.
- Language is a problem: daily use Tetum, national language is Portuguese, English and Indonesian are working languages. English is not widely used.



## Lessons learned from CBD COP10

- CBD COP10 in 2010. COP meetings can be very stressful and exhausting, but important to be there to make our voices heard.
- Regional preparatory meeting, 12 PICs attended plus resource people. ACP MEA project funded.
  - Included 1 day of negotiations training.
  - Media, advocacy and communications considered. Agreed strategies.
  - Key outputs:
    - Meeting Statement –key priority areas
    - Pacific Brief – guided us in negotiations at COP10
- Took these to SPREP meeting “One Pacific Voice” endorsed. Found that often speak as countries and issues not recognized, so important to have this One Voice. Acknowledge that there are national priorities too.
- Administrative and logistical arrangements: communications, meeting information, accommodation, travel, registration, funding
- Participation at COP10:
  - Daily meetings – 0800am Pacific meeting, Asia meeting at 0900am. Then also SIDS meetings.
  - Delivered Pacific Statements, and had side events
  - Media outreach and interviews
  - Statements delivered by young delegates. Had regional champion there, Joe Aitaro from Palau. Moral support provided by Pacific group was very important.
  - Two ambassadors to Japan present, Samoa and Fiji, were very helpful.
  - High level side event, SPREP display booth (which also served as a meeting and contact place)
  - Pacific national dress stood out from black suits.
  - “One Pacific Voice” involved good communication strategy
- Post-COP10 meeting also held by request, to reflect on main outcomes and plan implementation
  - Funded by ACP MEA project and Fonds Pacifique

## **Session 5 Identification of priority issues**

### Identification of priority issues in the COP10 agenda

- Proposed items most important for both the region and countries:
  - Item 5 Accreditation of intergovernmental and NGO observers
  - Item 6 (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) 10-year strategic plan
  - Item 7 (b) Financial performance
  - Item 8 (b) Evaluation of reporting and institutional arrangements for GM
  - Item 9 Outcome of World Summit on Sustainable Development
  - Item 11 UN Decade for Deserts and Fight Against Desertification 2010 - 2020
  - Item 12 Inclusion of activities of NGOs in the official programme

### **Discussion:**

- Item 5 - important to have NGOs etc in terms of supporting policy frameworks, capacity building. Have important roles in-country. Need to consider how much should these entities be involved in global consultation process. Is some opposition to the Item. The issue is as observers only, no negotiation role or voting rights. For UNFCCC accredited organisations can address the conference if the Chair allows. For the CBD, accredited organisations can provide text proposals (endorsed by governments) to be considered.

- Item 6 – note especially (b), review of the CRIC9 report which has gone to countries.
- These **proposed priority items agreed**.

### Session 6 Working Groups on Priority Issues

- Three main working groups were identified based on common landscape issues:
  1. Atolls – Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Tuvalu
  2. Medium volcanic countries – Cook Islands, Palau, Samoa, Tonga
  3. Large countries – Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Vanuatu
- Each group considered the key priorities Items 6 (a) & (b), 7 (b) and 8 (b), and others if time allowed.

### Session 7 Plenary – Working Group Report Back

#### Atoll country working group

- Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Tuvalu

Item	Points raised
A. Assessment of implementation of the Convention against performance indicators	
Operational objective: policy framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional training</li> <li>• Funding resources (GEF) to support NAP alignment</li> <li>• Assistance for NAP implementation               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coastal protection</li> <li>○ Waste management</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Additional assistance on baseline data collection and monitoring of land degradation and data centralization (database)</li> <li>• GIS training for land use planners</li> <li>• Support para 44 of the Doc ICCD/UNCCD...</li> <li>• Strongly support para 61 “Support to concrete implementable activities and projects for affected countries”</li> </ul>
Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That GM support sub-regional facilitation process to assist PICs in preparation for UNCCD meetings and processes</li> </ul>
C. Consideration of best practices 77(d)	
Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Secretariat develop best practices database on SLM on islands, in particular atoll nations</li> <li>• Review the process on best practices</li> </ul>
Review of CST 6 (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the definition of “in affected countries” to incorporate vulnerable low lying islands (atolls) and coastal areas (para 48)</li> <li>• Mainstreaming and streamlining indicators across all Rio Conventions (CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD) (para 49)</li> </ul>
Evaluation of reporting and institutional arrangements for GM 8 (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of the GM?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Should facilitate more outreach to PICs</li> <li>○ PICs don’t have a view of where we sit</li> <li>○ PICs had positive experiences with the GM. Found the scope limited.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ GM support for wider participation of PICs in COP meetings</li> </ul>
Other issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Financial support for awareness raising and communication</li> <li>● Financial resources for facilitation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Decentralising the management of SLMs to community level</li> <li>○ Decentralising funding for SLM activities to the community level (eg community trust fund)</li> <li>○ Greater awareness raising to the community level (opportunities and responsibilities)</li> <li>○ Community level training on SLM activities</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Support for coordination mechanism within government</li> </ul>
Regional coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SRAP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ministerial communiqué on regional coordination support for country NAP/SLM</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### Discussion

1. Why are you proposing a ministerial communiqué for NAP support?
  - Had discussion on if it was appropriate to have a sub regional programme. Decided it was not necessary, but one consequence of not having one is that it may appear we are not interested, so maybe instead have a ministerial communiqué expressing our interest for region.
2. Why ministerial coordination?
  - One of issues identified was that there was not effective coordination between ministries in governments which are involved in SLM implementation, so suggested financial support for coordination mechanism.

### Medium sized volcanic island country working group

- Cook Islands, Palau, Samoa, Tonga
- General Comments:
  - UN has officially adopted the category of “Asia Pacific” and therefore the UNCCD shall recognize this change in all future dialogues
  - General recommendation to organize a directory of endorsed consultants for distribution in the region

Item	Points raised
A. Assessment of implementation of the Convention against performance indicators	
Operational objective: advocacy, awareness –raising and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● General support for objectives</li> </ul>
Operational objective: policy framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NAP alignment as priority for the Pacific – national strategies, development programs, and projects (evolutionary – implementation &amp; alignment processes streamlined - organic development) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ UNCCD Secretariat + GM need to make priority in their work plans in order to adhere to 2014 target</li> <li>○ Sub regional capacity building workshop- request Yang Yolín (UNCCD Asia-Pacific Regional</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>coordinator) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Global support program (NCSA) tied to Regional Support Centres that can aid countries with NAP alignment and data reporting</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Coordination between Rio conventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ask secretariat to move on this initiative streamlining MEA reporting</li> <li>○ Streamlining programming/strategic planning across conventions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Operational objective: science, technology and knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stronger financial and technical support to develop and maintenance of national monitoring systems (para 44)</li> </ul>
Operational objective 4: capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● General support to mobilize additional funding for national level capacity building initiatives.</li> </ul>
<b>B. Review of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention</b>	
Operational objective 5: financing and technology transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● support centres to build their capacity and expertise to support National IFS development, NAPs and all other country requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop institutional memory and capacity at regional support centres</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on financial flows for the implementation of the Convention. Financial commitments and investments related to the implementation of the convention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Para 68-69; support the need to clarify the definition of DLDD-relevant thematic areas to be covered in the reports. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Land degradation as a cross-cutting issue involving various ministries and sectors</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Common conclusions and recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Support the need to improve communication between the secretariat and the Parties through officially designated national focal points (NFPs). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Encourage country parties to clarify lines of communication and inform secretariat</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### Discussion

1. Streamlining – the one plan approach. What are the negative implications?
  - You could end up with just 1 position handling all three Rio conventions, and a lot less resources.

### Large volcanic island country working group

- Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Vanuatu

Item	Points raised
A. Assessment of implementation of the Convention against performance indicators	
Operational objective: advocacy, awareness –raising and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remoteness of the islands, isolations, cost (PNG, Solomons)</li> <li>• Shifting effort into school curriculums (PNG)</li> <li>• Needs to be mainstreamed into government policies and with allocated budget (eg Vanuatu mainstream into Forestry plans)</li> <li>• Mass media awareness</li> <li>• Accessibility to mediums of communication (problem in Solomons) eg radio and TV coverage 80% of population live in rural areas ( need to improve methods and network)</li> <li>• Need coordination from the government</li> <li>• Problem with how to measure awareness (Timor Leste) and effectiveness (questionnaire on behavioral change)</li> <li>• Lack of knowledge on SLM. Capacity building within (Timor Leste)</li> <li>• Still need a lot of awareness</li> <li>• Possible to link with climate change but has not been explored in most PICs. Needs a strong synergy and linkages of 3 conventions (SLM, climate change and biodiversity)</li> <li>• Issue on the appropriateness of the delivery of messages</li> </ul>
Operational objective: policy framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAP needs to be aligned to the 10 year strategy. Need technical assistance in order to achieve the global targets of the convention. Need to align Nap to overall national development plans</li> <li>• As party to convention priority to align nap to the strategy</li> <li>• NAP needs to be endorsed by government. Some countries still in the process of NAP review for cabinet endorsement</li> <li>• Most countries SLM priorities are very low more production oriented (eg Fiji)</li> <li>• Most NAPs endorsed by government but not implemented</li> <li>• Most countries Nap is aligned with national priority but not to strategy (Vanuatu experience)</li> <li>• Need external resources to prioritise Nap alignment (PNG need political support)</li> <li>• Need a wider NAP consultation with all agencies/stakeholders for their endorsement</li> <li>• Need NAP, regional action plan and sub Regional action plans. SPREP to assist in the compilation of SRAP</li> <li>• Appropriate to have a SPRAP experience from past CRIC - Asian countries dominating</li> <li>• Format needed for RAP to minimize cost</li> <li>• SPREP can assist countries who have not done their NAP and assists in COP10 (one Pacific Voice as long as it doesn't divert from NAP)</li> <li>• Pacific degradation issues- trans-boundaries (Asian and African countries have shared borders so important for us to focus on NAP. PNG and Timor Leste shared land border with Indonesia)</li> <li>• Partnership agreements: need to strengthen partnership to</li> </ul>

	<p>share resources not only with the convention but also with other agencies in own country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need additional support from GM statement to formulate NAP, RAP and SRAP</li> </ul>
Operational objective: science, technology and knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need a national monitoring systems for DLDD to meet national needs and align to Sub-regional and global programmes</li> <li>• Qualitative information: to be included in the monitoring systems</li> <li>• Para 43. We need to work with African countries (big group) as they dominate need to reiterate SIDS. Need to work with other SIDS regions and Africa to develop a monitoring systems</li> <li>• Need qualitative and quantitative data for land degradation assessment</li> <li>• Support the PRAIS system</li> <li>• Fiji submitted and Vanuatu almost submitted</li> <li>• All PICs need to appoint a STC. National focal point to appoint a Science and Technology Correspondent to assist national Focal point</li> <li>• Role of the CST: Technical adviser to the NFP</li> <li>• Strengthen the network of science and technology institutions eg USP</li> </ul>
Operational objective 4: capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need extra resources to assist in capacity building</li> <li>• We need to clarify in details what is capacity building eg some understand it in term of awareness and training, hardware, software upgrades, hiring of project staff</li> <li>• Define capacity building in the NAPs and SRAPS</li> <li>• Need to build capacity to implement the convention</li> <li>• Imbalances of implementation in terms of capacity building. PICs need assistance to build their capacity in terms of training, hardware software, consultants, studies, using training institutions to do their research</li> <li>• Review and implements the existing NCSA</li> <li>• We need GM support for capacity building in terms of IFS</li> </ul>
B. Review of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need assistance to develop IIF</li> <li>• Need to define IIF and IFS</li> <li>• IIF long term financing for IFS. NAP to include IFS- integrate IFS with NAPs</li> <li>• Multi focal area projects eg Samoa to get funding from GEF(CBD, CC, CCD)</li> </ul>
Operational objective 5: financing and technology transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GM committed to 3 countries in the Pacific: to assist in developing their IFS need additional support in their IIF development</li> <li>• GM to assist in developing IFS so it can be attractive to donor agencies. NAP activities will be linked to donor agency</li> </ul>

	<p>requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GM To be more active in their role</li> <li>• GM to link SLM initiatives undertaken by other agencies</li> <li>• Support the need for GM to analyse financial and resource flows (resource mobilization)</li> <li>• Support the need for CRIC to review the investments related to the convention to meet the convention objectives and national obligation eg need to produce reports but finance used by others agencies eg PRAIS reporting</li> <li>• Strongly Support the need to explore new additional and innovative channels of financial resources eg logging companies to subsidise traditional and innovative channels and also obligation of affected country parties to put in more money ( to be new and additional). Outcome to get more financial resources</li> </ul>
Domestic financing and south south cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to exceed our domestic financing to exceed external financing to show ownership.</li> <li>• Agree with south south cooperation</li> </ul>
C. Consideration of best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to have best practices compiled</li> </ul>
D. Support PRAIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support reporting guidelines for civil society for national reporting</li> <li>• Support SRAP and the need to align NAP to the strategy</li> </ul>
E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We support strengthening of procedures of communication and quality of reporting</li> </ul>
F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support CST by appointing STC</li> </ul>
CST Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree that we need more scientists. Specifically we need to increase the number of Pacific members on the CST, specifically people with scientific background/expertise.</li> <li>• Many countries don't have an STC – Fiji, Cook Islands and Samoa have STCs. We need to increase and coordinate number of STCs for Pacific.</li> <li>• Do we need a regional working group? Group suggests sub-regional science-based CST network.</li> <li>• All – supported the prep for CST S2 focus on DLDD– but note that Pacific countries are not involved with DLDD, and to take this into account when thinking about coordination (don't forget about the economics of land degradation in the Pacific)</li> <li>• Support need for global e-forum, and STCs (Science and Technology Correspondents) from Pacific region should be involved.</li> <li>• F. Progress made on the knowledge management system, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories on desertification/land degradation and drought issues in the Pacific</li> <li>• Need to strengthen Land Working Group and associated</li> </ul>

	<p>systems for exchanging information and perspectives. Where traditional land practices are well applied this should be documented in the Pacific.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• G. Issues associated with the development and implementation of impact indicators related to the measurement of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy</li> <li>• The first step is to align the NAPs with The Strategy. None of our NAPs are aligned.</li> </ul>
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**Discussion**

1. Contradiction between groups on the benefits of having a SRAP – there was support to have one in this group and not in Atoll islands group.
  - Need to think about implications in terms of resources.
2. Committee of science and technology (CST), good to have more members. Theoretically is open to all parties, is just a matter of attending. Note that it runs parallel to CRIC.
3. Need better internal coordination so when go to COP get a wider representation of views and work.







## **Session 8 Strategies for Coordination, Communications and Negotiations**

- The same three working groups were reformed: atoll countries, medium sized volcanic islands, and large volcanic islands.
- Results were then combined.

### Coordination strategies

- Participants of pre COP10 meeting to debrief relevant government ministries of what transpired in the meetings and identify who participates in the COP10. If there is not time to meet Ministers etc before hand, so do it by email.
- Get endorsement from appropriate leaders, so have full authority to speak at COP
- Support daily briefing meeting at COP10 with SPREP coordination
- Need a regional briefing for Ministers at the COP
- Agree that need to explore possibility of having a Pacific side event on SLM activities

### Communication strategies

- Participants should share email address, especially those attending the COP and all focal points, to share ideas and views on issues, and tracking the Pacific delegation, for easy coordination.
- Countries need to confirm their participation first and inform SPREP (Bruce and Tapa), also SPC technical adviser.
- Establish Skype contacts
- All Pacific delegates to stay in the same hotel, make arrangements now.
- Meeting venue set aside. Meet at 0800am every morning for preparation and support. Louisa has volunteered to contact Yang at regional office to secure Asia Pacific meeting room. Can also have informal meetings set up by Skype.
- SPREP requested to prepare briefing papers for Ministers and delegations based on Pacific islands pre-COP workshop.
- Encourage SPREP to organise media at COP and disseminate information at COP. UNCCD pacific blog - SPREP and involve all the Pacific delegates
- Side events –showcasing the Pacific. If you have anything, bring it, eg film “How to make Atoll Gold”, translated as it is playing.
- SPREP will be there to help highlight and showcase the Pacific. All to be prepared for an interview in case media want to talk to you.

### Negotiation strategies

- Louisa is nominated as group leader, due to her COP experience.
- Need for a representative to make an intervention with reference to review of CST reporting, especially para 48
- Define “affected areas” in the context of the atoll countries
- identify key people in the Asia delegation to work with
- Countries have shown support for region in the past: Pakistan, China, India, Bhutan, Philippines, Iran and Thailand. Make contact with them.

### Discussion:

- **Meeting recommends to UNDP that SLM funds are made available for COP10 attendance.**
- Note that it is a recommendation to go, but is not essential for SLM projects, some don't have funds.
- Usually the project is outside the government, so how does that fit in delegation? At COP10 need credentials as representative of government, so if go as SLM project representative make sure are accredited to delegation.

### Session 9 Meeting Outcomes Statement

- Members of the drafting committee were:
  - Country representatives Louisa, Maria, Faainoio, Madelsar, Puta and Williams
  - SPREP resource people Jill, Bruce, Tapa and Easter.
- The drafting committee met after sessions on Days 2 and 3.
- The initial draft Meeting Outcomes Statement was discussed in plenary, and final draft is presented in Annex 3.

### Session 10 Media and Communication Training

- People are media shy for various reasons
- The media is useful for:
  - Cost effective way to reach the masses
  - Powerful tool to get thinking going
  - Stir debate and discussion
- Best ways to work with the media include:
  - Always be open and friendly to the media
  - Get your clear message across first, and repeatedly
- Media release check list
  - Short, simple and to the point
  - Identify who owns the release
  - Date your release
  - Have a headline
  - Have a contact person and point in it
  - Appropriate image
  - Put quotes in italics
  - Use Microsoft Word spell check
- Media release content should have the main message in the first paragraph and secondary messages further down; note that editors tend to cut from the bottom
- Radio is the most useful media for the Pacific region, but note it is harder to hold peoples attention than with TV
- A draft Pacific Communications Plan was developed through break-out group work and is presented in Annex 4.

### Session 11 Introduction to MEAs

- MEA = multilateral environmental agreement
- There are many, and they come in different forms – treaties, conventions, agreements and charters
- MEAs are legally binding
- Can be standalone agreements (eg Ramsar) or framework agreement (will spell out rules and procedures, details, eg UNFCCC)

- Life cycle: pre-negotiation, negotiation, adoption, signature, ratification and accession, entry into force, implementation
- MEAs have key provisions, regardless of subject matter:
  - Preamble puts the MEA into context. Important, as will determine outcomes in the event of ambiguity of interpretation
  - Definitions. Note that technical terms are defined in the operational text
  - Objectives and principles
  - General provisions. These are usually broad, and must be read in conjunction with the specific provisions of the text
  - Capacity building, education and public awareness – recognize that MEAs success depends on how well they are adopted and give a clear mandate for training and stakeholder involvement
  - Financial mechanisms
  - Institutional arrangements – establish governing body and decision making body for MEA. For most MEAs the governing body is the COP
  - Dispute settlement. Not used much or well.
  - Treaty mechanism, deals with procedure (creation and withdrawal)
  - Annexes can be very important
- Electronic version of “Taking the Floor” distributed, a survival manual for big multinational meetings
- Terms:
  - Signing – initial commitment to not do anything counter to the objectives to the MEA. May be open for signature for ca 1 year.
  - Ratifying – become bound and commit to obligations, etc. Is a process, through the Foreign Affairs and can often entail resources (infrastructure and personnel). Usually done through Executive, not parliament (which comes in at implementation for eg passing laws). No time limit on ratifying after signature. Is a legal limit to number of countries ratifying before it can come into force, eg 55 Parties for Kyoto Protocol
  - Accession – is the same as ratifying, but if it is done after missing the deadline to sign. For example, Timor Leste was not born as a nation when the period for signing was open for many MEAs, so accedes.
  - Protocol – instrument, MEA itself (when you see the + by the name eg CBD+, includes the protocols Biosafety, ABS, etc). All need parent treaty, may not be signed. Can attend meeting for MEA or protocol. Note: there are no protocols under the UNCCD.
  - Briefing notes – for internal use, or can be for regional positions, etc. Orders from country to delegates at meeting.
- The “Rio Conventions” – the meeting in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro was the first big UN meeting where the Heads of States attended, got the MEA process on a roll. The 3 big outputs are the UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD.

### Negotiating MEAs

- Why join an MEA? We didn’t need to do this before Rio in 1992. Environmental issues were dealt with nationally. Why has it changed?
  - A lot of problems are global, eg ozone layer. Individual countries can’t solve them and their actions affect others. Need to get all interested parties on board in order to get effective action.
  - Got to point where if you don’t join you are disadvantaged as the world is operating differently to you.
- Note that for professionals a lot of the skills learned with 1 MEA are transferable to others

- For a new MEA need credible scientific evidence of problem, then have international discussion on how to deal with it
- Pre-negotiation, need to develop a national position (with stakeholder consultation), appoint a delegation, and prepare a brief for the negotiations
- The UN has standard procedure for the birth of new MEA
- Negotiations at COPs - can be 180 – 200 countries present. How do you get to be heard? Align with blocks of countries with shared interests, negotiation blocs eg AOSIS, SIDS, Asia-Pacific, G77, etc. These coalitions bring group positions to the table and decreases costs as can share pool of expertise, advance, break or modify agendas. But it is difficult to move between coalitions and also to shift from a consensus point once it is taken
- Interventions can be made on country positions, bloc positions, points of order, etc.
  - Points of order interventions are common in UNFCCC (more contentious), but rare in CBD.
- Note the role of textual interpretation in treaty making - important, “bush lawyers”
- Negotiation strategies: most countries realize that they need to compromise and not go for “win at all cost”
- Can register any reservations to a Treaty
- At COPs national delegates have a country badge – those who can make interventions. Can include NGOs if you want them on your delegation
- Withdrawal from MEAs – can be done (but not happened yet)
- Amendments and Decisions. Negotiation doesn’t stop at birth of MEA, MEAs meet every 1 or 2 years, each time is an opportunity for negotiation
- Length of statements to COP should be short, is often a lot of repetition. Negotiating blocs can make collective statements
- Need to know implications to your country of decisions made at COPs, as these are obligations. Good for SIDS to form a negotiating bloc, have shared issues, can raise them, be heard, and get help to implement them

### Implementing MEAs

- Need a mechanism in-country to help you carry out the obligations you’ve committed to. If you don’t adopt implementation measures it can be difficult to enforce an MEA in national courts
- Implementation includes: adopting or modifying policies, legislation, commitment of resources, institutional development, etc.
- Commonly in developed countries, interest or watch-dog groups can challenge countries to enforce implementation or compliance
- Terms:
  - Compliance – state of fulfilling an MEAs obligations
  - Implementation – various measures taken to comply with an MEA
- Compliance measures:
  - Can be in the text of an MEA, COP can devise measures, or instruct the Secretariat to devise measures
  - Can be contentious as can constrict development or trade activities
- Is no international enforcement police or body, is self-enforcement. Language reflects this.
- Monitoring and reporting are part of this, need institutional framework for data collection and management. (Note that trade MEAs are more penal in approach.)
  - Enforcement – UN has a programme for training judges
  - Can get assistance to help. Many countries are non-compliant. IGOs eg UNEP can undertake tasks to facilitate compliance.
- Non-compliance:

- Countries enter into these agreements voluntarily, so is usually a soft approach
- Look to see what the problem is. Often is capacity.
- Carrot and stick: offer incentives for compliance, but withhold funds or other benefits for non-compliant countries
- Most severe – suspension of MEA rights and trade sanctions
- Are various dispute mechanisms
- The Parties are responsible for implementation. Many agencies will help, such as SPREP, WWF, CI, UNDP, UNEP, etc.
- Before ratifying a country should assess its capacity to comply by developing a compliance plan.
- Many MEAs require a National Implementation Plan (NIP): stock take then solutions
- Law is one way of bringing about change. Economic incentives are another
  - Pollution and other taxes, tax incentives, etc
  - Polluter-pays principle (internalizes environmental costs into business)
- National Focal Points (NFP) designated – political (usually Foreign Affairs) and technical (usually environment ministry)
- Capacity building and technology transfer – crucial to ensure compliance, especially in LDCs. May include financial and technical assistance
- International cooperation – share experience, skills and knowledge, cooperative efforts. SPREP helps here.
- COPs = parliament of MEA. Secretariat services the COPs. CRIC meets in between COPs.
  - COPs are political meeting, to make decisions and recommendations.
  - Technical work is done in technical body meeting such as CRIC, findings go to COP. Maybe better to go to these
  - Secretariats deal with admin and finance, monitoring, etc
  - Subsidiary bodies can be formed – expert and ad hoc working groups etc. Formed according to need of MEA
- Non-State actors are observers. NGOs, IGOs eg SPREP. Help governments – or work against them to force issues

#### Institutional frameworks

- International institutions for implementation of MEAs – COPs, MOPs, Plenary, Secretariat, etc.
- National institutions for implementation:
  - legislative branch (parliament), executive branch
  - Important to designate lead institution
- Define roles, functions and powers, processes, etc. The business end of an MEA, compliance
- Monitoring and reporting are important – how you assess if your implementation is successful
- Promoting public awareness - a lot of environmental violations are due to lack of awareness

#### Legal frameworks

- SPREP can help with this, legal drafting, then share with other countries
- Use laws to bring obligations into being
- Recognise hard and soft law (eg non-binding declarations)
- Process for incorporating MEA into national law
  - Legal expert will consult with a country to assess the needs
  - Legislative review
  - Multi agency /sector consultation

- Decide most appropriate need - can be stand-alone law, regulation, new law or modifying existing law
- Are model laws which can be adapted, or draft from scratch
- Example: for the 4 Chemical MEAs in Tonga, the legal drafter combined elements instead of 4 separate laws. Was the first country to do this - but took a long time to pass it.
- Terms:
  - Promulgation – of regulations, decrees
  - Enact – of statutes, acts (from parliament)

## Session 12 The Negotiating Process

- Refer to the Handbook “Taking the Floor”
- Have to find trade-offs
- Decisions are made as collective process, decision acceptable to everyone. Voting is very rare in MEAs (security council only)
- Decisions are made by consensus, so not all countries have to agree. President decides how many objecting countries are acceptable
- Most negotiations take place outside of plenary, need to track the process.
- Meeting process:
  - Plenary. Opening statements, in 6 UN languages (English, French, Chinese, Spanish, Russian, Arabic). Then split to:
    - Working groups, all in English (unfair for those with English as second language)
    - Can also be contact groups – formed if working group can’t resolve an issue. This is where real text negotiations take place, usually open to observers. Negotiate an outcome
      - Problem for small delegations is can only go to one or two working/contact groups. Have to decide key issues and focus on these.
    - Can also be informal groups, usually closed meetings, observers can’t attend in UNFCCC.
    - Can also be Friends of the Chair, invited by the Chair to resolve issues
- Decisions made by informal groups have to go back to contact group for approval, then to working group for approval, and up to plenary
- Have the right to not agree to a decision right up to plenary. Is difficult if a small delegation doesn’t agree with decision at working group level coming from an informal group they were not a member of:
  - Pacific needs to be strategic and have one of countries at each informal/contact group
  - Have agreed key issues for region and get them covered (don’t try and do all agenda items)
  - Daily briefing meetings are important for this, coordination
  - Louisa – only Pacific island representative at Asia Pacific meeting, so not enough regional delegates to go around
- Creating bargaining power:
  - Need something to trade/bargain with
  - Can negotiate with “assets” or “disadvantages”
- Assets:
  - Physical assets, areas of biological or cultural importance
  - Political , ability to deliver support or a good compromise for other issues
- Disadvantages:
  - Things that others feel responsible for, or that they should do something about
  - Vulnerabilities, low levels of development, income etc

- Have to build coalitions, the Pacific, Asia group, etc., highlight assets and disadvantages
- Overcome the mindset that we are small unimportant countries, our voice is as valid and as strong as any others. Pacific cultural trait is to show respect and be humble, sit at the back – need to overcome this.
- COPs decisions, have 2 parts:
  - Preamble text. *Recalling... noting...*
    - Sets context but has limited legal authority
  - Operative text. Verbs – *Decides...* (legally binding), *welcomes...* (non-legally binding)
    - Legally obligatory component
  - Note – best to read it backwards, last paragraph is often the most important.
- Slippery negotiating words, can change meaning by their insertion:
  - See “Taking the Floor” glossary
  - May – optional requirement at discretion of Party
  - Should – an obligation created but not compulsory, moral obligation
  - Shall – compulsory requirement
  - “Organising a workshop” can be a delay tactic
  - “Towards ” never gets there
- 18 negotiation tips presented in “Taking the Floor”

### The role of ministers

- Most COPs have a High Level Segment, an opportunity for Ministers to speak
- Advantages:
  - Can get the minister to give support to work you are doing
  - Publicity via the media, if well briefed
  - Can help their understanding of your issues
  - Can add weight to your position, if they can deliver it
- There are also disadvantages
- Working effectively with ministers:
  - Provide a brief and keep it up to date
  - Make sure he comes with a personal assistant
  - Ministers role is to provide strategic input, eg bilateral sessions, timely
  - Speeches to be short and punchy, keep to time limit
- Find a good spokesperson for the region
- Get publicity for the minister, organize a media conference

### **Session 13 COP Meetings**

- COP meetings - need to submit names as soon as possible, know whose going
- Check national position checklist in “Taking the Floor”
- Be prepared. Take a folder of past decisions made
- Making interventions:
  - Brief and to the point
  - Present a positive viewpoint
- Wording an intervention (refer to the 8 point guide in the Handbook “Taking the Floor”):
  - Acknowledge the chair
  - Indicate if are part of a group or speaking on behalf of a group
  - Explain why issue is important
  - Get to the point
  - Be polite at all times
  - Conclude – that your position is the most reasonable



- Thank the chair

#### **Session 14 Negotiation skills practical exercise**

- A simulation exercise was carried out, assigning country identities to participants together with briefing notes for a negotiation exercise which included drafting intervention statements, and holding country meetings, country bloc meetings, and a contact group session chaired by the trainer.

#### **Session 15 Workshop Conclusion**

##### Communication plan

- Draft “Chart for the Pacific Voyage to the UNCCD COP10 meeting” presented, see Annex 4
- Note that implementation of the proposed activities depends on funding and commitment from countries
- Participants will receive the draft by email to comment

##### Key meeting outcomes and next steps

- Draft “Meeting Outcomes Statement” presented, see Annex 3
- Participants will receive the draft by email to comment
- Louisa Karika (Cook Islands) and Puta Tofinga (Kiribati) are nominated co-Chairs of the Pacific Island group going to UNCCD COP10
- Priority issues for interventions have been identified as:
  - NAP alignment
  - Regional coordination and support
  - Global Mechanism – lead country Cook Islands
  - Financial resources
  - Convention integration and coordination
- Next steps presented and discussed, see Annex 5

ClosureClosing remarks were given by country representatives and Ms Easter Galuvao, Biodiversity Adviser, SPREP



## Annex 1. Agenda

Time	Session	Objective	Topic	Resource Person/Facilitator/Chair
<b>Day 1: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2011</b>				
8:00am – 8:30am	<b>REGISTRATION</b>	All participants to register and pick up meeting documents		Theresa Fruean (SPREP)
8:30am – 9:00am	<b>OPENING</b>	To official open the pre-COP10 Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prayer</li> <li>Welcome – <i>Sefa Nawadra</i></li> <li>Opening Remarks – <i>Government of Fiji Representative</i></li> </ul>	MC – Bruce Jefferies
9:00am – 10:00am	<b>Session 1 Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To review and adopt the meeting agenda;</li> <li>To establish a clear understanding of the overall meeting objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting</li> <li>To raise awareness of the ACP-MEA Capacity Building Project</li> <li>Setting ground rules to manage the operations of the meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction of Participants <i>Jill Key</i></li> <li>Overview of the Meeting Objectives <i>Bruce Jefferies</i></li> <li>Adoption of the Meeting Agenda <i>Bruce Jefferies</i></li> <li>ACP-MEA Capacity Building Project <i>Jill Key</i></li> <li>Setting Ground Rules <i>Jill Key</i></li> <li>Housekeeping Matters <i>Theresa Fruean</i></li> </ul>	Chair – Tepa Suaesi (SPREP)
10:00am – 10:30am			<i>Morning Tea</i>	
10:30am – 12:30pm	<b>Session 2 Setting the Scene – Global context</b>	To provide an overview of the UNCCD, the 10 Year Strategic Plan and putting it in the context of other key global processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of the UNCCD (20 minutes) <i>Ian Fry</i></li> <li>Questions and Answers (15 minutes)</li> <li>UNCCD 10 year Strategic Plan (20 minutes) <i>Tepa Suaesi</i></li> <li>Questions and Answers (15minutes)</li> <li>UNCCD in the context of the Rio+20 (20 minutes) <i>Sefanaia Nawadra</i></li> </ul>	Chair – Easter Galuvao (SPREP)

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions and Answers (15minutes)</li> </ul>	
<b>LUNCH</b>					
12:30pm – 1:30pm					
1:30pm – 2:30pm	<b>Session 3 Setting the Scene – Regional and National Context</b>	To provide an overview of regional and national sustainable land management priorities issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National sustainable land management priorities and key issues - sharing country experiences (10 minutes each presenter) <i>Palau</i> <i>Fiji</i> <i>Tuvalu</i></li> <li>• Questions and Answers (10 minutes)</li> <li>• Regional sustainable land management priorities and key issues <i>Inoke Ratukalou (SPC)(10 minutes presentation and 10 minutes questions and answers)</i></li> </ul>	Chair – Marshall Islands representative	
2:30pm – 3:30pm	<b>Session 4 Lessons learnt from past COP meetings</b>	To discuss lessons learnt from past UNCCD COP meetings which will help to strengthen engagement at COP10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country representatives that have attended past UNCCD COP meetings (5 minutes each and 15 minutes questions and answers) <i>Cook Islands</i> <i>Samoa</i> <i>Vanuatu</i> <i>Timor Leste</i></li> <li>• CBD COP10 lessons learnt (25 minutes including questions and answers) <i>Easter Galuvao</i></li> </ul>	Chair – Kiribati Representative	
<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>					
3:30pm – 4:00pm					
4:00pm – 5:00pm	<b>Session 5 Plenary</b>	To review the COP10 Annotated Agenda and identify key priority issues for the Pacific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review key COP10 agenda items</li> <li>• Brainstorming session to identify priority issues</li> <li>• Introduction to the working group exercise <i>Facilitated by Tapa Suaesi and Bruce</i></li> </ul>	Chair – Solomon Islands Representative	

			Organize into main breakout groups to work on the identified priority issues	<i>Jefferies</i>	
<b>DAY 2: Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2011</b>					
8:30am – 9:00am	<b>RECAP</b>		To recap on the main outcomes from Day 1 and briefly go through the agenda for Day2	Facilitated by Jill Key	
9:00am – 10:00am	<b>Session 6 Working Groups</b>		Based on key agenda items that are of significant relevance to the Pacific, identify key priority issues and formulate key regional messages, recommendations and positions. Expected Outputs will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key priority issues identified and confirmed</li> <li>• Key recommended positions discussed and identified</li> <li>• Draft key messages formulated that the “Pacific Voice” needs to convey.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working Groups to identify Chair and scribe</li> <li>• All resource people are assigned to assist the break-out groups</li> </ul>	All Participants and resource people
10:00am – 10:30am			<i>Morning Tea</i>		
10:30am – 12:30pm	<b>Session 6 Continue</b>				
12:30pm – 1:30pm			<b>LUNCH</b>		
1:30pm – 3:30pm	<b>Session 7 Plenary – Working Group Report Back</b>		Each Working Group will report back and present their draft priority issues, messages, and recommended positions  Comments and suggestions from the floor on drafts presented by each of the working groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report back followed by Questions and Answers</li> <li>• Selection of small drafting committee <i>Facilitated by Jill Key</i></li> </ul>	Chair – Tonga Representative (Assisted by resource people)
3:30pm – 3:45pm			<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>		
3:45pm –	<b>Session 8</b>		To identify and discuss strategies to	Facilitated by Bruce, Tapa and Easter	Chair - PNG

5:00pm	<b>Plenary – Coordination, communication and negotiations</b>	strengthen coordination, communication and negotiations at COP10		
5:30pm 6:30pm	<b>Drafting committee meeting</b>	Drafting Committee to work on the draft messages, outcome statement and recommended positions	Draft committee consisted of the WG Chairs and Rapporteurs and assisted by all the resource people.	
<b>DAY3: Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2011</b>				
8:30am – 9:00am	<b>RECAP</b>	To recap on key outcomes from Day 2 and briefly go through the agenda for Day 3	Facilitated by Jill Key	
9:00am – 10:00am	<b>Session 9 Drafting Committee presentation</b>	Drafting committee to present the draft outcome statements, COP10 key messages and position statements/recommendations	Presented by the Chair of the Drafting Committee	Chair – Nauru Representative
<b>MORNING TEA</b>				
10:00am – 10:30am				
10:30am – 12:30pm	<b>Session 9 Continue</b>			
12:30pm – 1:30pm				
<b>LUNCH</b>				
1:30pm – 5:00pm	<b>Session 10 Media and Communication Training</b>	To provide key basic media and communication training to assist with the preparations and delivery of the Pacific One Voice at COP10 [Note: Coffee break at 3:00pm]	Trainer – Ms Nanette Wootton	
5:30pm 6:30pm	<b>Side Meeting</b>	Proposed project concept for sustainable land management and climate change	Jonathan Bower, SPC	
<b>DAY4: 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2011</b>				
8:30am –	<b>RECAP</b>	To recap on the main outcomes from	Facilitated by Jill Key	

9:00am		Day 3 and briefly go through the agenda for Day 4		
9:00am – 10:00am	<b>Session 11 Introduction to MEAs</b>	Brief overview of the MEAs	Trainer – Clark Peteru	
10:00am – 10:30am		<i>MORNING TEA</i>		
10:30am – 11:30am	<b>Session 12 Negotiation Training - Overview</b>	To provide an overview of the main elements of the MEA Negotiations Training	Trainer – Clark Peteru	
11:30am – 12:30pm	<b>Session 13 COP Bodies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procedures and Negotiations</li> <li>• Participating in COPS</li> <li>• Making Interventions</li> </ul>	Trainer – Clark Peteru	
12:30pm – 1:30pm		<i>LUNCH</i>		
1:30pm – 5:00pm	<b>Session 14 Simulation Exercise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Simulation Exercise</li> <li>• Simulation Exercise</li> </ul> [Note: Coffee break at 3:30pm]	Trainer – Ian Fry	
7:00pm	<b>Meeting dinner</b>			
<b>DAY 5: Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2011</b>				
8:30am – 10:00am	<b>Session 14 Simulation Exercise continue</b>			
10:00am – 10:30am		<i>MORNING TEA</i>		
10:30am – 12:30pm	<b>Session 14 Continue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and conclude negotiation training</li> </ul>	Trainer – Ian Fry	
12:30pm – 1:30pm		<i>LUNCH</i>		
1:30pm – 3:30pm	<b>Session 15 Workshop Conclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication outcomes</li> <li>• Presentation of key meeting outcomes and Next Steps</li> <li>• Meeting evaluation</li> <li>• Closing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nanette Woonton</li> <li>• Bruce Jefferies</li> <li>• Jill Key</li> <li>• Easter Galuvao</li> </ul>	
3:30pm – 5:00pm	<b>Side Meetings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country representatives going to Bali meeting and COP10</li> </ul>		

730pm – 930pm	<b>Partnership meeting</b>	To discuss synergies and future partnerships	SPC, USP and SPREP	
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**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 830am – 1100am SPREP team met to finalise the meeting report and follow-up details**



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### Annex 3. Meeting Outcome Statement

#### Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 10th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification

29 August – 2 September 2011

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#### Meeting Statement

The Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 10th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention for Combating Desertification (UNCCD) was held in Nadi, Fiji from 29 August to 2 September, 2011, was attended by 12 Pacific Island Parties to the Convention and Timor-Leste, partners, donors and non-governmental organizations from the region; and concluded with a Statement on:

**Reaffirming** the commitment by Pacific island countries to implement the objectives of the Convention;

**Recognizing** that the diverse collection of volcanic islands and coral atolls scattered across the Pacific region make up 30% of the earth's surface;

**Drawing attention** to the fact that Pacific lives and cultures are highly dependent on their land and sea; and even small scale land degradation will have severe and lasting consequences for the Pacific;

**Recognising** the value of collaborating and working in partnership within the Pacific Region, and with other SIDS, to implement SLM and related programmes;  
The Meeting proposes the following.

In accordance with the Agenda Items for COP10, CRIC 10 and CST 10, the Pacific Island Countries and Timor-Leste highlighted the following priorities and recommendations for consideration:

#### 1. National Action Plan (NAP) alignment

**Recognising** that NAP alignment is a significant consideration as well as a major challenge for all PICs<sup>4</sup> noting country driven priorities;

**Affirming** that it is priority to mainstream NAPs with national priorities and sustainable development plans and environmental management;

**Affirming** that NAP alignment to the Convention 10-year Strategic Plan is important for meeting our obligations;

**Drawing attention** to the fact that it will place a strain on existing resources;

**Further drawing attention** to the need for policy and technical support;

**Call** for UNCCD Secretariat, the Global Mechanism and the Regional Coordinating Unit to make NAP alignment a priority in their work plans in order to support PICs to meet the 2014 target for the 10-year Strategic Plan;

**Call** for multilateral funding resources to be made available to support alignment processes, including, *inter alia*, regional and sub-regional training support and technical assistance;

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<sup>4</sup> PIC, Pacific or Pacific Region refers to Pacific Island Countries and Timor-Leste

## **2. Pacific Participation in CRIC, COP and CST meetings**

**Recognising** the importance of PIC participation at CRIC, COP and CST meetings;

**Acknowledging** that resources are a limiting factor for PICs to prepare and participate in UNCCD forums;

**Drawing attention** to the unpredictability of financial resources to support PIC participation;

**Urge** the Secretariat and Global Mechanism to investigate reliable sources of funding and support that will assist PICs to prepare and actively participate in UNCCD meetings and processes;

**Urge Pacific Country Parties** to consider the importance of consistent representation to UNCCD forums;

## **3. National monitoring and information management systems**

**Acknowledging** that national [baseline] data collection and ongoing monitoring of SLM activities are an essential part of addressing DLDD

**Reaffirming** the need for ongoing support for regular data collection and monitoring

**Recognize** the inherent value of unique and diverse traditional knowledge and practices in sustainable land management in the Pacific

**Call** for support for the development of integrated national level data and information systems that support natural resource management (data collection, storage, dissemination and management);

Further **call** for financial and technical support for national monitoring systems;

**Encourage** the development of legitimate, credible and relevant national monitoring and assessment systems that support evidence-based policy and decision-making processes and strengthen the socio-economic, traditional and environmental information and knowledge management aspects of DLDD issues.

## **4. Convention integration and coordination**

**Recognising** that global collaboration across the Rio Conventions would assist with national government in harmonizing their own activities and having coherence and coordinated implementation;

**Further recognizing** that streamlining of reporting across all Rio Conventions would relieve the significant burden of reporting from PICs; strengthen coherence and coordinated implementation and increase effective mainstreaming of the DLDD and related environmental issues into national sustainable development plans;

The UNCCD Secretariat is **encouraged** to use its membership of the Joint Liaison Group to explore options towards streamlining reporting across the three Rio Conventions;

The Secretariat is **also encouraged** to use its membership of the Joint Liaison Group to explore options for coordination of planning and programming across the Rio Conventions;

## **5. Best practices**

**Encourage** the Secretariat to develop a SLM best practices database with a specific focus on SIDS;

**Encourage** PICs to compile a national SLM best practices database and contribute to Global and SIDS best practices database;

**Encourage** the mainstreaming of SLM best practices into national policy and planning processes;

**Call for financial and technical support for** PICs to compile a national SLM best practices database and contribute to Global and SIDS best practices database.

## **6. Financial Flows (Integrated Finance Strategies (IFS) and Integrated Investment Strategy (IIF)**

**Recognize** and advocate the need to explore new, additional and innovative channels of financial support to augment traditional funding sources, including support to regional institutions for capacity support.

## **7. Regional support**

**Encourage** the Secretariat to strengthen regional reference centres to provide long-term technical assistance and policy advisory support;

**Recognising** the role of a Sub Regional Action Plan (SRAP) to support the development, implementation and alignment of NAPs;

**Recognising** that Pacific Island Countries are at different stages with the development of their NAPs ranging from countries without NAPs to countries in the process of formulating NAPs and countries that are implementing NAPs;

**Recognising** that there are existing regional mechanisms that are already providing support to Pacific Island Countries in the development of their NAPs and related instruments for addressing DLDD issues;

**Draw attention** to the need to support for initial research and related preparatory steps for developing a Pacific SRAP that responds effectively to supporting the diverse needs and requirements of Pacific Island Countries' NAPs and their supporting national action frameworks.

## Chart for the Pacific Voyage to COP 10 UNCCD, Korea

### Objective

This communication plan is to help guide the Pacific and help foster a 'One Pacific Voice' in relation to the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). It was produced by the participants at the Pacific Regional UNCCD COP 10 Preparatory Workshop with guidance and support from Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Programme (SPREP).

Please note that Pacific island countries and territories are not obligated to remain locked into this plan, however it is rather to act as a guide and provide support to the delegates.

- For more information on the UNCCD and COP 10 please visit: <http://www.unccd.int/>
- For more information on SPREP please visit: [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)

### Aim

The following plan is to act as your 'chart' during preparations, attendance and post attendance at the UNCCD COP 10 in Korea 10 to 21 October, 2011. This document is to help guide you when it comes to communicating the needs of the Pacific; there is agreement that a united One Pacific Voice will make more of an impact than Pacific island countries and territories standing alone.

*Remember, this is your 'chart', and it is meant to ensure flexibility to suit your needs as you map your voyage to the UNCCD COP 10 in Korea.*

### Key audiences for this chart

The general audiences are; the Pacific region and the international arena.

This can be further broken down to; Leaders and High Level members, Media, Generic audiences and Donors.

### Three key messages for the Pacific region to promote (*note these are not in any particular order*)

1. The Pacific is a vulnerable region that has limited resources and is in need of increased financial and technical support.
2. While the Pacific region may not have desertification we are victims affected by land degradation
3. The Pacific is taking action to stop land degradation and there are some successful results from these activities

### Key outcomes of the messages:

1. The Pacific receives more financial and technical support
2. The Pacific is recognized at an international and regional level as being impacted by land degradation
3. There is understanding that the Pacific has made some achievements however the region can achieve much more with increased financial and technical support.

### **Messages for discussion – from activity – not too sure about**

*We are Asia Pacific now*

*Small scale land degradation can cause to several lasting consequences on sustainable livelihoods and the environment*

*Information systems development*



**Activities during the preparatory stage:**

Activity	Details	Message/Outcomes	Who	M & E
Media campaign	As per the chart	1,2,3		Number of stories done Record of feedback from stories
Preparation of briefing notes for Ministers	Provide Ministers with CLEAR, concise briefing notes – including the role of the Minister and their talking points	1,2,3		Ability of the Minister to articulate notes Record of feedback from the Ministers networking
Stakeholder consultations	Meeting with stakeholders of the UNCCD (other govt. depts., NGO's, business people etc) to perspective of the Pacific and your country	1,2,3		Meeting held Minutes of the meeting Action points from the meeting, if any
Prepare Pacific position statements	To read and share at the UNCCD COP but also to share nationally and regionally.	1,2,3		Number of the Pacific position statements made Feedback to the Pacific position statements
Preparation of materials for UNCCD COP 10	Posters, brochures, case studies, videos, pull up banners	1,2,3		

**Activities at the UNCCD COP 10**

Activities	Details	Messages	M & E
Side event	Missed the deadline for the side event Opportunity to look at other partnerships for a side event	1,2,3	Side event held Attendance of Side event Questions raised at Side event
Display exhibition booth	Need to find out if this is an opportunity. It will depend on ensuring that someone is available to man the booth to field questions. It will depend on ensuring that we have enough materials to show at the booth.	1,2,3 Deadline 14 August	Booth staged Number of people that visit the booth Pacific visibility clear
Blog site	Can be done, is to gel within the new SPREP guidelines, to be led by SPREP	1,2,3	Number of hits recorded on the site Daily blog done Daily contribution from the Pacific on the blog

Media releases	Can be done, to be led by SPREP	1,2,3	
Ministerial statement at high level segment	Statements are to be written that incorporate both the tagline as well as shares the two key messages	1,2,3	Clear messages in the Ministers statement Statement delivered
Use of partnerships	To help in terms of side events and sharing of our information	1,2,3	
Generic power point template from the Pacific	To be produced jointly and is to be used at the last minute whenever an opportunity presents itself Need to ensure all delegates have this and are able to present it when asked	1,2,3	How often our generic powerpoint is used Feedback and response to the power point
Materials to distribute	Posters, brochures, case studies, videos	1,2,3	
Daily Pacific Meetings	To be led by SPREP		
Tagline in generic statements/interventions from the Pacific delegations	To be designed and agreed upon to help build our Pacific identity and all are to say it at the end of each statement and intervention		How often our tagline is used til others know it off by heart Feedback to the tagline
Pacific briefing papers to use	To be led by SPREP in a manner that is articulate, easy to read and understand		
Press conference	We have to ensure that we know what it is we want to share at the Press conference. SPREP can lead the organization of this.		Attendance of media at the Press conference Outcome of the press conference ie how many news media create news from the press conference

### Internal Communications

Activity	Details	Lesson
Skype	Everyone to download skype and give yourselves skype names Someone to be the lead chat person to invite everyone to be on board with the skype discussion Rules are to be made clear as there is no moderator for this skype chat	Clinic via email for those attending Clinic at the UNCCD
Drop box	Everyone to open dropbox A key person to moderate and lead the dropbox sharing Rules to be established so a system for filing is shared and understood by all	<b>Clinic via email for those attending</b> <b>Clinic at the UNCCD</b>

Texts	SPREP to gather and share all cell phone numbers	
Daily Pacific Meeting	To be shared and arranged by SPREP at the conference	

**Budget**

<b>Details</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Estimated cost</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Writer	To write and produce the materials needed	1,000	<b>ALL URGENT</b>
Writer	Pacific brief	3,000	
Materials and resources	Brochure for the Pacific in general that outlines 3 case studies and achievements with photos along with general info on UNCCD and the Pacific. This is to be a 6 sided panel folded in zigzag style.	X 1000 1,000 X 3 banners 2,000 X 1,000 flowers 1,500	
	Design files to be made available to countries to adapt	X unknown 2,000 Freight to and from 2,500	
	Pull up banners x 3 that outline each of the three messages	9,000 USD	
	Promotional flowers x 1,000 that have a sticker with a single slogan		
	Generic Pacific Powerpoint		
Side event	Support for reproducing national materials to bring		
	If possible	2,000	
		<b>15,000 USD Budget</b>	

**National media campaign**

Time	Topic	
Week 1	What is the UNCCD How the UNCCD can help us UNCCD COP happening and why the Pacific (your country) is attending	All stories you do, please send to SPREP so we can upload on a site and send out
Week 2	The Pacific Statement messages Objectives of the COP for your country in particular	

Week 3	A key agenda item of the COP and a story about the SLM in your country and how it addresses this issue		
Week 4	Team is going, the One Pacific Voice Plan, key points from your ministers statement		

**POST UNCCD**

Method	Details		
Website	COP Outcomes Main reports outcomes		
Media	News items Newsletter		
Meeting	Lessons learnt What has changed		

Need to know:

1. Who will be going from each country?
2. What national resource communication materials are already available?
3. Can you identify any sources of funding?
4. Your interest and commitment towards this
5. Any other comments

Annex 5. Next steps

UNCCD COP 10, 10 - 21

PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRY PARTIES NEXT STEPS

1. ACTIVITIES OF COUNTRY PARTIES

KEY ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY(IES)	TIMELINE
1. Inform the Pacific Team to COP10 of their countries' confirmed delegations	Country participants of this meeting & UNCCD NFPs	5 Sept – 5 Oct
2. Consult line ministries, departments and NGOs on priority issues of the COP10 and secure their comments and recommendations	Country participants of this meeting with the support of their UNCCD NFPs	
3. Prepare briefing papers for their National Delegations and Ministries attending the COP- 10 on key priority issues and positions of the Agenda for PICs	Country participants of this meeting & UNCCD NFPs	5 Sept – 5 Oct
4. Participate in the Asia-Pacific Prep Meeting in Bali 12-16 Sept and feed back information to those who are not attending and the rest of the Pacific Team to COP10	Countries confirmed to attend the Asia-Pacific Prep Meeting in Bali 12-16 Sept	12 Sept – 5 Oct

2. ACTIVITIES OF SPREP & CROP PARTNERS

KEY ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE
1. Email List of the Pacific participants of the COP10	SPREP (Countries participants to send names, addresses, emails and hotel addresses of their country delegations)	9 Sept – 9 Oct

2. Circular from SPREP reporting the results of the UNCCD Pacific Preparation COP10 meeting to PICs UNCCD NFPs	SPREP UNCCD Team (Circulate to countries NFPs and participants of this meeting)	5 Sept – 9 Oct
3. Seeking funding from GM for widening the participation of Pacific countries and developing and implementing an effective communication strategy for the COP-10	SPREP (Keeping country NFPs and participants of this meeting informed)	5 – 16 Sept
4. Communication & Media Support Activities – Organising media and communication team to promote and raise awareness of the PICs participation, priority issues, results of the meeting, etc.	SPREP in close consultation with countries participants of this meeting, NFPs and participating delegation in the COP	5 Sept – 21 Oct
5. Organise venues for PICs meetings in correspondence with UNCCD Secretariat RCU for Asia-Pacific and Organisers of the COP10 in South Korea	SPREP	5 Sept – 5 Oct
6. Contact UNDP for SLM project support for participating in COP10	SPREP	5 Sept – 9 Sept

### 3 PICs' UNCCD COP10 Organisation

- 1.1 Pacific Island Country Parties Overall Coordinator and Chair: Ms Heimata Louisa Karika COOK ISLANDS
- 1.2 Co-Coordinator/Co-Chair: Mr Puta Tofinga, KIRIBATI
- 1.3 COP-10 Agenda Priority Issues Arrangements

PRIORITY ISSUES	LEAD COUNTRY	SUPPORTING COUNTRIES
1. NAP Alignment		
2. Regional Coordination & Support		

<b>3. Global Mechanism</b>	Cook Islands	
<b>4. Financial Resources</b>		
<b>5. Convention Integration &amp; Coordination</b>		
<b>6. Other Issues: SRAP</b>		

Countries to respond and provide the names of leads and co-leads

#### 4. UNCCD COP-10 MEETING SESSIONS SCHEDULE

<b>DATES</b>	<b>MEETINGS</b>	<b>MEETING OBJECTIVES</b>
<b>Started already</b>	<b>Registration</b>	
<b>11-13 Oct</b>	<b>CST3 Meeting</b>	In accordance with Decision 26/COP.9 and relevant issues
<b>11-20 Oct</b>	<b>CRIC10 Meeting</b>	In accordance with Decision 11/COP.9 and relevant issues
<b>19 Oct</b>		Panel discussions on the mid-term evaluation of the Strategy
<b>13-14 Oct</b>	<b>Round table discussions by members of parliament</b>	The inter-active dialogue sessions with MPs in accordance with Decision 35/COP.9. It is anticipated that any outcomes from the round table discussions will be communicated to the COP for consideration
<b>14 Oct</b>	<b>COP Meeting Plenary</b>	To hear reports from the COW, CST, and CRIC, to take all the necessary decisions on matters before the COP and to review the organisational work for the second week including providing for further meetings of the COW as appropriate
<b>14 &amp; 19 Oct</b>	<b>Open-dialogue session</b>	In accordance with Decision 35/COP.9 and further to the request of COP as per Decision 5/COP.9 to ensure that the program of work of

		the COP includes open dialogue sessions with the civil society in the first week of the COP
17-18 Oct	Special Segment	In accordance with Decision 35/COP.9, three round table discussions among ministers and other officials will be conducted
20 Oct	Open-ende Ad-hoc group of experts (AHGE)	Pursuant to Decisions 28 & 29/COP.9
21 Oct	Concluding Plenary Meeting of COP10	Adoption of recommended decisions

**5. PICS DAILY MEETINGS/BRIEFINGS**

**Times of meetings:** Normal workings hours of sessions will be from 10am to 1pm and from 3pm to 6pm

**Morning (formal meeting):** 8.00am – 9.00am

**Venue:** Proposed to meet at the Asia-Pacific room

**Other ongoing informal discussions can take place where and when necessary**

**6. POST-COP meeting, subject to available funding**

**7. Meeting documents are available [www.sprep.org/publication/MEA/UNCCD Files.asp](http://www.sprep.org/publication/MEA/UNCCD%20Files.asp)**