

Action Strategy for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Island Region 2008-2012



Empowering local
people,
communities and
Pacific institutions



Roundtable



for nature conservation
in the Pacific islands



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***Action Strategy for Nature Conservation and
Protected Areas in
the Pacific Island Region
2008-2012***

Empowering local people, communities and Pacific institutions

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Foreword

Bula all

It's crisis time again. A year after a successful Nature Conservation Conference in Alotau we confronted an energy crisis that was immediately followed by a financial crisis. These arrived at a time when the climate change crisis already dominated our island agenda. We in the environment sector know that underlying the triple crisis - energy, financial and climate - are common causes: unsustainable growth, rampant consumerism and other human activities. Somewhere we forgot that our natural environment has limits and there is only so much growth it can sustain. We see the impacts today.

The developing response to the financial crisis has been for a call for "sustainable growth." For the environment flag bearers, we now have a common message with the economists - the need to get growth "right." The environment and livelihoods of our Pacific people must return to the center of any discussion on sustainability and economic growth to determine how we survive the pitfalls that have beset the global economy. It has never been timelier for our Pacific nations to focus on getting our own growth strategies on the right track and emphasising the longer term benefits of a healthy and productive environment. We must now recognise that sustaining nature's infrastructure is an essential part of any development plan if it is to be truly sustainable.

The Alotau conference called for an emphasis on communities as the backbone of successful conservation strategies in our Pacific Island countries. We also recognised the need for more coordination between the Nature Conservation Roundtable implementation partners and Pacific Governments. The Roundtable for Nature Conservation has committed to visit three different countries each year and work with the national stakeholders to develop a platform for coordination and implementation of the NBSAPs. We are starting with Fiji, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea and hope to reach up to nine Pacific Island countries before the next conference.

The Roundtable is re-examining how we can work better. All members must now sign a charter or set of principles that guide the way we work in country. Commendable new partnership initiatives have emerged in the region including the Coral Triangle, the Micronesia Challenge and the emerging Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge. We all realise that "business as usual" is not working and we need to find ways to get political commitment, new funding and new kinds of partnerships that can effectively impact on environment outcomes.

I would like to express my appreciation to SPREP for their leadership on the regional agenda and to all those who have maintained their commitment to the Action Strategy and kept the Roundtable going. I would also like to thank the Government of Papua New Guinea for hosting a fabulous event in Alotau.

Despite the huge challenges before us, it is an exciting time to be working together towards improved and sustainable livelihoods for our communities and the protection of our unique Pacific environment.

Vinaka vakalevu, Malo aupito, tenk yu tumas, faafetai lava, etc etc.

Taholo Kami

Chair,
Roundtable for Nature Conservation

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Introduction

The *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific 2008-2012* (the Strategy) charts a course for conservation practice in the Pacific. The purpose of the document is to provide focus and strategy for concerted conservation action. It encourages coordination and cooperation around Pacific priorities that address a spectrum of issues from grassroots through national and to regional levels. It provides context for individual action to be framed in terms of contribution to a holistic Strategy. The document, and the wealth of experience that informed its development, represents knowledge of best Pacific practice in the field of nature conservation.

The underlying theme of the Strategy - 'Empowering people, communities and institutions' - runs extensively throughout the document. It includes specific recommendations on how conservation can best serve communities in the Pacific, drawn from 400+ contributors at the 8th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, Alotau, Papua New Guinea, 22-26 October 2007.

All parties involved in conservation in the Pacific are called to adopt the Principles of the Strategy and align their current, planned and future work to contribute to its goals and objectives. At all levels, individuals and agencies are urged to develop their own appropriate systems for accountability in implementing the Strategy. Planning and progress on the implementation of the Strategy will be assisted and communicated through the Roundtable, the NBSAP process, national networks and other fora.

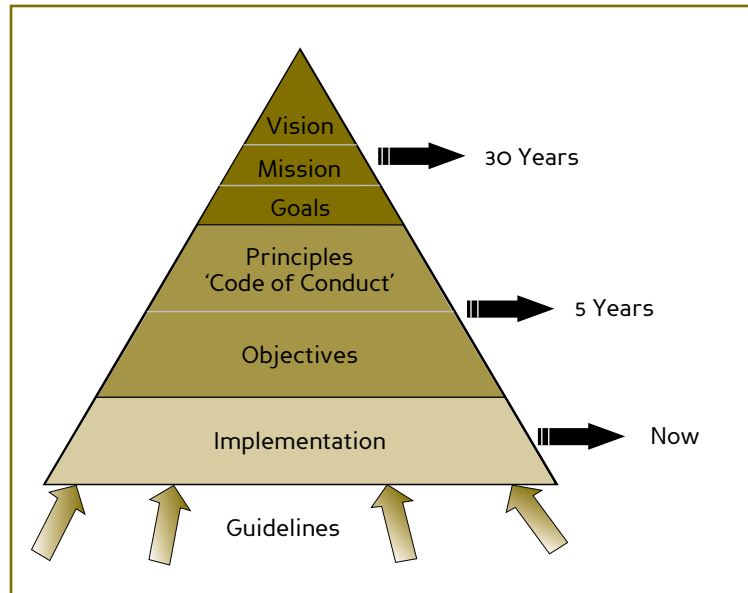
It is intended that anyone who plans to undertake or invest in conservation in the Pacific islands region would use this strategy to guide their work. The Principles embodied in the Code of Conduct should apply to investment in, and implementation of, all conservation activities at any level. The Action Strategy objectives need to be implemented using the Code of Conduct.

For those implementing conservation activities within communities, it is important to use the Guidelines for Implementation of Community Conservation Programmes to ensure the programme is successful. These Community Implementation Guidelines are the result of lessons learned and experience gained by communities, conservation practitioners and those who invest in conservation in the Pacific islands region.

Structure of the Action Strategy

Vision, Mission and Goals

The Vision, Mission and Goals describe aspirations for nature conservation in the Pacific region over the next 30 years. These were developed during the 7th Conference for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, Rarotonga, Cook Islands, July 2002. The Vision, Mission and Goals were endorsed by the Pacific island governments at the 13th SPREP Governing Council meeting in Apia, Samoa, September 2003, and by the membership of the Roundtable for Nature Conservation. The Vision, Mission and Goals form the basis for defining Principles, Objectives and Guidelines in each Action Strategy.



Principles for Nature Conservation in the Pacific

The Principles define critical components for the delivery of nature conservation, and were derived through lessons learned from past Action Strategies. The scope of the Principles reflects the outcomes of the Alotau conference. Because of their importance in the implementation of this Strategy, the Principles have the status of a "Code of Conduct" for all conservation partners.

As a Code of Conduct they must be recognised, respected, supported and applied by all agencies, partners and organisations working in nature conservation in the Pacific to fully achieve the Objectives of this Strategy. The Code of Conduct is applicable to all projects and programmes.

Objectives

The Objectives establish five-year interim milestones for achieving the 30-year Goals. These Objectives were established as the key focus areas for the Action Strategy at the Alotau conference.

The Objectives were drawn from the 2002 Action Strategy and common priorities identified in completed Pacific island NBSAPs. After extensive review and consultation they were distilled into the draft Objectives that formed the basis for discussion at the Alotau conference. These draft Objectives were debated, modified and then endorsed by the conference.

These Objectives can only be successfully achieved if the Principles are applied to all conservation activities.

Guidelines for Implementing Community Conservation Programmes

The Guidelines were developed by working groups during the Alotau conference and represents the collective wisdom of conference participants experienced in community conservation. The Guidelines should inform practitioners involved in conservation programmes in the Pacific of effective community conservation.

Vision, Mission, Goals

VISION 30 YEARS

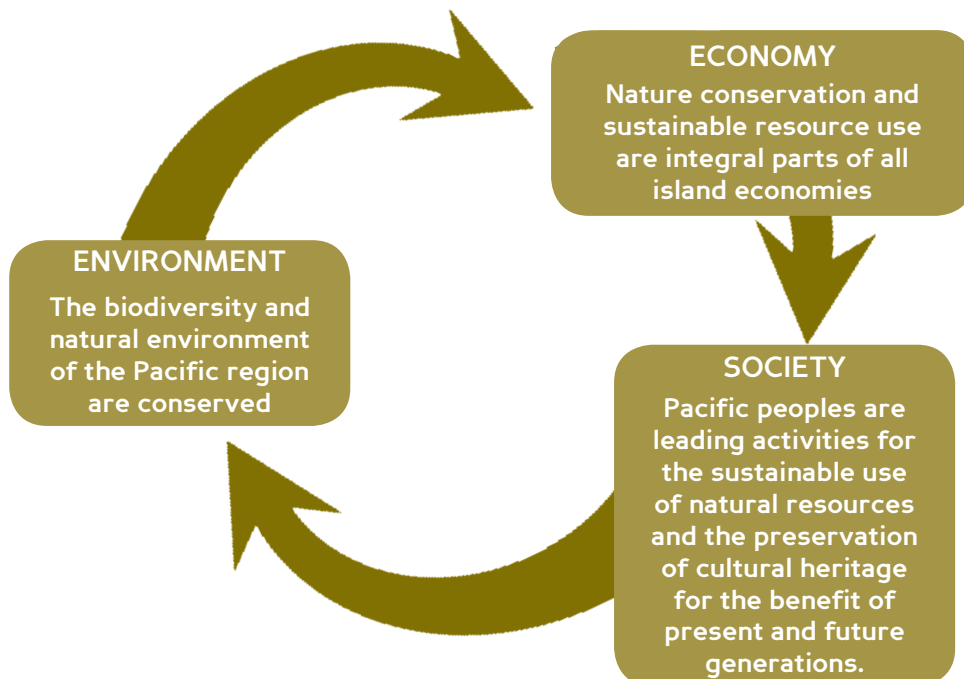
Our people proudly honour our natural heritage and cultural identity;
The waters of our streams, lagoons and ocean are bountiful and crystal clear;
Our mountains are wild, our forests pristine and our beaches unspoiled;
Our societies are vibrant and diverse;
We have equitable relationships with our global partners and our economies thrive;
Our cultures and traditions are widely appreciated; and
The products of our creativity and labour are especially prized.

Islands of Life... Pure Pacific

MISSION 30 YEARS

To protect and conserve the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Pacific islands forever for the benefit of people of the Pacific and the world

GOALS 30 years



Principles

for nature conservation in the Pacific: A Code Of Conduct

During the design and implementation of conservation programmes, the application of these Principles is essential to successfully achieving conservation objectives.

1. COMMUNITY RIGHTS

Most natural resources in the Pacific are owned and used by indigenous and local communities

International and national partners will actively recognise, respect and support:

- Community property rights including traditional rights over natural resources, indigenous intellectual property relating to natural resources, and cultural knowledge.
- Community decision-making practices.

2. CONSERVATION FROM A PACIFIC PERSPECTIVE

Natural resources are often the most important source of wealth and development opportunities for Pacific communities. Therefore the practice of Conservation principles in Pacific communities will influence the economic, social and cultural affairs of those communities

International and national partners will actively recognise, respect and support:

- Community aspirations for development and well-being.
- A Pacific approach to conservation based on sustainable resource use.

3. OWNERSHIP OF CONSERVATION PROGRAMMES

Lasting conservation in the Pacific can only be achieved if national partners (including communities) take responsibility for and leadership of the design, implementation and evaluation of all conservation programmes in their respective areas

National and community partners will commit to:

- Exercising and building their capacity for leadership of conservation programmes.

International partners will commit to:

- Respecting and encouraging national and community partner leadership for all conservation programmes and helping strengthen partner capacity to exercise their leadership.
- Aligning all conservation programmes with those of the national partners.

- Strengthening national and local partners as an alternative to establishing their own institutions and infrastructure.
- Connecting regional and international initiatives with national priorities and aspirations.
- Ensuring all key programme decision-making takes place in-country with participation by national and community partners and led by their conservation priorities.

4. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Conservation initiatives must be adequately resourced over time

International and national partners will commit to:

- Ensuring their conservation programmes are of a scale and budget appropriate to the local context.
- Long-term strategic planning and resource mobilisation that sustains conservation over time.

5. GOOD GOVERNANCE

Effective conservation programmes are participatory, accountable and transparent

National and international partners will commit to:

- Reinforcing participatory approaches by involving all stakeholders, particularly community representatives when designing, implementing and assessing conservation programmes.
- Ensuring systems are in place to enable full accountability to the people affected by conservation programme implementation.
- Ensuring their programmes and systems are well communicated, fully transparent and open to stakeholder scrutiny.

6. CO-ORDINATION

Conservation is more effective when partners coordinate and work within a strategic framework

National partners will commit to:

- Ensuring NBSAPs and other locally devised conservation programmes are strategic, focused and set clear local priorities for action.
- Taking a leadership role in coordinating all partners.
- Providing national and local focal points for coordinating NBSAP and other programme implementation.

International partners will commit to:

- Working within the legislation, policies, strategies, programmes and priorities established by national partners.
- Working with each other to ensure collaborative analysis, strategies, agreed priorities and coordination of political engagement to avoid duplication.
- Avoiding programming that directly competes with national partners for projects and funding.

7. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Community and national capacity to design, prioritise, direct, manage, implement, monitor and evaluate conservation programmes must be put in place so that lasting conservation objectives can be achieved.

National partners and communities will commit to:

- Building effective and sustainable conservation capability and organisations through on-going capacity development.
- Ensuring conservation is continuously improved by recording, disseminating and incorporating lessons learned and best practices.

International partners will commit to:

- Supporting national partners in their efforts to build effective and sustainable national institutions.
- Supporting national partners and communities in their efforts to develop leadership, project direction and management skills.
- Ensuring their presence in-country does not undermine national and local institution-building or capacity development.
- Contributing to national partner best practice by recording, disseminating and implementing lessons learned.

8. ACCOUNTABILITY

International and national partners are accountable to the communities and countries they work in for their investment and engagement in conservation programmes

National partners will commit to:

- Reinforcing participatory approaches by involving all national conservation partners and other stakeholders, including community representatives, when designing, implementing and assessing conservation programmes.
- Setting clear and standard processes for the establishment, operation and accountability of international partners through formal agreements. These agreements should include a Code of Conduct with defined consequences for breaches, and mechanisms to ensure transparency of operations.
- Establishing systems to register all partners' conservation activities against national and local priorities (for example NBSAPs).
- Setting easily-measured benchmarks to ensure progress against defined conservation problems, with each partner held accountable for its commitments and progress

International partners will commit to:

- Adopting systems that ensure transparency and accountability of their programmes at a national level.
- Providing timely, transparent and comprehensive reporting on conservation programmes to national partners including reporting on implementation of NBSAP priorities.

Objectives

5 years

These Objectives should be used to align a conservation programme with implementation of the Action Strategy. Each Objective will only be fully achieved if all of the Principles of Nature Conservation in the Pacific are applied. It is intended that these Objectives and progress in achieving these Objectives will be reviewed in five-years.

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

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

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

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

Guidelines

For implementation of Community Conservation Programmes

Experience in the Pacific has shown that application of these Guidelines is essential during the design and implementation phase of community conservation programmes.

1. COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

Lesson: Successful conservation projects require community motivation, commitment and support.

Guideline: Community engagement and ownership must be established at the outset of programmes and continually reinforced through the term of the programme.

2. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP

Lesson: Community participation is a critical component in all aspects of successful conservation programmes.

Guideline: Communities should be engaged in all aspects of programme design, delivery and evaluation and have the opportunity to provide leadership in decision-making.

3. COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES

Lesson: Conservation programmes need to have clear benefits to communities in order to be successful.

Guideline: Ensure community values and aspirations are integral to programmes when designing and implementing conservation initiatives.

4. NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Lesson: Conservation best serves communities and has a greater chance for success when implemented in partnership with the full range of stakeholders.

Guideline: Actively build partnerships and work collaboratively with all stakeholders.

5. INFORMATION ACQUISITION AND ACCESSIBILITY

Lesson: Conservation programmes benefit from the application of relevant local, traditional and scientific information.

Guideline: Ensure that relevant information is used throughout the life-cycle of programmes, and made accessible to and shared with local stakeholders.

6. SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

Lesson: Communities need to have the resources to continue initiatives over the long-term.

Guideline: Design programmes to ensure resources for ongoing implementation are available beyond the duration of the initial funding period.

7. EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

Lesson: Conservation programmes are most effective when they incorporate mutual learning between communities and conservation partners.

Guideline: Use a two-way process of communication and education to exchange knowledge, skills and perspectives at a range of levels.

8. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

Lesson: For conservation to serve communities, local people need to have the skills, knowledge and ability to fulfil community aspirations in the long-term.

Guideline: Design conservation programmes that strengthen long-term community capacity.

9. STRATEGIC PLANNING

Lesson: Conservation programmes best serve communities when they take a long-term strategic view.

Guideline: Ensure activities are part of a broader strategy that addresses community aspirations and conservation outcomes.

10. POLITICAL COMMITMENT

Lesson: Community-based initiatives are more likely to succeed if they have the support and commitment of leaders and decision-making bodies.

Guideline: Engage relevant decision-makers to secure their understanding and support.

11. LOCAL AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES

Lesson: Local and traditional knowledge and practices are fundamental to the design and implementation of community conservation programmes.

Guideline: Local and traditional knowledge and practices must be identified and form the basis of community conservation programmes.

12. GOOD GOVERNANCE

Lesson: Conservation programmes best serve communities when governance systems are robust, well-designed and agreed between partners at all levels.

Guideline: Care must be taken to ensure that best-practices for governance are in place and supported at all levels.

13. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Lesson: Community level monitoring is effective in measuring and evaluating programme success and is important for building community ownership.

Guideline: Design conservation programmes that use community-based monitoring and evaluation.

14. MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

Lesson: Unrealistic expectations can be damaging for ongoing programme success and community engagement.

Guideline: Carefully assess and communicate the costs, benefits, risks and uncertainties of conservation programmes to communities on an ongoing basis.

15. CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

Lesson: Local practices and circumstances need to be integrated into programme design and delivery.

Guideline: Listen, learn, understand and respect local people and their cultural values.

16. COMMUNITY ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE

Lesson: Community participation in the design and implementation of compliance and enforcement systems leads to improved conservation outcomes.

Guideline: Support the establishment of effective community-based compliance and enforcement programmes.

17. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Lesson: Legal mechanisms (including customary law) can be used to support or enhance conservation outcomes.

Guideline: Explore the use of legal mechanisms (including customary law) that enhance conservation outcomes.

18. LAND, MARINE AND RESOURCE TENURE

Lesson: It is important to clearly establish the tenure and resource use rights of the land and marine areas involved in the programme.

Guideline: To the extent possible, clearly determine land, marine and resource tenure during the initial phases of programme development.

19. SIMPLICITY

Lesson: Conservation programmes can be undermined by complex systems and processes.

Guideline: Ensure that conservation programmes are as uncomplicated as possible.

Annexes

ANNEX 1: DEFINITIONS

The Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation is a coalition of organisations work on implementing objectives of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservations. The Roundtable serves as a forum where organisations working on nature conservation in the Pacific can improve collaboration and coordination to increase conservation action. The Roundtable is chaired by Taholo Kami, Regional Director for IUCN Oceania

The Pacific islands region consists of American Samoa, Northern Marianna Isalnds, Fiji, Niue, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Nauru, Wallis and Fortuna, Guam, Palau, Marshall Islands, Federated State of Micronesia, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Tokelau.

International partners include international NGOs, regional organisations (government and non-government), inter-governmental organisations, the international private sector and donors.

National partners include national, provincial and local-level governments, national and local NGOs, the national private sector and communities.

A Community is a group of people with shared identify, cultures and values. They are the product of an intertwined history and common heritage. They are part of a physical landscape, coast, island or sea. They share a combined sum of experience and knowledge, and are jointly affected by local issues and impacts.

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are a mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity and are developed by countries to show the key goals and actions the nation (through extensive consultation) feels is necessary to safeguard its biological diversity. These plans are vital tools to direct management processes and identify the key priority conservation issues to address in each nations organisations.

Programmes refer to conservation activities and projects that combine over time to deliver long-term objectives. In the context of this document conservation programmes encompass all conservation undertakings, including projects, strategies, activities, policies, and frameworks at all levels. Conservation programmes include all aspects of conservation delivery, including concept development, design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

ANNEX 2: COMMITMENTS

A commitment is an undertaking by an organisation to achieve a conservation outcome while working within the framework of the Action Strategy. In other words, the conservation outcome meets all of the Principles, works within the Guidelines, contributes to one or more of the Objectives and undertakes to a monitoring and evaluation procedure in order to assess the success of the conservation programme to meet aspirations of the Action Strategy.

Formal commitment processes and procedures, both in terms of communicating commitments and monitoring success, need to be in place to successfully meet the Objectives of the Action Strategy. In order to create formal processes and procedures, a suitable forum is required, such as the Roundtable.

ANNEX 3: SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES AND PRINCIPLES

These Principles define critical components in delivering nature conservation in the Pacific islands region, and were derived through lessons learned from past Action Strategies. The scope of the Principles reflects the outcomes of the 2007 Alotau conference. Because of their importance in the implementation of this Strategy, the Principles have the status of a 'Code of Conduct' for all conservation partners.

As a Code of Conduct they must be recognised, respected, supported and applied by all agencies, partners and organisations working in nature conservation in the Pacific to fully achieve the Objectives of the Action Strategy. The Code of Conduct is applicable to all projects and programmes.

1. Community rights

Most natural resources in the Pacific are owned and used by indigenous and local communities

2. Conservation from a Pacific perspective

Natural resources are often the most important source of wealth and development opportunities for Pacific communities. Therefore the practice of Conservation principles in Pacific communities will influence the economic, social and cultural affairs of those communities

3. Ownership of conservation programmes

Lasting conservation in the Pacific can only be achieved if national partners (including communities) take responsibility for and leadership of the design, implementation and evaluation of all conservation programmes in their respective areas

4. Financial sustainability

Conservation initiatives must be adequately resourced over time

5. Good governance

Effective conservation programmes are participatory, accountable and transparent

6. Co-ordination

Conservation is more effective when partners coordinate and work within a strategic framework

7. Capacity development

Community and national capacity to design, prioritise, direct, manage, implement, monitor and evaluate conservation programmes must be put in place so that lasting conservation objectives can be achieved.

8. Accountability

International and national partners are accountable to the communities and countries they work in for their investment and engagement in conservation programmes.

ANNEX 4: SUMMARY OF PICT NBSAPS

As best could be ascertained, the status of NBSAPs in the Pacific region, as in February 2008 follows.

STATUS OF NBSAPs AS IN FEBRUARY 2008	
COUNTRY/TERRITORY	STATUS AS IN FEBRUARY 2008
Cook Islands	Completed
Fiji	Completed
Marshall Islands	Completed
Federated States of Micronesia	Completed
Tonga	Completed
Niue	Completed
Palau	Completed
Samoa	Completed
Vanuatu	Completed
Papua New Guinea	Completed
Kiribati	Final draft
Tuvalu	Under development
Solomon Islands	Under development
Nauru	Under development
New Caledonia	Under development

Cook Islands Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The Cook Islands NBSAP was finalized and adopted in 2002. It establishes the following eight Themes and distinguishes strategic goals and actions:

- Theme A: Endangered Species Management
Sustainable use, including agricultural
- Theme B: Invasive Species Management
Reduce impact on indigenous and agricultural species
- Theme C: Ecosystem Management
Protected areas, including community-based
- Theme D: Equitable Sharing of Benefits and Access to Biodiversity
- Theme E: Management of Knowledge Related to Biodiversity
Scientific and traditional knowledge; property rights, indigenous and traditional
- Theme F: Biodiversity Awareness and Education
Information more readily available
- Theme G: Mainstreaming of Biodiversity
Integrate biodiversity into legislation, policies, plans and programmes
- Theme H: Financial Resources and Mechanisms for Biodiversity
Financial sustainability, Trust Fund

Fiji Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The Fiji NBSAP was adopted in 1999 and it comprises six Focus Areas, namely:

1. Community support – awareness, involvement and ownership
2. Improving our knowledge
3. Developing protected areas
4. Species conservation
5. Management of invasive species
6. Capacity building and strengthening

Each of the Focus Areas is further elaborated by a number of Objectives, 27 in all, and these range from some very broad ones to a few specific ones. All were taken into account when determining the scope that should be reflected in the Action Strategy Objectives.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The Marshall Islands NBSAP comprised four main Strategic Themes and two further Themes, which arose out of consultation workshops, and these are:

- Strategic Theme A: Conservation of Biodiversity and Biological Resources
- Strategic Theme B: Protection of the Marine Biodiversity
- Strategic Theme C: Traditional Culture and Practices
- Strategic Theme D: People and Biodiversity
- Strategic Theme E: Biotechnology and Biodiversity
- Strategic Theme F: Biosafety and Biodiversity

The NBSAP identified a variable number of Goals under each of the four main Themes as well as the lesser ones, making 16 Goals in all. Each of the Goals was then further elaborated into Key Actions. All these were taken into account as indicators of the scope that should be reflected in the proposed new Objectives for the Action Strategy.

The Federated States of Micronesia NBSAP – National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

There are 11 Themes in the Federated States of Micronesia NBSAP, as follows:

- Theme 1: Ecosystem management
- Theme 2: Species management
- Theme 3: Genetic resource use
- Theme 4: Agrobiodiversity
- Theme 5: Ecological sustainable industry development
- Theme 6: Biosecurity
- Theme 7: Waste management
- Theme 8: Human resources & institutional development
- Theme 9: Resource owners
- Theme 10: Mainstreaming biodiversity
- Theme 11: Financial resources

Each of the Themes is further elaborated into a Strategy Goal and a number of Objectives under which Actions are identified in turn. There is a total of 34 Objectives.

It is interesting to note that the individual states have also adopted their own NBSAP. The State of Yap NBSAP has the following seven Action Areas

1. Institutional Arrangements (“Getting our act together”)
2. Securing and enhancing traditional knowledge (Securing and building on what we already know)
3. Inventory and Monitoring (“Counting our blessings and identifying problems”)
4. Biosecurity (Addressing invasive species, wildfires and climate change)
5. Addressing Pollution (Earthmoving activities, solid waste and hazardous materials)
6. Environmental awareness, research and capacity building
7. Developing stewardship programs and ecologically sustainable industries (making a living without killing Yap)

Republic of Palau National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The NBSAP for Palau, which was prepared in 2005, has eight Strategic Themes -

1. Protected/Managed Areas
2. Species Protection
3. Biosecurity – Invasive Species and Biosafety
4. Sharing Benefits of Genetic Resources
5. Sustainable Economic Development
6. Prevent or Minimize Waste
7. Agricultural Biodiversity
8. Mainstreaming of Biodiversity Conservation

Each Strategic Theme has a Vision and a Goal and each goal will be achieved through the fulfilment of Objectives, which have been identified as priority areas that must be addressed to enable the sustainable use and management of biodiversity.

Niue National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The Niue NBSAP has seven Themes and each has a variable number of Objectives making 20 Objectives in all. The Themes are the following:

- Theme 1: Conservation and Sustainable Management of Terrestrial Habitats
- Theme 2: Conservation of Terrestrial Species
- Theme 3: Coastal, Inshore and Marine Biodiversity
- Theme 4: Governance
- Theme 5: Waste Management and Water Resources
- Theme 6: Alien and Invasive Species
- Theme 7: Education and Public Awareness

The Themes, together with the 20 Objectives (some of which are very narrow and specific) were taken into account when determining the new Objectives for the Action Strategy.

National Conservation Strategy, Republic of Vanuatu

The Vanuatu NBSAP identifies ten national conservation goals ranging from awareness raising and understanding, to sustainable use, improved management and fulfilling international obligations. It then focuses on five priorities for action, develops strategies for each, and recommends initiatives for specific government and civil organizations and private individuals. The five priorities are:

- ➔ Education and awareness
- ➔ Environmental legislation
- ➔ Institutional strengthening
- ➔ Preservation of natural resources and tabu places
- ➔ Promote sustainable and efficient use of resources

The above five priority areas are taken into account in developing the new Objectives for the strengthened Action Strategy.

Papua New Guinea National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The PNG NBSAP established six goals:

- Goal 1 To conserve, sustainably use, and manage the country's biological diversity
- Goal 2 To strengthen and promote institutional and human capacity building for biodiversity conservation, management and sustainable use
- Goal 3 To strengthen partnership and promote coordination for conserving biodiversity
- Goal 4 To strengthen existing protected areas and ensure that protected areas for terrestrial species and marine species are increased to 10% by 2010 and 2012;
- Goal 5 Ensure a fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of genetic and ecosystem resources
- Goal 6 Promote and strengthen research of the country's biological diversity and the sustainable development of the country's biological resources

These six Goals are to be achieved through nine broad programmes over the next five years and the programmes have been prioritized into four different categories as follows:

- ➔ Priority 1 programmes are: Policy and Legislation; Financial and Technical Resources; and Human Capacities
- ➔ Priority 2 programme is: Access and Benefit Sharing
- ➔ Priority 3 programmes are: Research and Information on Biodiversity; and in situ and ex situ Biodiversity Conservation
- ➔ Priority 4 programmes are: Measures of Sustainability of Biodiversity Use; and Education and Public Awareness

Programme nine: Monitoring and Evaluation, applies equally across the breadth of the four different priority areas.

Samoa's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The Samoa Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan establishes the following nine Goals:

- Goal 1 Policies and legislation
- Goal 2 Community involvement
- Goal 3 Cooperation and coordination
- Goal 4 Public awareness
- Goal 5 Capacity building
- Goal 6 Protection of genetic resources
- Goal 7 Prevention, control and eradication
- Goal 8 Social and economic development
- Goal 9 Education

It then adopts a number of objectives and actions under each of the following eight themes:

1. Mainstreaming Biodiversity
2. Ecosystem Management
3. Species Management
4. Community
5. Access and Benefit Sharing from Use of Genetic Resources
6. Biosecurity
7. Agrobiodiversity
8. Financing Resources & Mechanisms

Finally, the Samoa NBSAP recognizes four short-term priorities (3-5 years):

- ➔ Preparing Policies & Review of Regulations
- ➔ Education: Formal and Information Courses
- ➔ Ratifying other relevant international and regional biological treaties & conventions
- ➔ Economic Valuation of Natural Resources & Having it part of the country's GDP:

and five long-term priorities (10-15 years):

- ➔ Conservation Fund/Trust Fund for the Environment
- ➔ Conservation & Sustainable Use of Upland/Mountain Ecosystems
- ➔ Conservation & Sustainable Use of Volcanic & Lava Areas
- ➔ Conservation & Sustainable Use of Wetland Resources (lakes, marshes, and mangroves)
- ➔ Further strategic studies of Samoa's biodiversity

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Tonga

The Tongan National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan establishes eight strategic goals and each is considered as a theme under each of which there is a number of objectives, strategies and actions. These are:

1. Forest Ecosystems
2. Marine Ecosystems
3. Species Conservation
4. Agrobiodiversity
5. Local communities and civil society
6. Access and Benefit Sharing from the use of Genetic resources and traditional ecological knowledge
7. Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation
8. Financial Resources and Mechanisms

New Caledonia Biodiversity Conservation Plan

The New Caledonia Biodiversity Conservation Plan is being developed within the framework of France's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. It has two overarching goals and these are:

- ➔ To update environmental laws and regulations in order to better integrate sustainable development (environment, economy, social) to future development plans;
- ➔ To be part of a Regional (Southwest) Strategy on Biodiversity (through SPREP's network) and therefore be acknowledged (on the international scene) for biodiversity conservation.

Under these two goals, there are five objectives as follows:

1. To maintain a good ecological quality at the national level
2. To develop an integrated program on conservation of marine and terrestrial ecosystems
3. To improve our knowledge on Biodiversity to better manage and preserve it
4. To acknowledge the economic value of Biodiversity
5. To improve the integration of Biodiversity by decision-makers, civil society and customary communities

French Polynesia, Plan d'Action et Stratégie pour la Biodiversité (PANSB) 2006

The document is downloadable from the web site of the French Ministry of Ecology at http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Polynesie_Francaise.pdf under the name "Statégie Nationale pour la Biodiversité. Plan d'action Outre-Mer pour la Polynésie française".

The Island Biodiversity PoW

The Island Biodiversity Programme of Work is a set of priority and supporting actions to implement the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in islands. It was adopted at the Eighth Conference of the Parties (COP8) to the CBD in Brazil, March 2006. The Programme of Work recognizes that all islands, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in particular, rely on biodiversity for sustainable development, have close links between culture and environment, have special concerns and particular vulnerabilities, have limited land area, have high levels of endemism and extensive coastal and marine biodiversity.

The PoW has seven main focal areas, eleven goals (NOTE: "focal areas" are unique to the Island POW; goals are common to other CBD Programmes of work) and 22 targets together with priority actions and supporting actions. The following are the Focal Areas and Goals:

FOCAL AREA 1: PROTECT THE COMPONENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

GOAL 1: Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of island ecosystems, habitats and biomes

GOAL 2: Promote the conservation of island species diversity

GOAL 3: Promote the conservation of island genetic diversity

FOCAL AREA 2: PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE

GOAL 4: Promote sustainable use and consumption

FOCAL AREA 3: ADDRESS THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY

GOAL 5: Pressures from habitat loss, land-use change and degradation, and sustainable water use, reduced on islands

GOAL 6: Control threats to island biological diversity from invasive alien species

GOAL 7: Address challenges to island biodiversity from climate change, and pollution

FOCAL AREA 4: MAINTAIN GOODS AND SERVICES FROM BIODIVERSITY TO SUPPORT HUMAN WELL-BEING

GOAL 8: Maintain capacity of island ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods

FOCAL AREA 5: PROTECT TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES

GOAL 9: Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities on islands

FOCAL AREA 6: ENSURE THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS ARISING OUT OF THE USE OF GENETIC RESOURCES

GOAL 10: Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of island genetic resources

FOCAL AREA 7: ENSURE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE RESOURCES

GOAL 11: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention

The Pacific Plan

Management of the natural environment, biodiversity conservation and protection of the environment is not the central theme of the Pacific Plan. There is, however, an overt reference to the environment in the form of Strategic Objective 5: Improved Natural Resource and Environmental Management, with initiatives for the first three years in:

sustainable development

fisheries

waste management

energy

water management

climate change

financing for sustainable development, biodiversity, climate change, etc

ANNEX 6: ANALYSIS OF PAST ACTION STRATEGIES

The following timeline outlines the key themes of the Pacific regional conservation conference series and the resulting versions of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region that were developed as a result of these conferences. The timeline begins with the first conference in 1975.

1970 - 1979

- ➔ Pacific islanders discuss conservation status of their countries at the first South Pacific National Parks and Reserves Conference (1975). The Conference, now held every four years, plays an important role in the promotion of Pacific island conservation efforts.
- ➔ The Conference recommends that governments enable customary owners to protect their land as national parks or reserves while maintaining ownership and/or rights (Eaton 1985b).

1980 – 1989

- ➔ The Third South Pacific National Parks and Reserves Conference (1985) - changed the conference name to the South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, to better reflect the importance of the wider issues of biodiversity conservation for the region (Fuavao 1989).
- ➔ Goals were set by Conference to be achieved by 1989: at least one protected area established in each of the region's countries and territories; 40% of the region's ecosystems represented in PAs; and/or, 50 new PAs established (Dahl 1985, 7). Unfortunately, none of these ambitious targets were reached.
- ➔ The first Pacific Islands Action Strategy for Nature Conservation (1986) focused on the establishment and management of protected areas (PAs) (SPREP 2004a) rather than broader issues of sustainable development. Initiated a four-year review schedule.
- ➔ The Fourth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas (1989) marked a fundamental change from PAs for nature conservation to PAs for the sustenance of people, with the theme, "the role of PAs in sustaining Pacific island societies." It concluded that "conservation area" was more appropriate than "protected area" because it incorporated people and use into conservation, and emphasised management for resource conservation (SPREP 1993) rather than preservation.

1990 – 1999

- ➔ The Fifth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas (1993) focused on issues related to community involvement in conservation and sustainable development (SPREP 1993). There was also an increased focus on community-based initiatives and the rights of traditional owners and managers.
- ➔ The Action Strategy for Nature Conservation endorsed the concept of community-based conservation areas.
- ➔ The Sixth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas (1997) reflected on conservation experiences within the region (Miller & Sim 1997).
- ➔ The Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands (1989) emphasized community-based conservation, marine conservation and long-term conservation funding mechanisms. Regional and international organisations signed and committed to implementing the Strategy.

The Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation was launched (1998), bringing together regional and international conservation organisations and donors, The Round Table promotes implementation of the Action Strategy and encourages greater regional ownership of the Action Strategy (SPREP 2004a).

2000 – 2008

- ➔ The Seventh Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas (2002) considered conservation in a more holistic and integrative way as "mainstreaming nature conservation."
- ➔ The Conference encouraged the promotion and support of Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA)
- ➔ The Pacific Islands Action Strategy for Nature Conservation (2003) focused on mainstreaming conservation and sustainable development. PAs were considered an important conservation tool, but not the focus. Objective 1.2 aimed to increase the number of areas under effective conservation management by placing emphasis on "community-based conservation management" (SPREP 2004a).
- ➔ The Eighth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas (2007) had a theme of "conservation serving communities."
- ➔ The Conference developed a new Action Strategy for Nature Conservation (2008 – 2012), which featured a code of conduct for conservation in the region, a set of guidelines for implementing conservation projects with communities (based on lessons learned) and refocused on a Pacific style of conservation centred on the aspirations of communities.

(source: Axford, J. (2007) 'What Constitutes Success in Pacific Island Community Conserved Areas' University of Queensland, unpublished doctoral thesis)

ANNEX 7: WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation you can contact:

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Cover - clockwise from left: Jill Key; Victoria Crowned Pigeon (*Goura victoria*). By Roger James; *Coxphixalus nubicola*. By Steve Richards; Jill Key; Goodenough Island Forest Wallaby (*Dorcopsis atrata*) caught by Max Ata'ata from Liuliu Village, Eweli, Goodenough Island, Milne Bay Province, PNG. By Roger James.

Back cover - clockwise from left: Goodfellow's Tree Kangaroo (*Dendrolagus goodfellowi*). By Roger James; Southern Cassowary (*Casuarius casuarius*). By Roger James; Ribbon-tailed Astrapia (*Astrapia mayeri*). By Bruce Beehler; Jill Key; *Albericus siegfriedi*. Critically endangered frog from Mt Elimbari, PNG. By Steve Richards.



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