

PACIFIC REGIONAL JOINT PREPARATORY MEETING

for the
**12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
(CBD),**
**11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species
(CMS)**
and the
12th Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Meeting Report

11 - 15 August, 2014

Nadi, Fiji



Pacific Joint Preparatory Meeting Participants (Nadi, Fiji, 2014) ©SPREP

MEETING REPORT

11 - 15 August, 2014

Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, Fiji

The Pacific Joint Preparatory Meeting was organized and convened by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme in close collaboration with the Secretariats of the CBD, CMS, CITES, Ramsar and UNEP-ROAP.

Financial assistance and support received from:
Australian Aid through the International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative, the CMS ACP-MEA project component, Ramsar and the GIZ ABS Capacity Development Initiative (cost sharing arrangement).

MEETING OUTCOMES

The Pacific regional joint preparatory meeting and its outcomes were formally endorsed by SPREP members at the 25th SPREP Meeting held in Majuro from the 1-3 October, 2014.

The participants to the Pacific Regional Joint Preparatory Meeting for the 12th CBD COP, 11th CMS COP and 12th Ramsar COP held in Nadi, Fiji from the 11 - 15 August, 2014, concluded with the following key outcomes:

1. Noted that this joint preparatory meeting for the CBD, CMS and Ramsar COPs is a historical event where all sister conventions came together, including CITES in an observer capacity, as part of preparations for the COPs to strengthen synergies between each other and the possible harmonization of each other's work program.
2. Noted the importance of synergies between the biodiversity related MEAs and strongly supported the need for effective coordination amongst the MEAs. The work of each MEA complements each other, especially towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
3. Recognized existing efforts to strengthen synergies across MEA Secretariats at the global level, including institutional and programmatic cooperation.
4. Noted the close alignment between the new Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Island region 2014-2020 and the NBSAPs and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and called for commitment from Governments, development partners, donors, NGOs, local communities and all those involved in conservation action to support the implementation of these key biodiversity policy frameworks at all levels.
5. Recognized the importance of strengthening coordination and cooperation with the new Framework for Pacific Regionalism.
6. Requested the Secretariats of the biodiversity MEAs to further explore options for harmonized reporting against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

7. Recognized the importance of values for biodiversity and ecosystems services and the need for Parties to ensure that NBSAP is costed and its implementation is factored into national accounting and budgetary processes through development of resource mobilisation plans.
8. Noted that the NBSAP is an overarching policy document and should engage the focal points and other relevant stakeholders in its development, implementation, monitoring and reporting. The NBSAP should integrate and reflect key objectives of key biodiversity MEAs, have measurable targets and indicators to enhance its successful implementation.
9. Strongly emphasized the greater need and importance of involving the private sector, NGOs, communities and civil societies in the implementation of NBSAPs.
10. Emphasized the importance of developing private sector partnership and local community members.
11. Highlighted the level of commitment shown by the region through declaration of large sanctuaries and Ramsar sites to protect threatened migratory species and habitats and to ensure the sustainable use of resources for the benefit of local communities.
12. Recognized the abundance of internationally significant wetlands and the potential to establish more Ramsar sites.
13. Strongly called for mainstreaming of MEAs into sectoral and national sustainable development plans by Pacific Island Countries and Territories and stressed the importance of developing national targets that are relevant, achievable and implementable together with national and sectoral plans.
14. Stressed the need to address threats to biodiversity in the Pacific from invasive species; linear barriers, marine debris, climate change, underwater noise, habitat loss and degradation, wildlife diseases, pollution and poisoning, illegal fishing , and climate change.
15. Recognised that there is a wealth of technical capacity and initiatives available through the various

Conventions (e.g.) CMS MoU Technical Advisory Groups; InforMEA which enables access to MEA information and Species Plus which allows users to access and search for species by common and scientific names in relation to CITES, CMS and EU annexes.

16. Highlighted the urgent need for dedicated support to national focal points for simplifying administration, implementation and reporting on multiple biodiversity MEAs.
17. Recognized the value of partnership with and the role of relevant NGOs, academic institutions and other regional organisations with implementation at the grassroots levels in terms of sharing data and expertise.
18. Recognized the need for better cooperation across range states and countries including private sector and continued community engagement in migratory species conservation and Ramsar site management.
19. Recognized that high level interest can result in getting political will and/or advocating to ministerial level to gauge their support to promote species work at the national level.
20. Noted the value of the Pacific Voyage Campaign and encourages effective participation by countries in highlighting key messages such as traditional stories about migratory species, community initiatives, pacific legends, and the importance of island and ocean biodiversity.
21. Recognized the key role of SPREP as a conduit for strengthening communication between National Focal Points and MEA Secretariats, thus increasing access to information to assist with implementation.
22. Noted the value of having CMS and Ramsar positions at SPREP and express the desire to create similar positions for other biodiversity related MEAs such as CITES.
23. Noted that the economic valuation of biodiversity is important as a tool to provide information for decision making and stressed the need for these to be conducted properly to reflect social and cultural values.

24. Encouraged Pacific island delegates to learn and understand COP processes and its dynamics and to ensure our Pacific voices are heard and have an impact on COP decisions.
25. Noted that invasive species and living modified organisms (LMOs) could be integrated under one legislation as in New Zealand.

Marine and coastal biodiversity

26. Noted the need to incorporate socio-cultural and local communities (Traditional Knowledge) inputs into Ecological and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs); review and also update Pacific EBSAs.
27. In the context of underwater noise, it was important to note:
 - seabed mining as an emerging issue and how it impacts biodiversity related convention, such as CMS with respect to cetaceans and tourism industry, also the socio-economic activity impact such as whale watching;
 - a need to consider precautionary principles in light of limited information on seabed mining and biodiversity surveys.
28. Ocean Acidification has a long term impact on coral reefs, therefore a need to develop a long term monitoring system for Pacific Island Countries to monitor the impacts of OA on coral reefs to identify resilient reefs and develop network of resilient MMAs and MPAs.
 - Note the ocean acidification workshop will be held before the UN SIDS conference which hopes to establish stronger monitoring programs in the Pacific seas.
 - Inform COP of the need to improve understanding of potential responses to OA for specific coastal habitats and resources including seagrass and coral reefs.
29. Noted that while the Aichi Target 10 will not be achieved in the current timeframe, strongly recommend to extend the timeline for this target. Efforts are ongoing to reduce anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs in an attempt to have the best possible chance of achieving the target. Additionally, to create incentives and an enabling environment to encourage private sector support to sustainable fisheries, forestry and agriculture.

30. On Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), highlighted the Pacific Alliance under the Oceanscape Vision and Framework as a tool which brings together PICTs to encourage wider global ocean community in ocean governance.

- Request the Secretariat of the CBD to facilitate financial and technical support to PICTs to conduct MSP following capacity building as it is an expensive exercise.
- Urge Parties to use the outcomes of the MSP exercise to help inform conservation and development policies and plans.

Invasive Alien Species (IAS)

31. Noted actions taken to address IAS in the Pacific Islands region such as:

- a. Use IAS guidelines and also note that some countries have committed their GEF 6 allocation;
- b. NISSAP milestones by Tonga, Niue, Cook Is, Vanuatu, Palau, Samoa and Kiribati;
- c. Pacific Invasive Partnership and Pacific Invasives Learning Network efforts;
- d. Examples from Samoa and Cook Islands rapid response efforts to mongoose, fruit fly, and rat eradication;
- e. Desktop studies completed to identify pathways.

Cooperation across MEAs

32. The Pacific Island Countries appreciate the effort of the biodiversity MEAs and regional organisations (such as SPREP, UNDP, UNEP regional office for Asia and the Pacific and newly established sub-regional office located at the Secretariat of SPREP, Samoa) towards greater cooperation and synergies which in turn help with implementation and reporting.

33. Requested the biodiversity Convention Secretariats to assist Pacific Island Countries to:

- a. Facilitate funding support to Parties to strengthen reporting and implementation at the national level;
- b. Investigate opportunities for a common reporting mechanism to the different Conventions;
- c. Investigate joint mechanisms toward the achievement of the Aichi Targets;
- d. Ensure when drafting Decisions or Resolutions for presentation to the respective MEA COPs, references are made to Decisions or Resolutions on the same topic from other Conventions.

Resource mobilization and the Financial Mechanism

34. Noted the importance of resource mobilization and the Financial Mechanism (GEF) to the Pacific and urge Pacific island parties to review carefully relevant documents and seek appropriate technical expertise and advice to assist in preparation for the COP meetings.
35. Stressed the need to provide training support in the development of alternative resource mobilization for biodiversity projects and programmes.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

BLG	Biodiversity Liaison Group
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wildlife Flora and Fauna
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wildlife
COP	Conference of the Parties
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
CSAB	Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions
EBSA	Ecological and Biologically Significant Areas
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMG	Environment Management Group
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
IGO	Inter-Governmental Organisation
IBPES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IKM	Information and Knowledge Management
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MELAD	Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development
MMA	Marine Managed Areas
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NISSAP	National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan
OA	Ocean Acidification
PIC /PICT	Pacific island countries / Pacific Island countries and territories
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

PI/PIR	Pacific Islands / Pacific Islands region
PIROP	Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy
PIRT	Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UN SIDS	UN International Conference on Small Islands Developing States
WDC	Whale and Dolphin Conservation
WWF-SPPO	Worldwide Fund for Nature South Pacific Programme Office
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USP	University of the South Pacific

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1. Background

SPREP is the lead regional organization responsible for coordinating the implementation of the following biodiversity Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) in the Pacific Islands region: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), and Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. This role of SPREP is articulated in the SPREP Strategic Plan 2011 - 2015. More specifically, the SPREP Strategic Plan calls for a strategic shift in the way SPREP and its member countries implement key priorities of the Strategic Plan and more importantly the engagement of PICs in MEAs. The emphasis is now on more streamlined reporting, strengthening synergies and linkages between the conventions and the coordination and implementation of joint activities. In this regard and in line with SPREP's new strategic direction, the SPREP Division for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management delivered the first Pacific regional joint preparatory meeting for the CBD COP12, CMS COP11 and Ramsar COP12 as an initial attempt to discuss and deliberate on biodiversity and related priority issues that are relevant and important to the Pacific. The main aim of this joint preparatory meeting was to ensure Pacific island parties are well prepared and coordinated so they can engage effectively at COP meetings.

2. Introduction

The Pacific Regional Joint Preparatory Meeting was conducted from the 11 - 15 August, 2014, at the Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, Fiji Islands.

The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- strengthen synergies and cooperation across the biodiversity MEAs;
- enhance understanding of COP agenda items and expected decisions;
- identify and discuss priority issues for the Pacific;
- enhance negotiation skills and techniques.

The **expected outcomes** of the meeting were:

- identified and agreed key priorities for the Pacific;
- prepared draft meeting outcome statement;
- prepared draft Engagement Roadmap;
- drafted Pacific Voyage key messages;
- identified additional technical support and resources.

3. Meeting Participants

There were a total of 45 participants representing 15 SPREP Members, three NGOs, two UN Agencies, two CROP Agencies and four biodiversity MEA Secretariats. A full participants list including contact details is in Annex 1.

4. Meeting Record

Day 1: Monday 11th August, 2014

Session 1: Official opening

The meeting was officially opened with a prayer by the delegate from Marshall Islands, Ms. Josepha Maddison. Statements from Mr. David Sheppard, SPREP Director General and Mr. John Scanlon, Secretary General of CITES were delivered via video recording. Opening statements made on behalf of the CMS, CBD and Ramsar Executive Secretaries were delivered by Ms. Melanie Virtue, Mr. David Duthie and Mr. Lew Young respectively. Opening remarks were then made by Mr. Stuart Chape, SPREP's Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Division Director and Ms. Makiko Yashiro of the UNEP Regional Office for Asia-Pacific.

All speakers acknowledged and commended SPREP's efforts in coordinating and organizing the first joint preparatory meeting for the Pacific Islands region. They reiterated the importance of having joint meetings for the Pacific islands region to discuss key issues which are common across the biodiversity MEAs to ensure these are conveyed and communicated in an effective and coordinated manner to amplify and reinforce Pacific issues at COP meetings. The CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020 was noted as the main overarching global framework to which the efforts of other biodiversity MEAs are aligned and contribute to the achievement of the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The review of the NBSAPs was highlighted as a key process and instrument providing guidance and direction to the implementation of the objectives of the biodiversity MEAs. In this regard, the importance of integrating priorities of key biodiversity MEAs into NBSAPs was noted as one of the essential elements of the process for the review of NBSAPs.

Copies of the opening statements are attached as Annex 2.

Session 2: Overview, meeting objectives and expected outcomes.

Ms. Easter Galuvao of SPREP provided a brief overview of the meeting objectives and expected outcomes including the agenda and structure of the meeting. The agenda is attached as Annex 3.

Session 3: Key strategic biodiversity frameworks

CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Mr. David Duthie of the CBD Secretariat presented on key findings of the Global Biodiversity Outlook 4 (GBO-4) which had just been completed for presentation to the CBD COP12. The presentation highlighted overall key findings for each of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. As part of the presentation, he asked participants to provide an assessment for specific targets for their respective countries. Target 10 was noted to be one that will not be achieved based on the findings in the GBO-4 unless the timeline to achieve this is extended. Mr. Duthie offered to assist PICs with the setting of targets for the revised and updated NBSAPs.

Tonga NBSAP

Ms. Lupe Matoto and Ms. Eileen Fonua presented on Tonga's experiences in the review of their NBSAPs. A key part of the NBSAP review process consisted of the preparation of Tonga's 5th National Report to the CBD which was compiled through a literature and desktop review, community consultations and ecological / socio-economic surveys conducted throughout the country. The 5th National Report provided an update on the current status of the implementation of Tonga's NBSAP and this information formed the basis for updating Tonga's NBSAP. The latest iteration of the NBSAP is structured around eight thematic areas, namely: forest ecosystems; marine ecosystems; agro-ecosystems; species conservation; local community and civil society; access and benefit sharing; mainstreaming and financial resources. Recognising that invasive alien species is an addition to the NBSAP, Tonga looks to integrate their National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) into the NBSAP and acknowledged the support from the GEF PAS project in completing Tonga's NISSAP. Tonga expects to have the first NBSAP draft completed by September 2014. Some of the challenges noted include the need for more awareness programmes to outer islands; strengthened coordination and monitoring efforts for effective implementation and capacity - human, technical and financial.

Discussion

The following comments were made:

- Noted that while there were no Environment officers to conduct EIA assessments due to resource constraints, attempts are being made to establish Environment officers under existing Acts which should enable compliance officers from Fisheries & Health to be included as Environment Officers under the Environment Act allowing them to implement EIA regulations.

Palau NBSAP

Ms. Nanette Malsol presented on Palau's NBSAP and pointed out that the principles, priorities, policies, instruments and programmes of the NBSAP, encompasses the means by which Palau intends to implement and achieve the Convention objectives. The Palau NBSAP is concentrated in seven focal areas: Protected / managed areas; species protection; biosecurity including invasive species and biosafety; sharing benefits of genetic resources; sustainable economic development; agricultural biodiversity and mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation. Noted that Palau began updating its current NBSAP in 2013 and is on target to finalise this process by October 2014. The process for Palau involved coordination between government agencies, NGOs, media, education system and close collaborations with the OERC and Palau Conservation Society. Noted that there are 16 State governments in Palau which is often a challenge especially in trying to coordinate different interests and priorities across key agencies and stakeholders.

Discussion

The following comments were made:

- WWF-SPPO noted its experience in Fiji where they have made headway through having a provincial natural resources management strategy with an environment officer at the Provincial level.
- New Zealand's experience noted the difficulty in getting buy in from NZ agencies that do not interact with conservation / biological issues. The idea was to assign agencies to be a different 'shepherd / kaitiaki' of the different NBSAP targets and for political buy-in, the importance of close collaboration with regional agencies is crucial.

- Noted progress in PNG where they have developed and launched a strategic sustainable development plan.

Framework for nature conservation and protected areas in the Pacific Islands region 2014-2020

Ms. Easter Galuvao provided an overview of the new Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas which provides guidance to Pacific Island Countries and Territories, regional organizations, NGOs, the international donor community, local communities, governments and partners working together on biodiversity conservation in the region. It essentially provides a bridge between global and national biodiversity targets by showing how conservation priorities in the region are aligned with the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Framework was noted as a key mechanism which facilitates the sharing of best practices for conservation and strengthens coordination and cooperation across key conservation stakeholders at all levels. Key features of the Framework were highlighted which included: a 30 year Vision, Mission and Goals, key Objectives which are aligned to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and a set of Principles and a code of conduct which guides the work of all those involved in conservation work including projects and programmes.

The Framework was adopted at the 9th Pacific Islands Conference for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, Suva, December 2013 and is planned to be launched as a partnership platform at the Third SIDS Conference in Samoa in September, 2014 before it is officially presented for endorsement at the 25 SPREP Meeting in October, 2014.

There are two main parts to the Framework. Part 1 is the guiding principles and code of conduct, and includes a new principle on “Resilience and sustainability. Part 2 shows how the Framework is aligned to the Aichi Targets, NBSAPS and other regional initiatives, and provides a way for assessing progress.

Framework for Pacific Regionalism

Mr. Ryan Medrana of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat presented on the Framework for Pacific Regionalism which was commissioned recently. The Framework is a recasting of the Pacific Plan as a high level overarching guiding document with no listing of sectoral priorities as these are left up to sectoral policy strategies such as the Framework for Nature Conservation, PI Regional Oceans Policy and others to inform planning at this level.

The theme of the 45th PIFS was "Ocean, Life & future" which is reflected in the Palau declaration endorsed by leaders. The theme and the declaration clearly demonstrates the increasing importance accorded to oceans as a key priority area.

Discussion

The following comments were made:

- Noted the importance of raising biodiversity issues in PIFS meetings as has been done on issues concerning oceans climate change and invasive species
- Noted that the new Pacific Ocean Alliance is a mechanism that was called for in the Oceanscape framework due to the need for high level advocacy to promote the issue on the global agenda. The framework called for a Pacific Ocean Commissioner who is the Secretary General of the PIFS

Session 4: Group Work

Participants worked in groups discussing and assessing gaps and opportunities to strengthen linkages and synergies between national, regional and global biodiversity frameworks. A summary of this is as follows, with additional details of the group work attached as Annex 4.

- Cross sectoral planning & integration of the 3 biodiversity frameworks to design national policy. After having gone through the key requirements, it would be better to develop and implement a cross sectoral policy;
- Reiterate importance of alignment and having the right people at the right meetings. Ensuring that the focal point and the national planning officer are talking to each other and are aware of the Conventions and the commitments;
- Importance of engaging and fostering private / public partnerships and ensuring benefits go where they are supposed to;
- Call to revive the NBSAP Working Group through the PIRT and SPREP will be driving this but calls on commitment from members given that that is what will drive it / not. Depends also on specific needs that members would like the working group to assist with;
- Understanding that there needs to be an emphasis placed on long term conservation benefits versus short term gains.

Summary of key outcomes for Day 1

The meeting:

- 1) Acknowledged the joint preparatory meeting for the Pre-COP of the MEA's CITES, CBD, CMS and Ramsar as a historical event where all sister conventions have come together as part of preparations for the COP meetings to look at synergies between each other and possible harmonization of each other's work program.
- 2) Noted the importance of synergies between the MEA's which strongly supports the need for effective coordination amongst the MEA's
- 3) Recognized the importance of the values of biodiversity and ecosystems functions and the need for countries to ensure that NBSAPs are costed and its implementation is factored in national accounting or budgetary processes through development of resource management plans for NBSAP's.
- 4) Strongly emphasized the greater need and importance of involving the private sector in implementation of NBSAP's and the need for developing Private Public Partnership
- 5) Requested for more sharing lessons learnt, good practices, success stories and good case studies from the region amongst others.
- 6) Also noted that NBSAP is an overarching document and should include indicators and make references to other MEAs to be more effective in its implementation.
- 7) Strongly called for mainstreaming of MEAs into sectoral plans by countries.
- 8) Also stressed the importance of developing national targets that are relevant, achievable and implementable.
- 9) Noted the strong focus on threats based from the invasive species which become an increasing emerging problem in the Pacific.

Side event: Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal

Ms. Amanda Wheatley of SPREP presented on the draft Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal. The main aim of the side event was to seek further feedback from PI participants and partners on key elements of the portal which included the content, structure and the 'Talanoa' discussion forum and how best to link protected area practitioners for sharing of information and accessing advice. Participants emphasized the need to access information on PI protected areas in one place and for information to be easily

searchable, and hold full information on each countries' protected areas across the spectrum of classifications. The points raised were in line with the intentions of the portal.

Day 2: Tuesday 12th August, 2014

Session 5: Report back

Day 2 started with a report back from the Drafting Committee on key outcomes from Day 1. Participants provided feedback and comments to embellish on the draft presented by the Drafting Committee.

Session 6: Convention on Migratory Species

Ms. Penina Solomona introduced this session and provided an overview of the CMS and engaged participants in reflecting on how work they have undertaken in other biodiversity related MEAs (e.g.) CBD, Ramsar or CITES, could be achieved or aligned to the objectives of the CMS.

Oceania humpback whales: migration, population structure and threats.

Dr. Cara Miller of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, highlighted the diversity of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) in the Pacific Islands Region and their importance to Pacific Island (PI) people and region due to a variety of reasons including cultural linkages, ecotourism benefits, as well as having significant biodiversity value and ecosystem function. It was noted that within the PI there are documented records of occurrence of more than 40 cetaceans with the humpback whale, sperm whale, and spinner dolphin noted as the most frequently reported.

The presentation also noted the following key points:

- Records for a wide variety of species such as a number of baleen whales (including blue whales, fin whales, and minke whales), many large and medium sized odontocete whales (including short-finned pilot whale, false killer whale, and Cuvier's beaked whale), as well as numerous dolphin species (such as striped dolphin, Risso's dolphin, and pantropical spotted dolphin).
- Cetacean species found in the PI exhibit a large variety of life-history characteristics from small localized populations with high fidelity to others who make annual migrations of 1000s of kilometres on an annual basis.

- These species rely on a wide variety of habitats and/or environmental and ecosystem conditions – and also collectively face numerous threats such as fisheries bycatch and entanglement, pollution, climate change, noise, ship strikes, habitat degradation, drive hunts, and resumption of commercial whaling or scientific permit whaling (in Antarctic waters).
- The paucity of scientific data and limited amount of cetacean research in the PI makes it very difficult to assess conservation status of any of these species.

The Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS)

Ms. Melanie Virtue of the CMS Secretariat provided an overview of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Animals of Wild Animals, or Bonn Convention which was signed in 1979 and is a framework for countries for the conservation of migratory species throughout their entire range. She noted that the CMS currently has 120 Parties, of which four are PICs. Noted the definition of migratory species as defined by the Convention to include the entire population of species or geographically distinct part of species of which a significant proportion must 'cyclically and predictably' or 'periodically' cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries. The presentation also pointed out that CMS is the only intergovernmental treaty that deals with all migratory species in six primary taxonomic groups (i.e.) migratory birds, terrestrial mammals, marine mammals, marine turtles, fish and insects as well as their migratory routes.

The following key features of CMS were noted:

- Migratory species are critical in ecosystems as they provide *inter alia* regulatory services (e.g. pollination), indicators for ecological changes (e.g. climate), socio-economic benefits (e.g. wildlife watching) and cultural services (e.g. totemic).
- Migratory species are globally threatened by factors including barriers to migration (e.g.) power lines; habitat loss and degradation as a consequence of poorly informed development; invasive alien species and climate change.
- The CMS Strategic Plan 2015 - 2023 is based on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and will be presented to COP in November for endorsement.
- CMS has two appendices of which Appendix I contains a listing of species in danger of extinction and for which no taking is permitted with exceptions made for science, breeding and traditional subsistence users, while Appendix II is a list of species which have an unfavourable conservation

status and would significant benefit from an Agreement either legally (e.g. gorilla) or non-legally binding (e.g. Pacific cetaceans).

- MOUs relevant to the Pacific include the Pacific Cetaceans which currently has 15 Signatories, the Sharks with four PIC Signatories and the Dugong with five. The Pacific Cetaceans MOU adopted the SPREP Whale and Dolphin Action Plan (2013 - 2017) and has held three Signatory meetings. The Shark MOU lists seven species of migratory sharks of which six may be found in the PIR.

CMS in the Pacific Islands region

Ms. Penina Solomona in her presentation noted that there are currently 6 CMS Parties in Oceania, namely, Australia; Cook Islands; Fiji; New Zealand; Palau and Samoa. Pointed out that the Pacific region is 'home' to some 160 migratory species listed on the CMS Appendices, at some point during their migrations. Noted that migratory species cross multiple boundaries thereby making their protection a collective responsibility.

The presentation highlighted the following key points:

- SPREP's Strategic Plan has a specific CMS target which looks to increasing Pacific island engagement through recruitment to the convention or its associated MOUs.
- Acknowledged the significant contribution made by Mr. Lui Bell who worked with others on CMS Pacific milestones such as the memorandum of cooperation between SPREP and CMS; Pacific Cetaceans MOU (15 signatories to date); recruitment and support for CMS Pacific Officer post at SPREP and 2011 Pacific year of the dugong.
- Critical activities for the Pacific has been the preparation for CMS COP 11 and engagement has been through our participation at the development of the Pacific loggerhead turtle action plan, representation at the Scientific Council meeting including the proposals for listing manta and mobula rays onto CMS Appendices, the joint preparatory meeting, and specific CMS Pacific pre-COP meeting and training for the 'National Focal Point' manual.

Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals: Samoa.

Ms. Juney Ward of Samoa's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources presented on Samoa's experience in the conservation of migratory species. The presentation noted that Samoa became a party in 2005 following the Minister of Environment's encounter with dolphins while travelling to Savaii. This

was built on from a cabinet decision in 2002 to declare Samoa's EEZ a sanctuary for all marine mammals, turtles and sharks. Noted that MNRE is responsible for implementing CMS although the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is the focal point. Noted that this arrangement creates challenges such as late receipt of notifications from the CMS Secretariat.

Ms. Ward also highlighted the following points with regards to Samoa's CMS experience:

- Samoa budgets its national annual membership fee to CMS, which is relatively small compared to other Conventions, and thus, has always maintained its status with CMS.
- In 2006, Samoa was the convener for the Pacific Cetaceans MOU and also signed it in that year.
- In reference to national management of migratory species, Samoa has incorporated elements into the Marine Wildlife Protection Regulations (2009); Environment Management and Conservation Bill (draft, 2014); NBSAP (draft, 2014); Trade in Endangered Species Bill (2014); National Environment Sector Plan
- Samoa has accessed funding through the CMS Small Grants programme to undertake a survey of whales and dolphins around the Savaii islands; been a recipient of travel support to previous COPS, Meeting of Signatories, pre-COP and joint preparatory meeting. Noted that while reporting requirements are not as demanding as other Conventions due to their cycle (3 years) and it being on-line, they face challenges with gathering the information required as well as internet capacity.
- Other challenges noted included limited engagement with other stakeholders including the private sector; limited national staff members to implement; narrow scope of interest from other sectors.
- Samoa expressed their appreciation for the work of Mr. Lui Bell and also the CMS Pacific Officer.
- Suggested for additional names to be added to the CMS mailing list.

Discussion

The following comments were made:

- The CMS Secretariat appreciated the suggestion to include others on the mailing list in addition to asking countries to alert the Secretariat to information that they require

- Noted the involvement of the Minister as a 'champion for migratory species' which led to Samoa becoming a Party
- Noted the role of communities in migratory species conservation such as migratory species which are featured in some community action plans which could be showcased at the upcoming CMS COP 11.

Partnering with CMS

Dr. Cara Miller presented on key partnerships with CMS and noted that during CMS CoP10 (November 2011), a Civil Society Dialogue was convened to discuss how the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) community currently interacts the CMS Family. The Dialogue launched an 18 month research program that began in 2012 to further the understanding to form recommendations for the future. The following key points were highlighted with regards to engagement of NGOs: Over 100 NGOs and CMS Secretariat officials participated through a series of surveys and interviews. This included NGOs who both work closely with the CMS Family as well as those who are 'challenging critics'.

The primary findings of the review – called **A Natural Affiliation** - were that Government resource and capacity for CMS implementation is low; that NGOs believe that the CMS Family is important; and that while NGOs consider CMS a small part of their conservation programs (less than 10% of their conservation related work time), they would increase their engagement if the right 'dynamic' was created.

A major recommendation was to better use NGOs to provide implementation support, especially where priority gaps are identified or capacity building is needed in developing regions. CMS Parties were asked to consider this during CMS CoP11 (November 2014). A Resolution was subsequently passed on Enhancing the Relationship Between the CMS Family and Civil Society which agreed to review options for furthering the relationship between the CMS Family and civil society including, *inter alia*:

- a) Mechanisms to enable NGO-facilitated work to be formally and consistently reported across the CMS Family and to be considered by the Parties and CMS Family agreement governing bodies;
- b) Models for further NGO involvement in CMS processes; and
- c) Modalities for further strategic engagement with NGOs to provide implementation and capacity-building expertise.

This review will be presented to the 44th and 45th Meetings of the Standing Committee and will be submitted for further consideration at the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Group work:

Participants moved into groups and were tasked to discuss the following questions:

Given your current understanding of CMS:

1. how can you see the Convention working to help achieve your Aichi Targets / national biodiversity priorities;
2. what would you like to see reflected in the outcomes of our joint preparatory meeting about migratory species in the Pacific Islands region.

In summary, the three groups provided the following feedback to plenary. Refer to Annex 5 for further details of the group work outcomes.

- Addressing migratory species deals with many of the Aichi Biodiversity targets.
- We have many conventions, and so few staff, so the better integration of these conventions would make it easier for our smaller countries (i.e. better integration of similar conventions).
- Regional framework - SPREP Marine Species Action plan – is key and will help to achieve CMS and CBD targets;
- Engaging the private sector partnerships is a key to achieving the CMS target.
- To assist with findings on which species on the national biodiversity list that are migratory species – the lists are confusing (ie) what falls under CMS and what does not? Can the Secretariat clarify this;
- Continue SPREP CMS work – request the CMS Sec and SPREP to continue the CMS Pacific officer and their work programme.
- When talking about developing common understandings between different conventions relevant to the Pacific – see migratory marine species as something that is important to the Pacific region, but different government authorities have different mandates over these species. Need better cooperation. CMS can assist countries to develop good laws to help achieve this targets.

- Need to recognize community involvement in species conservation at the COP, take success stories and lessons.

Summary of key follow up actions and recommendations:

- CMS Secretariat volunteered to look at identifying the migratory species that were also listed under other conventions such as CITES, CBD (including NBSAPs) and Ramsar. The CMS PO will then distribute this list to participants.
- SPREP can help connect countries, even if not a party, to relevant technical expertise and help bridge data gaps at the national level. A reminder to Parties and Signatories to CMS / associated MOU of the technical advisory groups that are available as technical / resource capacities.
- Using the Pacific voyage campaign throughout all biodiversity related MEA COPs – this has become an effective vehicle at CBD COPS to raise the Pacific profile and voice.
- Stronger efforts need to be made to consolidate work happening in different areas / departments, to help report against targets which, in some cases, are not significantly different.

Side event: InforMEA

Ms. Makiko Yashiro presented on the UNEP InforMEA. She outlined common areas across the different MEAs which includes the designation of national focal points, submission of national reports, and the development of national action/implementation plans. Noted that all 18 MEA Secretariats covering 35 global and regional agreements, , and hosted by 4 UN Agencies and IUCN, are jointly seeking solutions to addressing common challenges. She highlighted the aim of the new MEA Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Initiative is to promote collaboration and exchange of expertise among MEAs. This new initiative is supported by the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions of UNEP.

Key features of InforMEA include:

- InforMEA is the first project of the MEA IKM Initiative. It presents the following information:
 - COP Decisions and Resolutions
 - News and events
 - Parties and national focal points
 - National reports and implementation plans
- A further phase of InforMEA is funded by the European Union. Tools currently under development include:

- An E-learning introductory course into MEAs
- A portal on capacity building documents supporting
- the course and further InforMEA E-learning tools
- A Thesaurus on Environmental Law and Conventions
- supported and endorsed by key institutions working in
- the field (FAO, EEA, IUCN, IUCN AEL)
- Search Facility into National Reports and Plans

Session 7: Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Mr. Vainuupo Jungblut of SPREP introduced this session which was designed to provide an overview of the Ramsar Convention and its work in the Pacific and engage participants to see the linkages between the work of Ramsar, CBD, CMS and CITES at the national level and how these linkages can be improved for greater synergies through resource pooling, expertise sharing and information exchange. The session was delivered through presentations, group work and plenary discussions.

Ramsar in the Pacific

Mr. Jungblut highlighted the Ramsar-SPREP partnership which was formalized in 2002 with the aim of increasing the presence and expansion of the Ramsar Convention and raise awareness of its work and objectives in the Pacific region. Noted that there are currently 6 Pacific Island contracting parties (Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa) and 10 Ramsar Sites in the Pacific Islands region, including those in French territories - French Polynesia and New Caledonia.

Noted the following priorities for implementing Ramsar at a national level within Pacific Island Countries:

- Formulation of national wetland policies.
- Mainstreaming wetlands conservation.
- Updating national wetland inventories.
- Annual membership contributions.
- New Ramsar Sites and periodic updating of site information.
- Management plans for Ramsar Sites.
- Establishment of National Ramsar/Wetland Committees (only Fiji so far).

- Priority site lists for future Ramsar listing.
- Annual commemoration activities for World Wetlands Day (Feb 2).

The following Ramsar implementation issues for the region were highlighted:

- Mangroves & coral reefs – most important wetland ecosystems of the Pacific region.
- Promoting the nomination/designation of more coastal/marine Ramsar Sites is a priority.
- Closer collaboration and harmonization with other biodiversity-related MEAs (CBD, CMS etc.)
- Baseline data is a priority – national wetland inventories currently being updated for PICs.
- Regional Wetlands Action Plan review.
- Draft priority site lists for future Ramsar designation.
- Ramsar Site management plans – development and review.

Group work

Participants worked in two groups to consider the following questions and the results were analyzed and reported back to plenary. Following is a summary of the questionnaire analysis with full details attached as Annex 6.

1. Which MEAs is your country a party to?

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar
15	5	7	7

2. Which agencies are responsible for CBD, CITES, CMS and Ramsar implementation in your country?

Environment / Conservation	Fisheries	Foreign Affairs	Mix
12 countries	1 country	1 country	1 country

3. Does your country have a National Biodiversity Steering Committee or equivalent (Please tick)?

If 'yes', is the Committee active during the entire biodiversity planning cycle?

- Presence of NBSC / equivalent: 10 countries

- Active: 9 countries responded positively while 1 indicated 'somewhat.'

4. If the National Biodiversity Steering Committee exists, does the membership include the National Focal Points from the different MEA's?

- Nine countries indicated that they include NFPs of other MEAs while two were uncertain and 3 responded that there was no engagement.

5. To what degree does your NBSAP integrate CMS, Ramsar, CITES objectives?

Extent of integration	CMS	CITES	Ramsar
Not integrated			1
To some extent	4	6	5
Well integrated	3	1	1
Not a Party	1	1	2
Unsure	2	2	2

6. Please describe a project in your country related to one of the Biodiversity MEA's where it does, or could integrate the objectives from one or more of the other Biodiversity MEA's.

Summary of follow up action and recommendations:

- The results of the group work illustrated institutional settings at the national level that provide perfect opportunities and conditions for creating or strengthening existing linkages and collaboration between the focal points of the various biodiversity-related MEAs and it allowed participants to see these opportunities.
- All participants agreed that this was a very useful exercise that could be of benefit to other regions to promote and initiate efforts towards greater synergies and collaboration.

Session 8: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Ms. Haruko Okusu provided an overview of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. She noted that CITES works to ensure that wild fauna and flora in international trade are not exploited unsustainably. It regulates international trade of 35,000+ listed species, parts and derivatives. However, not all species are prohibited from trade (Appendix 1), with only 3% of the 35,000+ species being prohibited, and the rest being regulated. She also noted that some Aichi Targets are met by CITES which shows that CITES can contribute to the achievement of the Aichi

Biodiversity Targets thus the importance of integrating CITES into National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans Targets. Key features of the presentation included:

- Only 4% of the 35,000+ listed species are commonly traded and 1% is highly traded.
- CITES has over 180 member countries including six in the Pacific (i.e. Fiji, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu). Some examples of Pacific relevant species include Indo-Pacific crocodiles; mahogany, orchids and marine turtles.
- There are three key obligations by CITES parties which are:
- legality - ensure trade is conducted in species that were legally acquired through compliance, monitoring etc.;
- sustainability - determine that proposed trade will not be detrimental to the survival of the species through non-detriment findings etc.;
- traceability - record and trace trade from the country of origin to the country of destination through issuance of permits etc.
- Approximately 90% of CITES transactions are comprised of approximately 150 animal and 1,800 plant species.
- There is a record of 13 million transactions and valued at billions of dollars, for example, pythons which were valued at USD \$1 billion per annum.
- Wildlife trade features in various economic sectors including pharmaceuticals, food, housing and tourism. CITES has three species Appendices with varying degrees of trade restrictions applicable to each.
- CITES operates a Trade Database (<http://trade.cites.org>) which is publically accessible.
- Collaboration and cooperation between national stakeholders such as businesses / traders, customs, police, judiciary, CITES authorities etc., are essential for effective implementation.
- The recent CITES COP 16 listed five shark species and all manta rays onto Appendix II, thus regulating the trade in these species.
- Noted also that there is some technical and financial support that can be accessed by Parties.

Palau and CITES

Ms. Nannette Malsol shared experiences of implementing CITES in Palau. Since becoming a Party in 2004, Palau is now at the stage of finalising through Congress their CITES Act. However, Palau has been implementing the Marine Protection Act 1994 in compliance with CITES requirements for trade in endangered species. Other key features of the presentation included:

- Prohibition of trade in the humphead parrotfish; giant clams; sea cucumbers; sponges /corals / marine rock; rock lobsters / mangrove crabs / coconut crabs.
- Penalties ranges from US\$ 250 to US\$ 5,000 whilst other prohibitions placed on foreign fishing vessels catching marine mammals is to the maximum of US\$250,000.
- Palau has several sanctuaries including the world's first for sharks (2009); marine mammals (2009); and a declaration to "establish the world's first comprehensive marine sanctuary that will close Palau's EEZ to commercial fishing."
- In 2011, Palau authorities burned US\$ 180,000 worth of shark parts as part of enforcement efforts.
- Palau also has a rewards scheme which awards up to 50% of the civil penalties collected to the individual who initiated civil proceedings.
- The noted benefits of being a Party include capacity building, technical assistance, being a global player in managing and conserving wildlife and establishing good partnerships with other Conventions including CBD, CMS, Ramsar in addition to NGOs and CROPs. Other benefits include:
 - development of internal partnerships - CITES Authority, Customs, Immigration etc.;
 - additional revenue source from permit fees;
 - building a strong private sector.
- Challenges noted by Palau include:
 - additional duties and responsibilities;
 - annual reporting requirements;
 - importing countries may have stronger regulations;
 - contribution fee to the Secretariat and sanctions for non-compliance.

Session 9: Plenary

Summary of key outcomes for Day 2

The meeting:

- Noted the level of commitment shown by the region through declaration of large sanctuaries to protect migratory species (eg through Ramsar sites);

- Also noted the wealth of technical capacity available through the various conventions and the Technical Advisory Groups that exist for each MOU – e.g. The cetacean MOU and the technical group;
- Recognized the role of NGOs with implementation at the grassroots levels;
- Stressed the importance of strengthening partnerships between Government, NGOs and in terms of sharing data and expertise;
- Recognized the threats to migratory species e.g. barriers, marine debris, climate change, underwater noise, habitat loss and degradation, wildlife diseases, pollution and poisoning, illegal fishing etc. CMS can give advance notice of threats happening before they occur in the region;
- Noted the impacts and challenges of climate change on migratory species and their habitats;
- Called for better cooperation across range states and countries;
- Acknowledged high level interests which can result in getting political will and/or advocating to ministerial level to gauge their support to promote species work at the national level;
- Proposed to use the Pacific voyage campaign to share traditional stories including community efforts to conserve migratory species which can also be used at COP meetings;
- Noted the role of Private sector and continued community engagement in migratory species conservation and Ramsar site management;
- Appreciated the value of technical support provided by CMS Pacific Officer position at SPREP;
- Utilize SPREP further as a conduit for sharing and dissemination convention information;
- Emphasized the need to harmonized reporting against the Aichi targets;
- Noted the role of Environment departments as focal point for the various MEAs which could help to strengthen coordination including and streamlined reporting;
- Suggested to put in place support mechanisms to facilitate and help with communication internally at the national level and externally with the Secretariats;
- Acknowledged the number of potential sites in the region that can be designated as Ramsar sites and recognizing also those that are established;
- Noted that economic evaluation of biodiversity can be a valuable activity, however other implications should also be thoroughly considered;
- NBSAP is recognized as the overarching framework and incorporate elements of other MEAs to help support its implementation and vice versa, to have support directed toward implementation of commitments under other MEAs;

- Acknowledged other existing initiatives such as InfoMEA to access information about MEAs.

Day 3: Wednesday 13th August, 2014

Session 10: Report back

Day 3 started with a report back from the Drafting Committee on key outcomes from Day 2. Participants provided feedback and comments to embellish on the draft presented by the Drafting Committee.

Session 11: Negotiations training

Mr. Clark Peteru of SPREP introduced this session and outlined overall objectives and structure. Noted that this session has changed slightly from past training. The presentation provided an overview of MEAs, their creation, how they operate and how they are implemented.

Two SPREP resource publications, available in e-copy, were introduced which would provide much more detailed information for negotiators.

The training began with an overview of how an MEA starts which is usually by way of response to a globally significant environmental problem. The process would include series of negotiations that must occur before a final agreement that has broad global acceptance can be established. MEAs are drafted according to a standard format with standard provisions, making it easier for national-level implementers to navigate from one MEA to the next.

The presentation also outlined key elements of a COP meeting which included the following:

- As an MEA requires periodic meetings in order to assess progress towards achieving its objectives as well as to make decisions for its progressive implementation
- Countries that are Parties need to come to a nationally agreed position on each agenda item of relevance. A preferred way of doing so was to seek input from all relevant agencies. These would be compiled into a briefing paper to be used by the country's negotiators
- Tips were provided for ensuring effective participation starting from preparation in one's country until arrival at the actual meeting

- Sometimes countries from a region, such as the Pacific, are able to meet to see if regional consensus can be reached on certain agenda items and to discuss strategy
- A typical Conference of the Parties negotiations was discussed in detail using the Convention on Biological Diversity as an example. Key bodies established under the Convention were identified including the COP itself, subsidiary bodies and the scientific advisory body
- Key COP meeting documents were introduced which included, the Annotated Agenda, the document containing Draft Decisions and the timetable of the two Working Groups and Agenda items scheduled to be discussed in each
- The roles of the Plenary and the Working Groups were discussed as well as several other smaller groupings such as Contact Groups and Friends of the Chair which serve to assist in resolving contentious issues in the negotiating process. A Flow Chart was provided to illustrate the decision-pathway and the numbering system for documents to indicate their stage of finality in the decision making process
- The High Level Segment was discussed, its utility in relation to the COP and how to ensure optimal use of the Minister or high level official for COP business.

Session 12: Update on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from its utilization and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Mr. David Duthie of the CBD provided a brief update on the Nagoya Protocol which will enter into force on 12 October 2014. Currently, 51 Parties to the CBD have ratified the Protocol including 4 Pacific island States: Fiji, Micronesia, Samoa and Vanuatu. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the NP will be held concurrently in the second week of COP-12, 13-17 October 2014 noting that issues on Access and Benefit Sharing are also on the agenda for COP-12.

Mr. Duthie also provide a brief presentation on Cartagena Protocol at COP-MOP7 outlined key issues to be discussed which included:

- Risk assessment & risk management (Art. 15 and 16),
- Socio-economic considerations (Article 26),
- Monitoring and reporting (Article 33),
- Assessment and review (Article 35);
- Handling, transport, packaging and identification of

- LMOs (Article 18); and
- The Nagoya Kuala-Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on
- Liability and Redress (Article 27)

Session 13: Panel discussion on Synergies across the biodiversity MEAs including climate change

This session provided an opportunity for participants to receive and update directly from representatives of the biodiversity MEA Secretariat present at the meeting on progress made towards the harmonisation of activities across the different Conventions and Secretariats. The session was moderated by Ms. Alissa Takesy with support from Mr. Clark Peteru. Key messages from this session included:

CBD:

- The Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) is an initiative undertaken in order to enhance coherence and cooperation in implementation of the Conventions. The liaison group comprises the heads of the secretariats of the seven biodiversity-related conventions and meets regularly to explore opportunities for synergistic activities and increased coordination, and to exchange information. It is chaired by the CBD Executive Secretary.
- The specific issues came before the biodiversity framework – Ramsar (1971), CITES (1973), CMS (1979) CBD (1993).
- Note joint initiatives with other MEA Secretariats and work through MOUs and joint workplans.
- Note that Rio Conventions are not only environment related but are also Sustainable Development focused conventions.
- UNEP is the chair of Environment Management Group (EMG). Issue management groups under EMG – specialized groups on specific issues

CMS:

- Some examples provided of joint initiatives between CMS and other biodiversity related Conventions include work with:
 - Ramsar on waterbirds, turtles, dugongs, flyways and habitat, avian flu;
 - CITES primarily on gorillas, elephants, antelopes, tigers, sharks, turtles and manta rays;
 - CBD on underwater noise, marine debris and avian flu;

- Also noted that there are some complications with synergies due to various factors including differences in membership.

CITES:

- Is a BLG and EMG member.
- Policy level collaboration – identified areas of collaboration with CBD (regarding the Aichi Targets).
- CITES and IAS issues – has resolution on trade and IAS, agreements on accessing GEF funds, knowledge management initiative (CITES is co-chair of InforMEA).
- Collaboration on sustainable wildlife management, IPBES, sustainable development goals.
- CITES is a species level agreement, trade oriented, look at linkages/collaboration in this light.
- Technical level collaboration between CITES and CMS ('Species plus' website).
- Scientific level – Animals and Plants committees.
- CSAB –another avenue of collaboration for the 4 MEAs, input to IPBES.
- Day to day collaboration – CMS loans staff to assist with CITES meetings.
- Advice from other MEAs on COP credentials.
- Countries need to have a strong voice on MEA synergies and collaboration.

Ramsar:

- Notes that there is much done at the Secretariat level, but we now need synergies at regional and national levels.
- Interoperability of data on Ramsar sites and migratory species (RSIS database function).
- How can we have more integrated projects.
- Forestry and Environment don't usually talk to each other – so makes it difficult to have common national reporting.
- Regional level – SPREP is mechanism for promoting and facilitating MEA synergies.

UNEP:

- UNEP provides CBD, CMS and CITES with their Secretariats.
- Collaborate through UNEP POW.
- Many other projects focused on synergies.
- Notes that there is a lack of NFP knowledge of overlaps between MEAs.

UNFCCC perspectives from Diane McFadzien of SPREP:

- Ultimate objective of the UNFCCC is found in Article 2 of the Convention: *Stabilization of greenhouse gases at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.....within a time frame sufficient to allow eco-systems to adapt naturally to climate change....and to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development in a sustainable manner.*
- This relates directly to biodiversity, and a question that arises is - what is an acceptable limit, noting that different species and eco-systems all have their own thresholds. The discussions on what is an acceptable limit should be informed by the biodiversity community, who have an expertise understanding of these limitations.
- Under the Joint Liaison working group (established between the Executive Secretaries of the Rio Conventions (CBD, CCD and FCCC) there is also an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change, which was established under the CBD Convention. This expert group have produced a technical report which identifies many of the interlinkages between climate and biodiversity.

This report has highlighted the following:

- Climate Change is already having an impact on bio-diversity, for example through:
 - invasive species;
 - loss of habitats;
 - changing migratory patterns;
 - temperature sensitive species (e.g. turtles and sex distribution);
 - ocean acidification;
 - shifting of species climate range;
 - extinction of some of the more vulnerable species.
- The report also identifies linkages between biodiversity and mitigation. There are two key options to mitigating climate change - either reducing our use of fossil fuels which produce the climate changing gases (through renewable energy or energy efficiency, for example) or the removal of carbon from the atmosphere, i.e. through carbon sinks (e.g. forests and oceans provide this service. There are significant opportunities for mitigating and adapting to climate change while enhancing the conservation of biodiversity.
- Within the UNFCCC, Parties are currently negotiating a new legal treaty (to be adopted in December 2015), which unlike the Kyoto Protocol will have universal application. Part of these discussions are focusing on acceptable temperature targets or ambition levels of emissions

reductions, and given that the objective of the Framework Convention is to ensure that climate change is limited to levels that allow eco-systems to adapt, these discussions would benefit from the input of the biodiversity community, who are aware of eco-system and species limitations.

- While climate change is commonly identified as a threat to biodiversity conservation, there are also new opportunities presented to the biodiversity community under the Climate Change Convention. These opportunities exist through both adaptation and mitigation.
- Under adaptation it is commonly recognised that healthier eco-systems are more resilient to the impacts of climate change, and there are funding opportunities for eco-systems based adaptation.
- Similarly there are mitigation opportunities through the preservation of carbon sinks (forests and oceans), and PNG has been a leader from the Pacific on promoting opportunities under Forestry.
- At the national level, Parties to the UNFCCC must complete a National Communications for the UNFCCC. This not only contains an annual inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, but also allows countries to complete a vulnerability and adaptation assessment, and it is important that at the national level, that biodiversity folk engage in this, to ensure that this assessments includes vulnerable species and habitats. Earlier national communications of some Pacific Island countries did not have such a strong biodiversity focus. Similarly there are opportunities under funding for NAPs (National Adaptation Plans)
- It is also important to be wary that some climate change options for both climate change mitigation and adaptation could have detrimental impacts on biodiversity. For example hydro dams and coastal sea walls could have negative implications on important habitats, and more coordination is needed at the national level to ensure that solutions for one convention do not negatively impact on another. Pacific countries often have the same representatives, for example, on national steering committees for both their NBSAPs and their National Communications.
- In Summary, there are linkages through: Climate change being a large threat to bio-diversity; but also providing opportunities for biodiversity conservation (in both mitigation and adaptation options) and a more integrated approach to dealing with both is needed.
- SPREP is also developing more integrated projects, with Eco-system adaptation being a popular approach.

Discussion

The following comments were made:

- Is national reporting an elusive goal? Note that there are some MEAs moving towards online reporting (e.g. CMS), and may present an opportunity for harmonized reporting.
- In-country efforts are needed to centralize biodiversity information for joint reporting purposes.
- Lew and Makiko to draft recommendations to take to the UNEP MEA project workshop in two weeks' time.
- UNEP MEA project survey results may be misleading as it does not reflect the reality in the Pacific.
- Online solutions not enough on their own, must be complemented by in-country efforts and on the ground solutions.
- CBD will give countries a choice for national reporting where they can either continue as is or complete an online version.

Day 4: Thursday 14th August, 2014

Session 14: Report back

Day 4 started with a report back from the Drafting Committee who presented on key outcomes from Day 3. Participants provided feedback and comments to embellish on the draft presented by the Drafting Committee.

Session 15: Twelve Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Mr. David Duthie of the CBD Secretariat provided an overview of the agenda for COP12 and highlighted key agenda items which were pre-selected by SPREP to be of relevance to the Pacific which were to be discussed in detail at the pre-COP meeting. These agenda items included:

- Coastal and marine biodiversity
- Invasive Alien Species
- Resource Mobilization

- The Financial Mechanism
- Cooperation and coordination among the biodiversity MEAs
- Emerging issues

Mr. Duthie elaborated on the identified issues in the context of the COP12 including background information, SBSTTA recommendations, draft decisions and relevant documents that relate to these issues.

Session 16: Group work

Participants worked in groups to discuss and review selected COP12 agenda items and their relevance to the Pacific and to identify possible positions for these agenda items including supporting evidence and justifications.

Session 17: Plenary - Group work report back

Each group reported back to plenary and presented the following outcomes:

Marine and coastal biodiversity

1. Noted the need to incorporate socio-cultural & local communities (TK) inputs into EBSAs; review and also update Pacific EBSAs.
2. In the context of Underwater noise, suggested to note the following;
 - a. seabed mining as an emerging issue and how it would impact biodiversity related convention, such as CMS with respect to Cetaceans and tourism industry, also the socio-economic activity impact such as whale watching.
 - b. A need to consider precautionary principles in light of limited information on seabed mining & biodiversity surveys.
3. Ocean Acidification has a long term impact on coral reefs; therefore a need to develop a long monitoring system for PICs to monitor the impacts of OA on coral reefs to identify resilient reefs and develop network of resilient MMAs & MPAs.
 - a. Note the ocean acidification workshop will be held before the UNSIDs conference which hopes to establish stronger monitoring programs in the Pacific seas.

- b. Request the Executive Secretary to prepare, in collaboration with parties, other gov't and relevant organization, draft specific workplan on biodiversity & acidification in cold and tropical waters.(to have a timeline)
 - c. Alert COP to improve understanding of potential responses of OA for specific coastal habitats and resources including seagrass and coral reefs.
- 4. Coral reef ecosystem under target 10 will not be achieved but reducing anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs so they have the best possible chance and recommend to extend the timeline of targets and develop new PoW for the proposed timelines.
- 5. Marine Spatial Planning – Highlight the Pacific Alliance under the Oceanscape Vision and Framework for all of these tools where it bring together PICTs to encourage wider global ocean community in ocean governance

Invasive Alien Species

- Noted the usefulness of the IAS guidelines (once adopted) and also noted that some countries have committed their GEF 6 allocation for IAS.
- Took note of the role played by the SPREP IAS Adviser David Moverley as the Pacific representative for SIDS IAS.
- Acknowledged NISSAP milestones by Tonga, Niue, Vanuatu, Palau and Kiribati including efforts by the Pacific Invasive Partnership and Pacific Invasive Learning Networks.
- Commended Samoa and Cook Islands rapid response efforts on mongoose and fruit fly.
- Noted actions taken by PICs that have conducted desktop studies to identify, pathways, etc.
- Took note of past decision UNEP/CBD/COP/11 - pg164
- Reminded participants to keep in mind that Fishing dominated states may have some issue on this agenda item.
- Noted CMS small grants funding for reporting but not very reliable.

Cooperation across MEAs

- The PICs appreciate the effort of the different Conventions towards greater cooperation and synergies which in turn, would help us in the implementation and reporting to these Conventions.
- Regional organizations, such as SPREP, UNDP, UNEP regional office for Asia and the Pacific and newly established sub-regional office located at the Secretariat of SPREP, Samoa.

Resource mobilization and the Financial Mechanism

- GEF 6 Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy comprises of 4 major objectives and divided into 10 programs.

Key outcomes for Day 4

The meeting:

- Noted the outcomes of the group work discussions and additional comments and feedback received from discussions in plenary
- Stressed the importance of having a good understanding of all the key meeting documents for COP12 to enable delegates to have in-depth discussions on implications of the proposed recommendations and decisions which would help to assess and determine possible country positions
- On Resource Mobilization, participants were encouraged to liaise and seek feedback, guidance and advice from the Ministry of Finance and Budget, Aid Coordination and Planning Agencies to elaborate more on the implications of the issues contained in this agenda item

Day 5: Friday 15th August, 2014

Session 18: Report back

Day 5 started with a report back from the Drafting Committee on key outcomes from Day 4. Participants provided feedback and comments to embellish on the draft presented by the Drafting Committee.

Session 19: Pacific Voyage Campaign

Ms. Nanette Woonton of SPREP provided an insightful and informative presentation on the benefits of the media and ways to best utilize it to support COP media activities which includes radio, print, and TV. She introduced the concept of the '5 step prep' for any media request which is easily adaptable to suit even a short (5 minutes) worth of preparation before talking to the media:

- Identify 3 key messages

- Come up with a few 'Soundbites' (short/brief concise striking statements) up to 20 seconds in length.
- List 'key words' that you must use e.g. Donors names or event details.
- Identify the 'Takeaways' or take home messages/phrases.
- Anticipate tough questions and the 'bridging' phrases to bring back to the topic.

The session also included ways to capitalize on networking opportunities at COP meetings including making available business cards with information about the delegate's projects, as well as the importance of sharing and promoting the Pacific Island displays, side events etc.

The Pacific Voyage concept was introduced as a tool for sharing one message across all the biodiversity conventions. Three key messages have been chosen, based on cards filled out by participants:

- island and ocean biodiversity;
- successful achievements and actions (leadership in MEAs, unified approach in working together); and
- calling on support to enhance Pacific success – we have done well but need more support to do better.

Noted the important role of each participant which could include:

- sharing news stories;
- dressing as Pacific delegates in island clothes;
- considering using key messages or sound bites in your interventions, and
- market our voyage as a crew member.

Session 20: Preparations and engagement at biodiversity MEA COP meetings.

Ms. Easter Galuvao of SPREP outlined essential elements to assist Pacific island parties preparations for COP meetings. She highlighted the importance of being well prepared with a shared Pacific position on key issues, key messages at various events throughout the COP meeting to reinforce Pacific issues, organizing and coordinating daily Pacific group meetings, clear lines of communications including tools for communication such as the use of Skype and emails, importance of networking and finding allies with other like-minded parties, keeping in contact with experts for advice, sharing of work load across

delegates to ensure key issues are well covered, and the importance of working together as a team providing moral support to each other.

Ms. Elizabeth Munro of Cook Islands who is one of the seasoned PI negotiators shared her experience as a country delegate attending COP meetings on behalf of her country. Ms. Munro reminded participants on the importance of working together as one team especially as Pacific delegations to COP meetings tended to be under represented with small members.

Session 21: Final plenary.

An evaluation of the overall usefulness and effectiveness of the meeting was facilitated at the end of the meeting where participants provided verbal comments and feedback. Key outcomes and take home lessons and messages conveyed and highlighted by participants included:

- identifying the different biodiversity related conventions, and how they link to each other and importance of cooperation;
- learning about the COP meetings from those who have attended in the past;
- learning about the work the region is doing in biodiversity protection, which we can all share with colleagues at home, especially with regards to the COP preparations;
- learning from other PIC delegates and hearing their views in terms of the issues that are most relevant and priorities for the upcoming COP;
- learning from the range of representatives from across the different MEA secretariats, which built individual delegates capacity which will in turn be shared with colleagues in country;
- commending SPREP for producing the negotiators hand books which greatly assists Pacific Island Parties to build their understanding of the COP;
- how the Pacific can come together and share common issues;
- looking at all the MEAs and how each is related to the other, and how we can achieve the Aichi Targets in the Pacific;
- recognizing the synergies between the MEA's, including those previously not well understood and to which some countries are not yet a Party to;
- highlighting the importance of financial resources and resource mobilization, and the importance of including this in the revised NBSAP.

Next Steps:

It was noted that this successful first joint preparatory meeting was just the beginning of a series of future joint events for the Pacific islands. The meeting provided useful information, guidance, networking opportunities and recommendations to enable countries to prepare well for their engagement at COP meetings.

The meeting recommended the following key steps for participants to undertake and note in the lead up to the COP meetings:

- consult widely at the national level and seek expert advice from local experts;
- prepare country briefs and seek approval prior to attending COP meetings;
- make sure to obtain copies of relevant meetings documents;
- read the Information Note for Participants, and Host country websites for example <http://www.cbdcop12.kr/eng/>;
- compile supporting documents for example Pacific Brief, Taking the floor booklet, SIDS Declaration etc.;
- SPREP will prepare a Pacific Brief as has been done in past COP meetings. The Brief will contain key priorities issues and positions discussed at the preparatory meeting;
- The meeting outcomes will be presented by SPREP at the 25 SPREP meeting for endorsement.

Meeting Closure

The meeting was closed with words of thanks from Stuart Chape of SPREP.

5. Annexes

Annex 1: Participants List

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Annex 2: Opening Statements

SPREP DG RECORDED MESSAGE FOR THE CMS, RAMSAR AND CBD PRE COP MEETINGS Fiji, 11-22 August, 2014

David Sheppard, Director General, SPREP 13 August, 2014

Welcome to the Joint Pre-COP meetings for the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Migratory Species and the Convention on Biodiversity.

I hope you've had a safe trip to Fiji and I wish you all the best for a very successful meeting. I am very sorry that I can't be with you in person -as you can imagine things are "hotting up" in Samoa with the SIDS Conference due to start in a few weeks and I do need to be here at this time.

I am pleased however, that you will be supported by a very competent and efficient SPREP team at this historic meeting. There is a lot said in our region, and globally, about the need to better link the biodiversity related conventions, in particular to look for synergies and opportunities for cooperation. But in fact this joint meeting in Fiji is the first time ever anywhere on the planet -that there has been a joint preparatory meeting of these biodiversity conventions. This meeting is very important for building future linkages and the synergies between these three important conventions in the Pacific region.

We hope that other regions around the world will take notice and follow our lead. From SPREP's side I am particularly happy because holding such a joint meeting is one of the targets identified in our SPREP Strategic Plan.

This meeting is historic but is also critically important.

The biodiversity in the Pacific, our seas, our land, our migratory species, our wetlands, are vitally important and are critical for life within this region. The biodiversity in our region is particularly significant, for example, there are more endemic species in this region than anywhere else on earth. As another example Papua New Guinea has 7% of the planet's terrestrial biodiversity on 0.6% of the total land area on the planet.

Our biodiversity is important for the lives of our people, for sustenance, for livelihoods and for Pacific cultures. But this biodiversity is under threat. Our region has the dubious distinction of some of the highest rates of species extinction anywhere on earth, particularly for some groups of species such as birds and land snails. Migratory species such as some species of sharks and whales are recognized as threatened under the IUCN Red List Designation. Many wetlands are threatened by inappropriate land use, from runoff from pesticides and from other sources.

The nature and extent of these threats underlines the importance of your joint meeting over the next two weeks.

In our region we have excellent strategies and frameworks. At the global level we have the CBD Aichi targets, at regional and national levels we have, for example, NBSAPs for Biodiversity and the new Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Island region 2014-2020, which many of you discussed and agreed in Fiji at last years' 9th Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.

However, as Winston Churchill once said, *"no matter how beautiful the strategy, it is also important to look at the results"*. Your meeting is critically important to see how we can move from strategy to action, in particular, how we can use the CBD, CMS and Ramsar Conventions to support action on the ground and at sea in our Pacific countries to better protect and manage our precious biodiversity, wetlands and migratory species.

It is important that we ensure a strong and effective Pacific presence at each of the three Convention COP meetings to ensure our message is taken to global audiences.

It is important over the next two weeks that you identify what Pacific countries want to achieve at each of the COPs and specifically how we are going to get there. I believe the Pacific Voyage approach used by SPREP, in partnership with our member countries, has been particularly useful and I feel it will also be relevant and useful for your Pre COP Meetings.

I also suggest that during these Pre COP meetings you look for opportunities to build the links, to build the cooperation, to build the synergies between the three conventions, CBD, CMS, and Ramsar. I think there are many opportunities by assessing, exploring, and implementing these synergies, which will in turn ensure better action on ground and at sea.

You have a busy time ahead of you over the next two weeks. I wish you all the best and I hope that I will see some, or all of you, either at the SIDS Meeting in Samoa in the first week of September or alternatively at some of the COP Meetings themselves.

Thank you very much for your time and all the best for a productive, interesting and enjoyable two weeks.

Thank you.



STATEMENT BY

MR. BRAULIO FERREIRA DE SOUZA DIAS

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**PACIFIC REGIONAL JOINT PREPARATORY MEETING
FOR THE CBD COP12, CMS COP11 AND RAMSAR COP12**

**NADI, FIJI
11-15 AUGUST 2014**

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity United Nations
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Dear participants,

I would like to begin by thanking the conveners of this meeting, including the Secretariats of our “sister” biodiversity-related Conventions, and our regional partner, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), for the excellent collaboration and effective preparation of this meeting.

The need to address biodiversity as a key element of sustainable development in the post-2015 period has been widely recognised in a variety of ways. For instance, the importance of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets*, adopted in 2010 at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in Nagoya, Japan, was reaffirmed by governments at Rio+20, during which it was recognized that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to sustainable development.

The United Nations General Assembly also encouraged Parties to consider the Strategic Plan in the elaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda. The upcoming *Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States*, to be held in Samoa in the next few weeks, will be yet another opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the sustainable development agenda; giving Pacific Island Countries a platform to provide feedback and present a consolidated regional position vis-à-vis the post-2015 development agenda, particularly with respect to the 17 sustainable development goals (SDG) and 169 associated targets adopted on 19 July 2014 by the Open Working Group, many of which resonate with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Moreover, Pacific Island Countries need to strive for the implementation of the *Regional Framework [Action Strategy] for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014-2020* adopted at the Ninth Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas held in Fiji from 2 to 6 last December 2013. This Framework, which was built around the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, provides guidance on recognised best practices for conservation in the region and acts as a bridge between global and national conservation action by showing how the Aichi Targets can be aligned with the conservation priorities in the region. It also recognises the need for greater coordination and cooperation between the region's conservation partners and provides a framework for assessing synergies between the many international and regional conservation frameworks being implemented in the Pacific.

Since the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, we have seen most Parties actively translating the Aichi Targets into national targets as part of updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). This is an important step in the right direction as is the recent ratification by 51 countries, plus the European Union, of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their utilization. However, the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on 12 October 2014 will be just the beginning of the story, not the end.

Countries, particularly Pacific Island Countries, must continue to push for ratification and put into place the necessary measures to meet the 2015 deadline for NBSAP revision and to participate as Parties, and not just observers, at the first Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Nagoya Protocol, being held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea from 13 to 17 October, 2014.

We are approaching COP 12, which will undertake a mid-term review of the progress towards the achievement of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as the SDGs, among other issues, to identify where we are in the implementation of the biodiversity agenda and make the necessary adjustments. Making progress in these areas clearly requires an integrated and harmonized approach with the active engagement of various sectors, local communities and governmental authorities. This is why strengthening synergies among our biodiversity-related conventions, which is the objective of this meeting, is so important.

Ladies and gentlemen, your work here this week will have important repercussions for the future of biodiversity, at both national and global levels, as it will guide our preparations to the upcoming meetings of the Conference of the Parties of the biodiversity-related conventions. I wish you all a productive and successful meeting.

Thank you for your kind attention.

CMS Opening remarks

Pacific joint preparatory meeting to the Convention of Biological Diversity COP12, Convention on Migratory Species COP11 and Ramsar COP12

On behalf of The Exec Sec of CMS, Bradnee Chambers, I'm very happy to be here today, with you all from the Pacific region and my colleagues from the other Convention Secretariats. I'd like to express my thanks to SPREP, our close partner in the Pacific for their efforts in organizing this event. And to the Fiji Govt and people for the very warm welcome.

Fiji is one of the newest Parties to CMS, and brings the number of Parties in Oceania to 7. And we look forward to assisting any others who may be considering joining CMS. Meanwhile, 15 are signatories to one or more of the Cms species MOUs which I'll talk more about tomorrow, ie the MOUs on cetaceans, Sharks or Dugongs.

While CBD provides an overarching framework for biodiversity conservation, CMS operates at the level of individual species, allowing countries to identify specific actions which will help these species to be conserved, as part of the natural heritage of the region, and so support the livelihoods for local people, whether through tourism, or sustainable use.

CMS COP11 will take place in Quito, Ecuador, from 4-9 November.

Is a very relevant one for the Pacific region, as it will be dominated by marine issues which are very relevant for your countries.

We have 23 marine species proposed for listing on the CMS appendices, 21 of these are sharks and rays, and most found in your waters. – and I acknowledge the leadership Fiji has shown by being the Party that has proposed many of these for listing.

As well as these new species proposed for listing, the COP will consider issues such as

- Marine debris
- Invasive alien species
- The live capture of cetaceans
- Guidelines for wildlife watching from boats.
- Conservation of sharks.

The Pacific countries are leading the world in the protection you provide for sharks and other marine species with designation of the huge shark sanctuaries, Palau in 2009, then Tokelau, Marshall Islands, Federated states of Micronesia and Guam in 2011 and French Polynesia and Cook islands in 2012.

You have something valuable to share with the rest of the world, and at this COP, which is already being dubbed the shark COP, it will be good to have a strong Pacific voice there to bring forward that message.

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Pacific Regional Joint Preparatory Meeting

for the

12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

11 -15 August, 2014

Nadi, Fiji

Opening statement by Dr. Christopher Briggs, Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Distinguished guest, National Focal Points from the Pacific region, representatives from the different biodiversity-related convention, as well as representatives from international and regional organizations, ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to apologize that due to my work commitments, I cannot be with you at this Pacific Regional Joint Preparatory Meeting for the forthcoming Conference of Parties to CBD, CMS and the Ramsar Convention. I understand that this meeting is the first of its kind in the region to improve coordination in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions. Greater synergy is possible and is badly needed so that we can make the most efficient use of our limited time and resources to achieve our common objective that is biodiversity conservation.

There is already much cooperation at the level of the Secretariats of the different biodiversity-related conventions, such as through the signing of joint MOU's, the developments of joint work-plans, the production of joint policies and publications. The head of each of the biodiversity-related conventions gather annually at the 'Biodiversity Liaison Group' meetings and the chairs of the respective scientific committees meet at their meeting of 'Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions'.

However, we need leadership at the national level to promote synergies between the different conventions. In the Pacific, this could potentially be easier because the government structure is smaller and focal points may be situated in the same ministry or may even be the same person. Examples from many countries have shown that improved cooperation can also be achieved by developing mechanisms to promote communication, such as through the setting up of national

committee or working groups involving representatives from the different conventions and other key partners.

At the project level, we also need to think outside our usual boxes to see how the outcomes of the project or activity can achieve the objectives not only of the convention that we are dealing with, but the objectives of the other conventions. Take the example of the designation of Ramsar Sites. The criteria for designating Ramsar Sites are either based on wetland ecosystems types, wetland species communities or globally threatened wetland species. The designation of Ramsar Sites therefore not only contributes to Ramsar's objectives, but also contributes to achieving CBD's objectives for biodiversity conservation and also CMS's objectives for the conservation of migratory species. This is because many of the species found at the Ramsar Site are migratory and use the site for breeding, feeding or as a staging post during their migration. These species may include waterbirds, turtles, marine mammals such as dugongs, fish and so on. The 2,187 Ramsar Sites worldwide make up the largest network of sustainable managed areas globally and so help to protect the network of sites that migratory species depend upon.

I should also mention that many of the species found at Ramsar Sites are also on the appendices of CITES.

The 'Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020' unites us all in being the overarching framework on biodiversity management and policy development. At this meeting, I am happy to see there will be discussion on improving the linkage between the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the objectives of each of the biodiversity-related conventions, into the new 'Regional Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014 – 2020' that was adopted in December 2014, and into your National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is now in the process of developing our new Strategic Plan 2016-2021 and we will certainly be seeing how this new plan we can align with the objectives of the other biodiversity-related conventions into our new Plan. This plan will also reflect the priorities and issues faced by our Ramsar Contracting Parties, including the Pacific.

I would like to wish you all a very successful meeting and I shall look forward to reading the outcomes.

Vinaka vaka levu !

UNEP Opening Remarks – Pacific Regional Joint Preparatory Meeting for CBD COP12, CMS COP11 and Ramsar COP12, Nadi, Fiji, 11-15 August

On behalf of UNEP, I would like to extend to you all a very warm welcome to participate in this important meeting.

I would like to thank our partners, SPREP and the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Migratory Species, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species for their support and collaboration in organizing this workshop.

As an institution supporting a synergistic approach towards multilateral environmental agreements, we are delighted to be part of this important meeting, which serves as an excellent example for other parts of the world in promoting a coordinated approach on MEAs. In this regard, we would like to congratulate colleagues from SPREP as well as secretariats of MEAs in facilitating and making concerted efforts for the organization of this joint meeting.

The meeting is designed to enable Pacific Island Countries that are Parties to different biodiversity-related Conventions to identify and discuss priority issues for the region, including those that cut across multiple Conventions to prepare effectively for international meetings in a **synergistic manner**. UNEP is pleased to be able to support such endeavour, including through the ongoing project entitled, “Capacity building related to MEAs in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries”, which is funded by the European Commission.

Under the project, support is also being provided for the Pacific Island Countries for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. As you may appreciate, the Strategic Plan provides an effective overarching framework for all relevant biodiversity-related Conventions, and allows the Parties to look at how to integrate biodiversity targets into plans and strategies for implementing biodiversity-related Conventions in a synergistic manner. The revision of NBSAPs in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 provides a unique opportunity to consolidate all biodiversity-related issues across international/national obligations and different sectors, and these are the areas where UNEP strongly focuses on in providing capacity support.

UNEP also provides support to Parties in other areas of the implementation of biodiversity-related Conventions, including in the development of biodiversity indicators, application of mainstreaming tools such as valuation and accounting of natural capital and its integration into development planning processes, through initiatives such as the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) initiative

and UNDP-UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative. UNEP, including through hUNEP-WCMC, also provide support in the areas related to information and knowledge management, including harmonized reporting and providing interoperable system to manage information provided by different Conventions in an integrated manner.

We are also pleased to inform you that as part of the ongoing efforts to respond to the outcome of Rio+20 in 2012, which called for strengthening of UNEP as the leading global environmental authority, a sub regional office of UNEP for the Pacific will be established in Apia, Samoa which will be officially opened on 2 September 2014 on the side lines of the 3rd SIDS Conference. The sub regional office will play a catalytic role in scaling up UNEP's engagement, and will be the basis for our further support to countries in the region also in the field of the implementation of biodiversity-related Conventions.

These are some of the examples of relevant initiatives of UNEP, and we stand ready to continue to provide support in these important areas.

I wish you a fruitful workshop, and look forward to your valuable contributions. Thank you for your attention.

Annex 3: Annotated Programme



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The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Pacific Regional Joint Preparatory Meeting
for the
12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

11 - 15 August, 2014

Tanoa International Hotel

Nadi, Fiji

ANNOTATED PROGRAMME

Monday 11th August, 2014	Agenda Item	Objective
8:00am - 9:00am	Registration	✓ Registration of all participants
9:00am - 9:45am	Session 1: Official Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Remarks by Mr. Stuart Chape, SPREP • Message from David Sheppard, Director General of SPREP • Remarks and messages from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity - Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias ○ Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species - Dr. Bradnee Chambers ○ Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands - Christopher Briggs ○ Secretary General of the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species - John E. Scalon ○ Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme 	✓ Official opening
9:45am - 10:00am	Session 2: Overview and objectives of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of work and adoption of meeting agenda • Introduction of Meeting Participants 	✓ To establish a clear understanding of the main objectives of the meeting, expectations and how the meeting will be delivered; and to adopt the meeting agenda. ✓ Introduce participants, speakers, facilitators and resource people.
10:00am - 10:30am	Morning Tea Break	
Theme: Alignment of key strategic biodiversity frameworks		
11:00am - 12:30pm	Session 3: Strategic Biodiversity Frameworks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Biodiversity Aichi Targets <i>Mr. David Duthie, SCBD</i> 	✓ Overview of the Global Biodiversity Aichi Targets ✓ Progress towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Lunch Break (Side Event: Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal - SPREP)	
1:30pm - 2:30pm	Session 3 continues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBSAP Case Studies <i>Presenters:</i> <i>Ms. Lupe Matoto, Tonga</i> <i>Ms. Nannette Malsol, Palau</i> • Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific islands region 2014-2020 	✓ Presentation of case studies from selected countries that have completed the process for setting targets for the NBSAPs. ✓ Highlight linkages between the new Framework and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NBSAPs.

	<p><i>Presenter: Ms. Easter Galuvao, SPREP</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pacific Islands Forum - Oceans, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development <p><i>Presenter: Mr. Ryan Medrana, PIFS</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Linkages to the Pacific Regional Framework for Regionalism.
2:30pm - 3:30pm	<p>Session 4: Group Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation needs, gaps and opportunities. Alignment of key strategic biodiversity frameworks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identify key requirements to support implementation of the NBSAPs, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and regional framework. ✓ Process to ensure alignment of key biodiversity frameworks.
3:30pm - 4:00pm	Afternoon Tea break	
4:00pm - 5:00pm	<p>Session 4: Group Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report Back 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Report back on key findings and recommendations from the group work
5:00pm - 6:00pm	<i>Drafting committee meeting</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>To draft key messages and outcomes from Day 1</i>
Tuesday 12th August, 2014	Agenda Item	Objective
Theme: Synergies across biodiversity MEAs		
9:00am - 9:15am	<p>Session 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report back from the Drafting committee Overview of the Agenda for Day 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Summary of key outcomes and messages from Day 1 ✓ Overview of the objectives of Day 1 and expected outcomes
9:15am - 10:00am	<p>Session 6: Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Cara Miller (WDC)</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Melanie Virtue (CMS)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To provide an overview of the Convention - how it works including priority issues and synergies with other biodiversity MEAs.
10:00am - 10:30am	Morning tea break	
10:30am - 12:30pm	<p>Session 6 continues</p> <p><i>Presenters</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Juney Ward (Samoa)</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Cara Miller (WDC)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ An overview of CMS in the Pacific Islands region. ✓ Party and Partner case study ✓ Engaging other Pacific Island countries and other biodiversity MEAs.
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Lunch break (Side Event: InforMEA: MEA Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Initiative - UNEP)	
1:30pm - 3:30pm	<p>Session 7: Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Lew Young, Ramsar Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Vainuupo Jungblut, SPREP</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Rahul Arvind Chand, Fiji</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To provide an overview of priority issues for Ramsar including recruitment ✓ Country case study: Fiji
3:30pm - 3:45pm	Afternoon tea break	
3:45pm - 4:30pm	<p>Session 8: Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Overview of CITES including key issues for the Pacific

	<i>Ms. Haruko Okusu Ms. Nannette Malsol, Palau</i>	
4:30pm - 5:00pm	Session 9: Plenary	✓ Discussion on common points/issues raised
5:00pm - 6:00pm	<i>Drafting Committee meeting</i>	✓ <i>To draft key messages and outcomes from Day 2</i>
Wednesday 13th August, 2014	Agenda Item	Objective
Theme: Skills and tools for effective negotiations		
9:00am - 9:15am	Session 10: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report back from the drafting committee Overview of the agenda for Day 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Summary of key outcomes and messages from Day 2 ✓ Overview of the agenda for Day 3 and expected outcomes
9:15am - 10:00am	Session 11: Negotiation Training <i>Trainer: Mr. Clark Peteru, SRREP</i>	✓ The training will cover basic negotiation skills including tools and resources
10:00am - 10:30am	Morning tea break	
10:30am - 12:30pm	Session 11 continues	
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Lunch break	
1:30pm - 3:00pm	Session 12: Update on the Nagoya Protocol and the Cartagena Protocol <i>Presenter: Mr. David Duthie</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Update on progress towards ratification of the Nagoya Protocol including actions taken at the national and regional levels ✓ Update on the Cartagena Protocol and key issues to be discussed at the MOP
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Afternoon tea break	
3:30pm - 5:00pm	Session 13: Panel Session on "Synergies across the biodiversity MEAs including climate change" <i>Panelists:</i> <i>Mr. David Duthie (SCBD), Ms. Haruko Okusu (CITES), Mr. Lew Young (Ramsar), Ms. Melanie Virtue (CMS), Ms. Makiko Yashiro (UNEP), Ms. Diane McFadzien (SPREP)</i> <i>Moderator: Ms. Alissa Takesy (FSM)</i> <i>Co-moderator: Mr. Clark Peteru (SPREP)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ An opportunity for representatives of the biodiversity MEA Secretariats including UNEP to discuss progress towards harmonization of activities ✓ Opportunities to coordinate with activities of the UNFCCC
5:00pm - 6:00pm	<i>Drafting committee meeting</i>	✓ <i>To draft key messages and outcomes from Day 3</i>
Thursday 14th August, 2014	Agenda Item	Objective
Theme: Priority Issues for the CBD COP12		
9:00am - 9:15am	Session 14: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report back from the drafting committee Overview of the agenda for Day 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Summary of key outcomes and messages from Day 3 ✓ Overview of the agenda for Day 4 and expected outcomes

9:15am - 10:00am	Session 15: CBD COP12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COP12 Agenda - what's on the agenda <i>Mr. David Duthie, SCBD</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To provide an overview of priority issues to be considered at the CBD COP 12 ✓ Summary of selected agenda items ✓ Key decisions expected ✓ Issues of relevance to the Pacific
10:00am - 10:30am	Morning tea break	
10:30am - 11:30pm	Session 15 continues	
11:30pm - 12:30pm	Session 16: Group work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In-depth group discussions on selected priority issues
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Lunch break	
1:30pm - 3:00pm	Session 16 continues	
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Afternoon tea break	
3:30pm - 5:00pm	Session 17: Report back to plenary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Groups report back on outcomes of discussions
5:00pm - 6:00pm	<i>Drafting committee meeting</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>To draft key outcomes and messages from Day 4</i> •
Friday 15th August, 2014	Agenda Item	Objective
Theme: Pacific Voyage: One Pacific Voice		
9:00am - 9:15am	Session 18: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report back from the Drafting Committee Overview of the agenda for Day 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Summary of key outcomes and messages from Day 4 ✓ Overview of the agenda for Day 5 and expected outcomes
9:00am - 12:30pm	Session 19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific Voyage Campaign <i>Facilitator: Ms. Nanette Woonton, SPREP</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop a Pacific Voyage: One Pacific Voice outreach campaign for CBD COP 12, CMS COP 11, Ramsar COP 12, WPC and other key biodiversity events ✓ Consolidate key messages for key biodiversity events
10:00 - 10:30 am	Morning tea	
10:30 - 12:30 pm	Session 19 continues	
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Lunch break	
1:30pm - 3:00pm	Session 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparations and engagement at biodiversity MEA COP meetings <i>Facilitator: Ms. Elizabeth Munro</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop a roadmap for Pacific engagement at COP Meetings.
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Afternoon tea break	
3:30pm - 5:00pm	Session 21: Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final plenary 	This is the official closing of the joint pre-COP meeting which will also adopt the following key

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wrap up and official closing	outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Meeting Outcomes✓ Next Steps
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Annex 4: Session 4 group work outcomes

<p>Session 4: Group Work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 1: Michael B. • (2) Process to ensure alignment • - Cross sectoral planning & integration of the 3 biodiversity frameworks to design national policy. After having gone through the key requirements, it would be better to develop and implement a cross sectoral policy. How do the requirements facilitate the means for linking into international frameworks. • Group 2: Alissa T. (Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, WWF) • (1) Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to coordinate with other partners / organisations that have common goals • Private / public partnerships and ensuring benefits go where they are supposed to go • Synergies with MEA - an opportunity for different stakeholders to find areas of cooperation including their respective strategic plans. • (2) Alignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • common process • standardising - looking at indicators. • backstopping - CHM and repository portals • technical support - need that from regional / IGO bodies • national working groups / consortia in country - starting platform for synergies. Looking at national project planning processes and how to report outward to donors. Could be as simple as a request made via a phone call. • WWF: important sector is the private sector in terms of implementing conservation initiatives (eg) tourism and fisheries industry. In his experience, awareness is relatively low with regards to NBSAP and Ramsar also.. a lot of support that they could provide if made aware (eg) Asco Motors, ANZ bank, Fiji Airways. This could also be beneficial for corporate bodies in linking them to communities. • UNDP: alignment and having the right people at the right meetings. Having the focal point and the national planning officer - ensuring that they're talking to each other and aware of the Conventions and the commitments. • SPREP: reach out to other stakeholders who aren't the usual group of people (eg) private sector. • Group 3: Wendy • (1) requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed the mapping that happens from what happens at the global to regional level; what are the national contributions to the global targets; • Funding and the different aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - incorporate funding to implement • - accessing funding in a timely manner - good forecasting which takes considerable time • - NBSAP secretariat per country to monitor progress & organise funding e.t.c. • keeping the momentum and people interested. Initial enthusiasm and then peters out. Not understanding what their stake is in the issue is another challenge - incentivising engagement? • discussed stakeholder - this needs to be everyone in some sort of capacity including scientific & academic institutions. • understanding that there needs to be emphasis placed on long term conservation benefits vs. short term gains. • SMART targets • Easter: • some countries linking to SOE, Sustainable development plans - reminder that it's good to
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	<p>link to these processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FSM: remember that there used to be a NBSAP Working Group. Easter - needs to revive this through the PIRT and SPREP will be driving this given but calls on commitment from members given that that is what will drive it / not. Depends also on specific needs that members would like the working group to assist with.• PNG: has alignment processes and one of the key things seen is providing incentives - as a Party, there are obligations that you need to comply with. Perhaps one of those could be financial contributions to assist with reporting? Easter - aware that all countries who are GEF eligible can access funding to assist with review of NBSAPs and preparation of national reports.
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Annex 5: Session 6 (CMS) group work outcomes.

GROUP	QUESTION 1	QUESTION 2	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS would work better if we also work with other authorities dealing with migratory species; • Addressing migratory species deals with many targets; • We have many conventions, and so few staff, so the better integration of these conventions would make it easier for our smaller countries (i.e. better integration of similar conventions). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strongly advocate on the importance of migratory species in the region; • how to address the weaker involvement in MEAs; • how to bring all MEAs together in a small country and raise awareness on the importance of these MEAs; • how do we help smaller governments with the high work load across all of these complicated MEAs – requires assistance; • engagement should also depend on the countries national interests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when talking about developing common understandings between different conventions relevant to the Pacific – see migratory marine species as something that is important to the Pacific region, but different government authorities have different mandates over these species. Need better cooperation. CMS can assist countries to develop good laws to help achieve this targets. • What are the benefits and challenges that we have when joining CMS – Palau has an interest in CMS for the dugongs, which have a special traditional interest to the country.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBSAP review process that we are currently doing is already including relevant MEAs and we need to see the linkages between these, especially looking at Target 12 (CMS focus); • Existing species monitoring programmes need to be expanded (i.e. species habitats, species distribution); • Regional framework - SPREP Marine Species Action plan – is key and will help to achieve CMS and CBD targets; • Need to build capacity and data gaps – species related. Some of the countries have info gaps on specific species; • NGOs, local communities and interest groups provide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to reflect the Pacific Voyage campaign promoting the biodiversity conventions; • Show case local community efforts – recognizing and sharing success stories; • Emphasis and show case of private sector – show case key stakeholder interventions, e.g. Fiji Mamanuca project (turtle conservation); • Encourage non Parties to sign relevant MOU's and become CMS Parties; • Continue SPREP CMS work – request the CMS Sec and CMS to continue the CMS Pacific officer and their work programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to recognize community involvement in species conservation at the COP, take success stories and lessons; • Lots of data gaps in species conservation, and note that communities are involved in data collection; • Pacific voyage campaign – how we can promote the Pacific – story about the mermaid – one of the campaign strategies could be to collate Pacific traditional stories and share these at the COP.

	<p>technical support and projects, such as the GEF projects and lessons learned from these;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding support from development partners to contribute to MOU's and programmes; • Regional cooperation such as the 2 Samoa Environment collaboration work; • Engaging the private sector partnerships is a key to achieving the CMS target. 		
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assist with findings on which species on the national biodiversity list that are migratory species – the lists are confusing (ie) what falls under CMS and what does not? Can the Secretariat clarify this; • Would like assistance from CMS to know what are the threats that are affecting these migratory species? Would like to learn more on the threats, and have this information shared regionally; • Assist with fostering the international discussions, on the cooperation on this migratory species. For e.g., NZ has a bird species that goes to Northern Asia, and in China they have lost these nesting grounds/stop over habitats; • Assist with specific issues. Kiribati is not a part of CMS, but in Christmas Island we have an issue with the birds – i.e. the juvenile during the breeding season is left by the parents, before the juvenile can survive on its own. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can non parties access relevant information – for eg, Kiribati is interested. • Want to know requirements for reporting and meeting obligations. • Ensure that all government contacts are part of the CMS mailing list, to ensure that information reaches all stakeholders. • CMS to help with the listing or data base, with CITES and CMS lists. 	

Annex 6: Session 7 (Ramsar) Group work outcomes

Pacific Islands Regional Joint Preparatory Meeting (CBD, CMS, Ramsar)

PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Which MEAs is your country a party to? (please tick as appropriate):

Country	CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar
Cook Islands	✓	✓		
Fiji	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kiribati	✓			✓
Marshall Islands	✓			✓
Micronesia (Federated States of)	✓			
Nauru	✓			
Niue	✓			
Palau	✓	✓	✓	✓
Papua New Guinea	✓		✓	✓
Samoa	✓	✓	✓	✓
Solomon Islands	✓		✓	
Tonga	✓			
Tuvalu	✓			
Vanuatu	✓		✓	
New Zealand	✓	✓	✓	✓
	15	5	7	7

2. Which agencies are responsible for CBD, CITES, CMS and Ramsar implementation in your country? (leave blank if your country is not a Party to one of the following)

Country	CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar
Cook Islands	Nat Env Serv	Nat Env Serv		
Fiji	Environment	Environment	Environment	Environment
Kiribati	MELAD ¹			MELAD ¹

Marshall Islands	RD/EPA/OEPAC			RD/EPA/O EPAC
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Dept of R+D			
Nauru				
Niue				
Palau	MNRET (PAN)	MNRET (OFM)	MNRET (OFM)	MNRET (OFM)
Papua New Guinea				
Samoa	MNRE	MNRE	MNRE	MNRE
Solomon Islands	Environment	Environment	Environment	
Tonga	Environment	Environment	Fisheries	Environment
Tuvalu	Dept of Environment			
Vanuatu	Dep Env,Fish.For		(check)	
New Zealand	MFAT (DOC, MPI, TPK, MBIE)	DOC	DOC (MPI, customs)	DOC

¹MELAD = Min of Env, Land, Agric Development

3. Does your country have a National Biodiversity Steering Committee or equivalent (Please tick)?

Country	Does your country have a National Biodiversity Steering Committee or equivalent?		• If 'yes', is the Committee active during the entire biodiversity planning cycle?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Cook Islands	✓		✓	
Fiji	✓		✓	
Kiribati	✓		✓	
Marshall Islands	?? not sure	?? not sure		
Micronesia (Federated States of)	✓		somewhat	

Nauru				
Niue				
Palau	✓		✓	
Papua New Guinea				
Samoa	✓		✓	
Solomon Islands	✓		✓	
Tonga	✓		✓	
Tuvalu	✓		✓	
Vanuatu	✓			
New Zealand		✓		

4. **If the National Biodiversity Steering Committee exists, does the membership include the National Focal Points from the different MEA's (Please tick)?**

(✓ = Yes ; X = No ; na = Not applicable ; ? = Not sure)

Country	CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar	
Cook Islands	✓	✓	na	na	
Fiji	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Kiribati	✓			✓	
Marshall Islands	?	?	?	?	
Micronesia (Federated States of)	✓	na	na	na	But include different sectors
Nauru					
Niue					
Palau	✓	x	x	?	
Papua New Guinea					
Samoa	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Solomon Islands	✓	✓	✓	na	
Tonga	✓				
Tuvalu	✓	?	?	?	
Vanuatu	✓	na	yes	na	
New Zealand	na	na	na	na	

5. To what degree does your NBSAP integrate CMS, Ramsar, CITES objectives?

(x = is not integrated ; xx = to some extent ; xxx = well integrated)

(o = Not a Party ; ? = Not sure)

Country	CMS	CITES	Ramsar	Comments
Cook Islands	xxx	xx	xx	
Fiji	xxx	xxx	xxx	
Kiribati			x	Not for Ramsar but it should be
Marshall Islands	o	o	xx	
Micronesia (Federated States of)				Doing NBSAP revision and update
Nauru				
Niue				
Palau	xx	xx	xx	
Papua New Guinea				
Samoa	xx	xx	xx	
Solomon Islands	xxx	xx	o	
Tonga	xx	xx	x/o	
Tuvalu	?	?	?	
Vanuatu	xx	xx	xx	
New Zealand	?	?	?	NBSAP under revision.

Annex 7: Presentation list and link.

Presentation number	Presentation title	Presenter	Link
1	Overview: Pacific Islands joint pre-COP meeting	Easter Galuvao	https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jxmc0r0ngo95vja/AAD0a5KEh8nPsrKYDAwzn2Rra/Join%20Prep%20Meeting%20Presentations?dl=0
2	Tonga NBSAP Case Study	Eileen Fonua / Lupe Matoto	
3	Palau NBSAP Case Study	Nannette Malsol	
4	Framework for Nature Conservation	Easter Galuvao	
5	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat - Oceans, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development.	Ryan Medrana	
6	Oceania humpback whales: migration, population structure and threats	Cara Miller	
7	The Convention on Migratory Species	Melanie Virtue	
8	CMS in the Pacific Islands region	Penina Solomona	
9	CMS in Samoa	Juney Ward	
10	Partnering with CMS	Cara Miller	
11	Overview of global Ramsar priorities and synergies with other Biodiversity related conventions.	Lew Young	
12	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands: regional implementation	Vainuupo Jungblut	
13	National implementation on Ramsar Convention	Rahul Chand	
14	CITES: overview and key issues for the Pacific	Haruko Okusu	
15	Palau CITES	Nannette Malsol	
16	Negotiations training	Clark Peteru / Carolin Canessa	
17	Introduction to MEAs	Clark Peteru	
18	Nagoya Protocol	David Duthie	
19	Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	David Duthie	
20	Opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity related conventions at the national level	Makiko Yashiro	
21	Key issues for CBD COP 12	David Duthie	
22	Media skills and other tips	Nanette Woonton	
23	Pacific Voyage	Nanette Woonton	
24	About the 5 step prep	Nanette Woonton	
25	Social media	Nanette Woonton	