



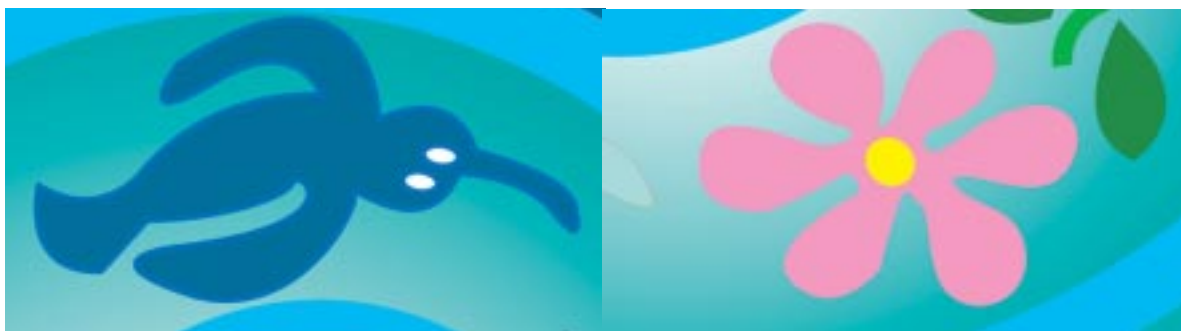
Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region, 2003-2007

Mainstreaming nature conservation



Acronyms

ANU	Australian National University
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
CI	Conservation International
CITES	Convention on Trade in Endangered Species
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations for the Pacific
CSPOD/CIDA	Canada – South Pacific Ocean Development Programme/Canadian International Development Agency
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EU	European Union
EWC	East-West Center
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agencies
FORSEC	Forum Secretariat
FSP-I	Foundation of the People's of the South Pacific – International
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IFAW	International Fund for Animal Welfare
IMA	International Marine Life Alliance
IUCN	World Conservation Union
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature (World Conservation Union)
IWP	International Waters Programme
MAC	Marine Aquarium Council
MFAT	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan
NZAid	New Zealand Aid
PCC	Pacific Council of Churches
PIANGO	Pacific Islands Association of NGOs
PICs	Pacific island countries
PICTs	Pacific island countries and territories
PSA	Pacific Science Association
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Education Science and Cultural Organisation
USP	University of the South Pacific
WB	World Bank
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WHC	World Heritage Convention
WI	Wetlands International
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature



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Mainstreaming nature conservation

Vision

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

Islands of Life... Pure Pacific

Mission

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

Foreword

Kia Orana,

It was a great honour for the Cook Islands to host the 7th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. It was a privilege for me to be the Chair of the Conference.

Several strands of discussion emerged during the conference – the need to mainstream nature conservation in all our activities, the reinforcement of the association of people with the land and its resources, and significantly, the importance of our ocean that connects us all as one people of the Pacific.

These strands can be woven into a very strong rope.

Conference participants, especially community leaders, spoke with passion during plenary sessions, workshops and other gatherings. They presented many compelling stories. They tabled many challenges.

When they left the conference participants took a draft copy of this Action Strategy with them. Since then a group has worked to edit that draft, to refine it, to remain true to the spirit of the conference. I believe this final Action Strategy fairly reflects the calls made at the Conference.

Our conference image was: **Islands of Life....Pure Pacific.**

Our theme was: **Mainstreaming Nature Conservation**

Our challenge is: to implement this strategy. We have long term goals. We have five year objectives. We have achievable targets to reach before our next conference. The Roundtable mechanism was charged by the Conference with promoting, facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the strategy. The Roundtable will report back to the next conference on progress.

I look forward to governments and organisations signing up to this strategy, to committing to achieve the targets, so that at the next conference real progress can be reported.

Hon. Norman George

Chair, Seventh Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas
30 October 2002



Action Strategy for Nature Conservation, 2003 - 2007

Conservation can best be achieved when conservation values are part of the mainstream of society, when they “become part of everyone’s decisions” including government, private enterprise and the community as a whole. This was recognized by the more than 320 participants from Pacific island governments, Pacific and international organizations and community groups when they met in Rarotonga, Cook Islands in July 2002 for the 7th Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.

This strategy is the major result of that conference. As such this strategy represents a consensus of the priority concerns for conservation and ways in which these can be addressed in the coming four years.

Mainstreaming conservation is the new direction for this strategy. The mainstreaming approach recognizes that a successful and holistic conservation strategy will improve quality of life through the resulting healthy environment, vibrant economy, and prosperous society.

Mainstreaming in this context can be defined as: *making conservation everyone’s responsibility. It makes conservation part of all aspects of managing the economy and society. It integrates conservation into all activities of individuals, government, private enterprise and civil society at local, national, regional and international levels.*

We know that an effective conservation strategy must involve all sectors in development through strong partnerships between conservationists and Governments, private sector and civil society. There must be participation from all levels of society.

Conference participants and those of us who have signed on to this new Action Strategy understand that for mainstreaming to happen, attitudes and behavior need to change, not only amongst those from the mainstream development arena but also people working in conservation. Partnerships and greater understanding are key tenets of this new philosophy.

This new Action Strategy accommodates the three pillars of sustainable development and addresses all sectors in development. It builds on the last Action Strategy, which started to



address the issues of mainstreaming nature conservation. This new strategy for the first time in this series of strategies focuses on achievable targets that all of us are encouraged to commit to. It provides broad 30-year goals for each sector. These goals are ideals to achieve

over the long term. Achievable five-year objectives and targets have been identified within these 30-year goals at national and regional levels. The targets are estimates of the collective efforts required of all parties. They provide measurable, achievable and inspirational targets for the Action Strategy that can be easily communicated beyond the conservation community. They allow us to start the process of integration into the mainstream.

We recognize that mainstreaming nature conservation is of fundamental importance to the sustainable development of the Pacific – that we can’t do it alone. Those committing to this strategy are signaling a determination to make a difference locally, nationally and regionally to safeguard the precious environment of the Pacific for future generations.

This new regional strategy looks for commitment from people at all levels and from all sectors to make it happen. We look forward to sharing our different experiences, expertise and knowledge with all stakeholders so that we can work together to ensure that the vision for this strategy which was developed at the 7th Conference can become a reality.

This document was endorsed by all 26 member country representatives of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme at the 2003 SPREP Meeting. Members of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation are also strongly committed to this document and have an important role in monitoring, supporting implementation and identifying gaps and issues. As such this Strategy has become the guiding document for nature conservation at the regional level in the Pacific for donors, countries and organizations working in conservation and sustainable development.

Acknowledgements

This Strategy is very much a product of the Cook Islands Conference. Thank you to everyone who worked very hard at that conference and later to ensure that a solid programme of action has been developed that can be used by everyone working in nature conservation in the Pacific islands region.

First thanks must go to the Action Strategy Review Committee, Taholo Kami (chair), Nenenteiti Teariki, Suliana Siwatibau, Kylie Kaye, Coral Pasisi, Cedric Schuster, Andrew Bignell, Morgan Wairiu and Sam Sesega who presented the conference with a solid plan for the next four years in nature conservation in the Pacific. Particular thanks to the core drafting team who met twice after the conference to fine tune and complete the strategy – Taholo Kami, Andrew Bignell, Morgan Wairiu, Cedric Schuster and Sam Sesega.

The Action Strategy was circulated for comment in electronic version twice prior to being finalized and existed in electronic version accessible to anyone through SPREP's website and via electronic distribution. Once again thank you to all those who gave constructive comments.

A special thanks to NZAid through their support for the publication and printing of this Action Strategy.

Thank you also to the staff of SPREP who assisted in finalizing this Action Strategy.

Development of this Action Strategy

The 7th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas established two Committees on its first day – the Resolutions Committee and the Action Strategy Review Committee.

The Action Strategy Review Committee met during the Conference. It took the material prepared by the workshops, plenary sessions and presented papers and commenced revising the Action Strategy. On the final day of the conference it was able to present a draft of the revised Action Strategy to participants for their consideration in plenary session. It also presented a proposed plan for finalising the Action Strategy.

Conference participants were invited (as part of the plan) to provide any additional feedback to the Committee chair over the following month.

After receiving feedback the Chair called together a sub-committee to finalise the Action Strategy. The sub-committee met for one week in August 2002 and one week on October 2002. As they worked, members of the subcommittee sent draft material to the full committee for comment to ensure they were reflecting the calls of the conference. It is from this work that this Action Strategy 2003 -2007 has emerged. It reflects the calls of the 7th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.

How to Use this Action Strategy

The Action Strategy has been developed through a consultative process involving a wide range of stakeholders and organizations. It can be used in a variety of ways and provides:

- a. A regional consensus on priorities for actions to promote the mainstreaming of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- b. Guidance to international, regional, national and local communities, organizations and governments in development, review and implementation of their individual plans and programmes.
- c. A framework for regional and national coordination of action.
- d. A framework for regional and international institutions to use in integrating their work.
- e. Guidance to donor communities when allocating resources (financial and capacity).
- f. Guidance to communities seeking resources on priorities for funding.

Mainstreaming I



Mainstreaming is to embrace all aspects of how we approach environmental management and conservation in a collaborative way. Mainstreaming nature conservation addresses the people, social cultural settings, and historical, political and economical values in a composite form. Within my government position, our department is currently in the process of planning ways to integrate economics and environmental management into a systematic approach in its functions to provide for a high quality of life for individuals in American Samoa.

Lelei Peau, Department of Commerce and Trade, American Samoa

30-Year Goal for the Environment

The biodiversity and natural environment of the Pacific region are conserved

Building on the Pacific experience with community-based approaches to resource management, all sectors will be engaged in new partnerships. Supportive legislation, policies and plans at the national level will be needed to ensure the effective mainstreaming of sustainable resource management. Coordinated and systematic monitoring of critical ecosystems and species will be required to identify trends and achieve conservation priorities.

5-Year Objectives	5-Year Targets
1.1 Establish and strengthen conservation networks and partnerships	<p>1.1.1 Establish at least 5 nationwide networks and 1 regional network of conservation areas</p> <p>1.1.2 Expand three national networks to include partnerships that address environmental, economic and social interests in the region</p> <p>1.1.3 Establish at least 40 national and 20 regional sectoral and multi-sectoral partnerships to fund and implement conservation activities.</p>
1.2 Increase the number of areas under effective conservation management	<p>1.2.1 Place at least 5% of coastal and terrestrial areas under effective community-based conservation management in all Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs).</p>
1.3 Bring each PICT's priority invasive species under effective control, and prevent new introductions of marine and terrestrial alien invasive species and regulate genetically modified organisms	<p>1.3.1 Implement improved port quarantine regulations and practices on 70% of islands and PICTs</p> <p>1.3.2 Implement national awareness programs of existing invasive species and threats in all PICTs</p> <p>1.3.3 Implement pilot eradication and control pilot programs for selected priority species in at least 5 PICTs</p> <p>1.3.4 Develop and implement marine and terrestrial invasive species management plans in at least 10 PICTs</p> <p>1.3.5 Establish a regional mechanism for coordinating the monitoring of invasive species.</p> <p>1.3.6 Establish national biosafety frameworks in at least 10 PICTs</p> <p>1.3.7 Implement national awareness programs on genetically modified organisms in all PICTs</p>
1.4 Safeguard and restore threatened species of ecological and cultural significance	<p>1.4.1 Declare at least 20 million square kilometres of Pacific Island Countries' EEZs to be whale sanctuaries</p> <p>1.4.2 Enact and enforce legislation for protection of rare, threatened or endangered marine and terrestrial species in all PICTs</p> <p>1.4.3 Initiate national actions to safeguard and restore at least 2 rare, threatened, endangered or culturally significant species in 10 PICTs</p> <p>1.4.4 Commence restoration of viable populations of regionally significant rare, threatened and endangered species</p>



Environment

5-Year Objectives	5-Year Targets
	<p>1.4.5 Identify and document regionally significant threats to species and associated habitats</p> <p>1.4.6 Publish a Red Data list of rare, threatened and endangered species and habitats in the region</p>
<p>1.5 Safeguard and restore threatened areas of ecological and cultural significance</p>	<p>1.5.1 Identify and map ecosystems and habitats that are threatened and /or culturally significant in at least 10 PICTs</p> <p>1.5.2 Develop and implement plans for the restoration of at least one threatened ecosystem of cultural significance in at least 5 PICTs</p>
<p>1.6 Address the impacts of climate change on the natural environment and biodiversity</p>	<p>1.6.1 Prepare adaptation and contingency plans to address impacts of climate change on society and biodiversity in all PICTs</p> <p>1.6.2 Integrate impacts of climate change on biodiversity in national and community conservation plans in all PICTs.</p>
<p>1.7 Improve knowledge and understanding of the state of the Pacific's natural environment and biodiversity</p>	<p>1.7.1 Develop standardized and practical biological indicators and monitoring methods for all major ecosystems and resource systems including coral reefs, forests and mangroves</p> <p>1.7.2 Initiate and maintain an on-going monitoring programme targeting the level of use and the health of key natural resource systems and biodiversity values at the regional level</p> <p>1.7.3 Compile and distribute widely regular state of the environment and biodiversity reports for the Pacific region.</p> <p>1.7.4 Identify research needs in all PICTs to address gaps in knowledge in key areas of biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>1.7.5 Document and disseminate lessons learned from the experiences from all major regional and conservation initiatives.</p> <p>1.7.6 Develop a map of the region using the eco-regional approach to show areas of high conservation value</p>

30-Year Goal for the Economy

Nature conservation and sustainable resource use are integral parts of all island economies

Making conservation and sustainable resource use an economic development priority in Pacific economies is essential for a long term, sustainable future. This requires effective partnerships between the private sector, community groups, NGOs and governments and the development of new and innovative financial mechanisms. To enable this Pacific Governments need to adopt new approaches to economic management and decision making.

5-Year Objectives	5-Year Targets
<p>2.1 Develop multi sector partnerships for sustainable resource use and management in each PICT</p>	<p>2.1.1 Launch, strengthen or maintain at least one effective multi-sector partnership to promote sustainable use and good governance of a selected natural resources in each PICT</p> <p>2.1.2 Establish a mechanism for high level private enterprise involvement in conservation at the regional level.</p> <p>2.1.3 Foster multi-sector teams to improve decision making in conservation planning and management in all PICTs</p>
<p>2.2 Develop and enforce integrated environmental, economic and social planning, policy and legal frameworks</p>	<p>2.2.1 Implement NBSAPS or their equivalent through a national co-ordination mechanism in all PICTs</p> <p>2.2.2 Integrate NBSAPs into the development plans of at least 5 PICTs</p> <p>2.2.3 Ensure integrated environmental, social, and economic assessment legislation and policies are in place and applied in all PICTs.</p> <p>2.2.4 Determine sustainable harvest rates of critical commercial resources and ensure these are not exceeded in at least 5 PICTs</p> <p>2.2.5 Promote effective compliance and enforcement of conservation legislation, instruments and authorities in all PICTs</p> <p>2.2.6 Facilitate preparation of legislative, regulatory, economic and moral suasion instruments for sustainable development of each major resource sector – fishing, forestry, agriculture, mining and tourism – in 5 PICTs</p> <p>2.2.7 Develop mechanisms for equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources and these are operating effectively in at least 5 PICTs</p> <p>2.2.8 Enact intellectual property rights legislation which recognizes traditional rights and ownership systems in at least 5 PICTs</p>
<p>2.3 Foster economic instruments that create incentives for conservation and remove those with negative impacts</p>	<p>2.3.1 Implement incentives for environmentally friendly technology and practices in at least 5 PICTs</p> <p>2.3.2 Establish economic incentives to encourage conservation initiatives by private businesses and communities in at least 5 PICTs</p> <p>2.3.3 Remove incentives that encourage unsustainable resource harvesting or irreversible resource degradation in at least 5 PICTs</p> <p>2.3.4 Direct a portion of natural resource rents to conservation initiatives in at least 10 PICTs</p>



Economy

5-Year Objectives	5-Year Targets
<p>2.4 Strengthen resource and environmental valuation for effective decision making</p>	<p>2.4.1 Complete environmental valuations for selected natural resources in at least 5 PICTs</p> <p>2.4.2 Implement environmental service charges to users of at least 3 natural resources in at least 5 PICTs</p> <p>2.4.3 Incorporate natural resource accounting into national accounting systems in at least 5 PICTs</p> <p>2.4.4 Train at least 1 person in natural resource and environmental economics in all PICTs</p> <p>2.4.5 Incorporate the use of environmental valuation information in key economic development decisions in at least 5 PICTs</p>
<p>2.5 Engage business in environmentally sound practices and support for conservation</p>	<p>2.5.1 Achieve accreditation under ISO standards for at least 20 key businesses in the region</p> <p>2.5.2 Achieve adoption of socially responsible Codes of Practice by at least one lead industry in each PICTs</p> <p>2.5.3 Achieve certification of commercial forestry and fisheries operations in at least 5 PICTs</p>
<p>2.6 Create sustainable financial mechanisms</p>	<p>2.6.1 Assist community income-generating activities through national marketing and financial structures in at least 10 PICTs</p> <p>2.6.2 Operate at least 1 self-financing conservation project in 5 PICTs</p> <p>2.6.3 Operate at least 1 viable national or regional long-term financial mechanism for environmental projects</p> <p>2.6.4 Increase government funding for conservation by 10% in at least 5 PICTs</p> <p>2.6.5 Incorporate national conservation funding plans in all PICT NBSAPs or equivalent.</p>
<p>2.7 Promote sustainable livelihoods to eradicate poverty</p>	<p>2.7.1 Demonstrate revenue generation from sustainable use of resources by 20 local communities in the region</p> <p>2.7.2 Document and disseminate the contribution of 20 community conservation projects to the basic needs and livelihood of the communities in the region.</p>

30-Year Goal for Society

Pacific peoples, their governments, and institutions are leading activities for the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources in the Pacific region

Pacific peoples, their cultures, values and attitudes, provide the platform for successful conservation. Pacific institutions, organizations and communities require the capacity to implement conservation and sustainable use of resources as part of their activities. This demands effective legislation and policies to encourage active participation in conservation and to ensure equitable distribution of its benefits.

5-Year Objectives	5-Year Targets
3.1 Empower local people, communities and institutions to effectively participate in decision making and action	3.1.1 Increase the number of tertiary trained graduates in conservation and environment sciences employed in all PICTs 3.1.2 Provide further training and skill development for all conservation officers in identified priority areas in all PICTs 3.1.3 Achieve the appointment of women to at least 25% of the senior nature conservation roles in all PICTs. 3.1.4 Introduce and implement an environmental education component in primary and secondary school programmes in all PICTs. 3.1.5 Establish and support at least one peer learning network to promote rapid dissemination of new skills and tools in the region
3.2 Recognize and integrate customary structures and processes in natural resource and environmental governance systems	3.2.1 Integrate traditional village councils and chiefly systems into national and local authority decision making in 10 PICTs 3.2.2 Integrate traditional knowledge and management practices that promote sustainable use of resources in management plans conservation areas in at least 10 PICTs 3.2.3 Recognise community based conservation approaches in national conservation and development plans in at least 10 PICTs 3.2.4 Translate significant local, national and regional conservation documents into local languages in all PICTs
3.3 Safeguard and strengthen traditional knowledge and practices	3.3.1 Document and disseminate traditional knowledge, practices and innovations in 5 PICTs 3.3.2 Establish effective mechanisms and regulations in at least 5 PICTs to recognise and protect customary land tenure, traditional knowledge, practices and innovations 3.3.3 Empower traditional knowledge holders to promote, facilitate and regulate access to and use of traditional knowledge in 10 PICTs 3.3.4 Create national regimes for regulating access to genetic resources in 5 PICTs



Society

3.4 Raise awareness and promote conservation values

- 3.4.1 Implement at least 2 new regional awareness campaigns targeting 2 key regional conservation issues
- 3.4.2 Establish national information storage and clearinghouse mechanisms for biodiversity in at least 5 PICTs
- 3.4.3 Establish and maintain a regional mechanism for information sharing on nature conservation
- 3.4.4 Develop skills and capacity for accessing and using information in all PICTs
- 3.4.5 Communicate conservation and sustainable resource use principles effectively to targeted audiences in 5 non conservation sectors
- 3.4.6 Implement a regional programme to involve Pacific Island media in conservation and environment activities
- 3.4.7 Conduct at least one training or awareness seminar on nature conservation for key decision makers (including community and church leaders, parliamentarians, leaders of industry) in all PICTs

Annex 1: Brief History and Background

The emergence of the first regional strategy reflected the need to give expression to regional issues requiring coordinated regional actions. At the time, the regional players were limited to a few organizations, with SPREP, UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and IUCN the major ones. Interest in nature conservation was also narrowly focused on protected areas establishment and management. Inevitably, SPREP's prominence in coordinating regional actions and promoting the strategy led to the misconception that it was a SPREP strategy and new players who later entered the region felt no ownership of it.

Subsequent strategies sought to overcome these issues in a variety of ways. The 1993-1997 Action Strategy came from 5th Conference in Tonga and unanimously endorsed the concept of community-based conservation areas. The Action Strategy, at least in terms of this new approach, became driven by an idea that was widely and unanimously endorsed. Many different stakeholders identified with the idea and the strategy.

The strength of one idea however did not avert other criticisms. There were concerns the strategies were over-prescriptive and presenting wish-lists rather than the critical priorities needing urgent action. They also lacked monitoring and reporting mechanisms.

The prominence given to the environment by the Earth Summit, Agenda 21, the Barbados Plan of Action and the Convention on Biological Diversity coincided with the entrance into the region of other regional and international players. With limited involvement in the Action Strategy process, most of these organisations and funding agencies felt no allegiance to, nor ownership of, the 1993-1997 Action Strategy.

The process for developing the *1998 – 2002 Action Strategy* reflected a serious attempt at addressing these problems. The 6th Conference in Pohnpei was the launching pad. The Action Strategy Review Committee of national and regional representatives worked the outcomes of the conference into the regional planning process. The Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation emerged out of this Conference in response to the need to promote implementation of the regional actions of the strategy.

Seeking to overcome concerns about the lack of regional ownership, the Action Strategy went through a formal signing-up ceremony wherein many regional and international organizations, and the Chairman of the SPREP Meeting (on behalf of SPREP member countries) signed the document to formalize their commitment to promoting its implementation. If an organisation was undertaking work (or was committed to undertaking work) that advanced specific action in the strategy this was noted in the document.

Mainstreaming II



In simple terms mainstreaming nature conservation refers to how we can make the conservation of nature part of our everyday life. Being conscious of our actions all the time and being aware of what their implications may be in relation to the natural environment that we live in. This applies to all levels of society and it does not matter what level of society one works it, it has to be treated not as an outside influence but to be factored in to the day to day plans and activities of government departments, corporations, NGOs and other organizations, community organizations, community traditional management systems and the lives of all individuals
Okesene Moananu, International Programme Officer, WWF – NZ.

The success of the Roundtable process in getting regional players involved in the development and monitoring of the Action Strategy shifted perception of the strategy from it being SPREP driven to it being regionally driven. Concerns about the lack of national and local community input were frequently raised. Other issues such as monitoring implementation were also still not quite resolved, despite the Roundtable's best efforts.

This was the context leading into the 7th Conference. The design of the Conference reflected a conscious attempt to put emphasis on the review and update of the Action Strategy, and to seize the opportunity to engage all delegates in a truly participatory multi-stakeholder planning exercise. Local community engagement and participation were to be critical to the conference's success.

Achievements, Threats, Challenges and Opportunities

Despite their imperfections, the Action Strategies have provided guidance, direction and the

Achievements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 14 million km² of EEZ for whale sanctuaries > Increase in total area of ecosystems under conservation management > 13 national conservation agencies in 13 PICs > 13 PICs undertaking NBSAP exercises > Community-based conservation management > Roundtable for Nature Conservation and better coordination of activity and funding in the region > 14 countries implementing community-based integrated coastal watershed management activities through the International Waters Programme > Pacific Island active engagement in the establishment of new institutional arrangements for the management and conservation of Western and Central Pacific migratory fish stocks > Improved coordination among regional inter-governmental agencies promoted through the Marine Sector Working Group

framework for coordination amongst regional players. There were many notable achievements that clearly flowed from the priorities and focus promoted by the Action Strategies. Some of these include the significant increase in the total area of ecosystems brought under conservation management and the shift to community-based conservation areas. The coming together of regional implementers and funders in the Roundtable process to coordinate their work and to build partnerships is another achievement. Recently the vision of a region-wide whale sanctuary moved closer to being realized with the

declaration by five Pacific Island countries of their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ's) as whale sanctuaries. National capacities to deal with environment issues have also grown immensely with 22 national agencies now established and dealing directly with environmental issues amongst PICs where there were none 20 years ago.

The other side of the ledger however remains gloomy. Threats facing the region's natural heritage remain. If anything they are increasing in numbers and intensities. Climate change, over-harvesting of natural resources, the proliferation of invasive species, high population growth, natural disasters and unsustainable development continue to place biodiversity under intense pressure.

Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Over-harvesting of natural resources > Invasive species > High population growth > Natural disasters > Climate change > Land clearing > Logging > Mining > Infrastructure development > Biosafety > Resource exploitation > Pollution > Destructive harvesting practices

Lack of institutional capacity (especially at national level), limited infrastructure development, lack of coordination and integration of environment and conservation activities, limited economic alternatives, lack of political support and good governance, and limited funds pose major challenges to environmental management and conservation in the region. Making the environment and conservation a national and regional priority is also a great challenge, because they have not traditionally been part of the economic equation in PIC's development plans. Addressing basic needs such as alleviating poverty, food security and earning money for survival are often a more immediate priority.

Annex 2: Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation

Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation

Collaborating for effective conservation action

The Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation is a growing coalition of conservation organisations and donor agencies created to increase effective conservation action in the Pacific islands. This diverse group meets every year in a different location in the region and principally examines progress, gaps and issues in the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region (2003-2007). Member organisations commit to hosting each meeting and to funding their staff to attend. It is entirely voluntary.

Brief History

- Formed in 1998 as a response to a call from the 1997 Pacific Islands Conference for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Federated States of Micronesia.
- Forum to bring together all organizations and donors active in nature conservation in the Pacific Islands in more than one country, and since its formation, has involved over 45 regional organizations and donors.
- Mandated from the 2002 Pacific Islands Conference for Nature Conservation in the Cook Islands to foster greater coordination and collaboration among national, regional and international organisations as well as identifying critical gaps in the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific islands region 2003 – 2007 and working on conservation activities to address these.

What it does it do?

As Pacific Islanders this committed group of organisations and individuals helps us to access funding, support and ideas to achieve our development needs while considering the conservation of our natural resources. It gives us the chance to meet key leaders in the Pacific working on conservation. We can work together and learn lessons from conservation work taking place around the Pacific and share what we have learnt. We have the opportunity to identify project needs and to tap into potential new funding sources. As a member of the Roundtable we have the chance to brainstorm new ideas with other colleagues in the region.

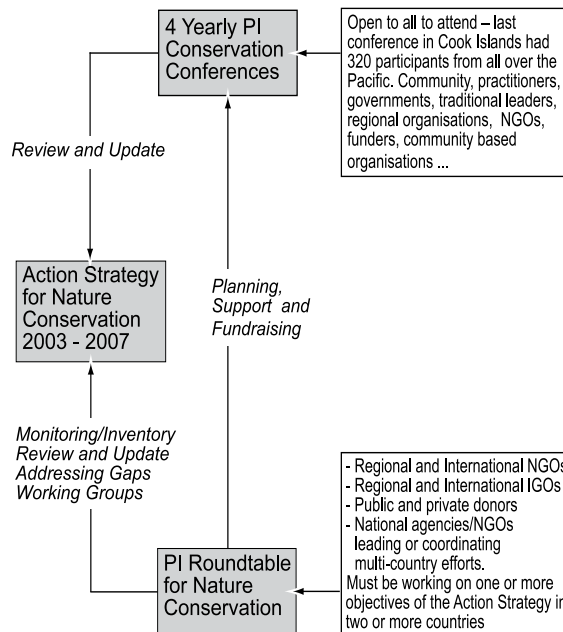
The Roundtable will report back to the next conference in 2006 on progress in implementing the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation.

Why is it special?

- Only forum in which major regional players come together to discuss and develop new ways to address the main issues of nature conservation facing the Pacific islands.
- Officially endorsed by all the Pacific island governments and representatives from local and national Pacific island groups.
- Participation is totally voluntary, members fund their own way and the Roundtable is regularly attended by representatives from NGOs, intergovernmental agencies, and international organisations.
- Participants see it is a powerful tool for sharing expertise and learning from the experience of others.
- As a “working” roundtable, participants are senior representatives of organisations active in nature conservation in many countries in the Pacific island region.
- Members and meetings focus on action rather than debate or theory.
- It is an experiment in cooperation and leverage, and the results are very encouraging and include:

- updating and cooperating on the implementation of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region 2003 - 2007
- creating the first “inventory” of conservation activities in the Pacific Island region. This inventory is now available online at www.dev-zone.net/pirnc.
- developing a draft set of practical Action Strategy Success Indicators that can be used by groups throughout the region to monitor conservation progress at key sites, with local partner organisations, and at the national level.
- creating working groups to address gaps in conservation activities and monitor progress.
- volunteering for tasks to address key actions from the Action Strategy that are identified as critical gaps in conservation in the Pacific islands region.

The Pacific Islands Roundtable is gaining strength with every meeting, with a strong commitment from a core group of NGOs, donors, USP and SPREP. Members see much value in coordinating the activities of regional players and facilitating partnerships in activities of mutual interest.



Working Groups

These address specific issues in the current Action Strategy for Nature Conservation. For further information on any of the working groups please contact the group chair.

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Roundtable (Chair)	Andrew Bignell, Department of Conservation NZ abignell@doc.govt.nz

If you would like to find out more about the workings of the Roundtable or how you can become involved please contact:

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Website: www.sprep.org.ws.

A new website for the Roundtable and conservation in the Pacific is currently under development. Please email Kate Brown if you would like to find out more.

Roundtable Inventory of Regional Conservation Activities in the Pacific

This exciting new web based database is a living record of conservation activities of the key players in conservation in the region.

It is designed for use in conjunction with the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation 2003 – 2007 by members of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation and can be viewed by the general community.

Members are able to track conservation projects led by their own organisations and others.

Structure

It aligns with the Action Strategy structure – 3 goals – environment, economics and society, objectives and targets. Information entered specifies which target (or more than one target) the particular conservation project relates to. In this way we are able to build a picture of where the gaps lie in effort in the region. Eventually this database will be mapped to give a visual representation of the gaps.

Benefits

- > Allows us to measure implementation of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation.
- > Gives us up to date and accessible information on current conservation activities in the region – increasing effective conservation action.
- > Provides information on who is doing what in the region to enable better collaboration and better links.
- > Can assist government agencies and NGOs in setting goals, building partnerships, garnering support and/or assessing potential for support for conservation activities in the region.
- > Funding organisations can assess government and NGO activities, current gaps in conservation activities, funding needs and the potential for joint funding opportunities.
- > Can provide a set of lessons learned from conservation projects.

Inventory of Regional Conservation Activities in the Pacific is available at: www.dev-zone.net/pirnc

Annex 3 : Pacific Islands Roundtable Resolution

Resolution 7 - The Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation

The 7th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Recognising that the Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation is a coalition of conservation organizations and donor agencies launched at the 6th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in Pohnpei in 1997;

Noting that the Roundtable has played a valuable role in promoting and implementing the Action Strategy and increasing collaboration for nature conservation over the last five years;

Noting further that the Roundtable has developed useful tools for coordination of conservation activities in the region, including the Inventory, Monitoring Matrix, and 12 Working Groups;

Recognising that Roundtable members represent international and regional organisations that implement or fund Action Strategy activities toward more than one goal or in two or more countries;

Further recognising that the voluntary membership of the Roundtable is a great strength that should continue;

Commending the commitment of the Roundtable members to provide a more inclusive approach to their work.

Now therefore resolve as follows:

- The Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation is maintained as a mechanism for promoting, facilitating and monitoring the implementation of Action Strategy.
- The Roundtable adopts mechanisms for making its membership more inclusive for meaningful participation of regional and national bodies.
- The Roundtable's mandate for the next five years is to increase effective conservation action in the Pacific islands by:
 - Fostering greater coordination and collaboration among national, regional and international organizations;
 - Identifying critical gaps in the Action Strategy and developing new conservation activities in the region;
 - Communicating and linking with countries through NBSAPs or alternative processes to promote implementation and monitoring of the Action Strategy;
 - Strengthening linkages with CROP agencies to promote multi-sectoral mainstreaming at the regional level;
 - Strengthening linkages with regional and national NGOs for more effective coordination.

The Roundtable reports to the 8th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas on the implementation of the Action Strategy

Annex 4: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

National biodiversity strategy and action plans (NBSAPs) are strategies developed by countries who are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as part of obligations under Article 6 of the CBD. However it is important to note that national ownership and initiative is the driving force behind the development of NBSAPs in each country. The NBSAP's are a national measure identified in the CBD to provide countries with a guide to implement the various articles of the CBD in accordance with their national priorities and sovereignty.

In the Pacific, the 14 independent countries have or are in the process of developing NBSAP's as the guide for how to manage their biodiversity and related interactions over the next couple of years. The timeframes for implementation differ for each country so it is necessary to refer to specific NBSAPs to gain an understanding of these and also the various objectives and processes identified within them.

These national efforts via NBSAPs are critical to the implementation and monitoring of this Action Strategy. NBSAP Coordinators for each country are part of the Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation NBSAP Working Group which will be the main conduit through which the regional Action Strategy and processes like the Roundtable will reflect national efforts.

Funding for NBSAP development has been made available through the Global Environment Facility through the implementing agencies (UNEP, UNDP, World Bank).

Article 6. General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use

Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities:

- a) Develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, inter alia, the measures set out in this Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned; and
- b) Integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

From the Convention on Biological Diversity (www.biodiv.org)

Status of NBSAPs - 2003

Country	Status	Contact
Cook Islands	Completed	Elizabeth Munro lpukarea@environment.org.ck
Fiji	Completed	Manasa Sovaki biodiversity@suva.is.com.fj
Tuvalu	About to start.	Mataio Tekinene enviro@tuvalu.tv tmataio@hotmail.com
Marshall Islands	Completed	Deborah Barker rmiepa@ntamar.com
Federated States of Micronesia	Completed	Okean Ehmes fsmdea@mail.fm
Tonga	Just started	Patisepa Saafi patisepa_saafi@hotmail.com
PNG	Not completed	James Sabi cons@daltron.com.pg
Solomon Islands	Restarting following civil unrest	Moses Biliki mbiliki@hotmail.com
Kiribati	Started	Bwere Eretaia mesd2@tskl.net.ki
Nauru	Not completed	Joseph Cain jcain@cenpac.net.nr
Niue	Completed	Sauni Tongatule tongatules@mail.gov.nu
Palau	Started	Joel Miles jmiles@palau-oerc.net
Samoa	Completed	Tepa Suaesi Tepa.Suaesi@mnre.gov.ws
Vanuatu	Completed	Donna Kalfatak environ@vanuatu.com.vu

Annex 5 : Pacific Protected Areas Database

Developed by Conservation International

Conservation International, as part of an effort to develop an ecosystem profile for the Micronesia and Polynesia Hotspot as identified through the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, prepared a database on Pacific protected areas in 2003. This database identifies:

- > Number/km² of protected areas in the Pacific
- > Established protected areas and community based conservation areas (names and designation)
- > A breakdown of marine and terrestrial conservation areas and the total land area of the country vs protected land area
- > Conservation areas that have been established since 1999 (since the list was printed in the last Action Strategy)
- > PA location, biophysical and social information, and management activities

The information on Protected Areas gathered in this Database supplements the global map of PAs by updating the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).

Database Development Process

The Pacific Protected Area Database represents a desktop attempt to reconcile information from a wide variety of sources. The foundation for the Database was a list created at the 7th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Cook Islands in 2002. Francois Martel of Conservation International (CI) organised for participants to note down any PA they were familiar with in their respective country, on a map of the Pacific. The other main sources include the WDPA (2003), Reefbase, UN-EARTHWATCH, the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP) and Pacific Action Strategy for Nature Conservation, as well as country sources such as National Biodiversity Action Strategies (NBSAPs) and independent site studies. Due to the wide diversity of sources, the standards of information (i.e. quality) within the database lack consistency. After it was compiled the database went through an expert review process. Relevant sections were sent to various organisations, experts and Governments within each of the countries to review, update and verify their PA information. However, for some countries, such as New Caledonia and Kiribati, verifying the status of their PAs has not been possible at this stage. Some individuals on reviewing their respective country sections of the database have expressed concerns that the total area of land stated as being protected is either an over or underestimate. Follow-up investigation found this is due to lack of active management, uncertainty (even within country) of the status of a PA, or because of the lack of legal status of the country's PAs.

Availability

For more information on the Pacific Protected Areas Database please contact Francois Martel (f.martel@conservation.org) or Fono Valasi (f.valasi@conservation.org) of Conservation International or Joanna Axford (j.axford@uq.edu.au)

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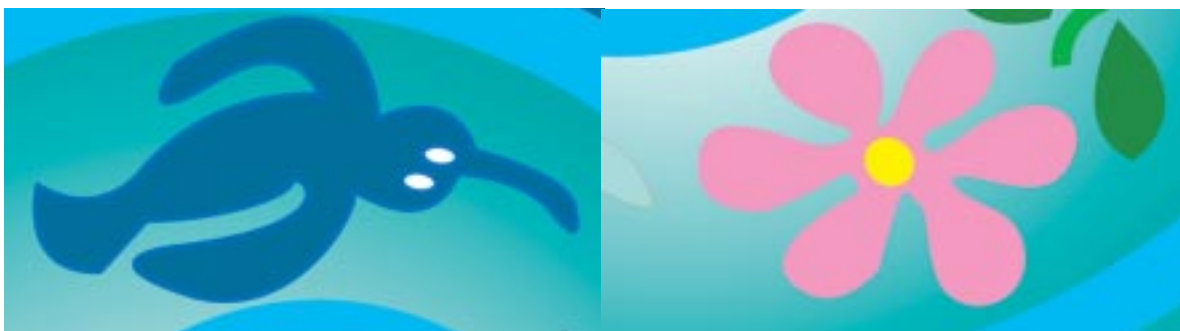
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Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region, 2003-2007

Mainstreaming nature conservation

Conservation can best be achieved when conservation values are part of the mainstream of society, when they "become part of everyone's decisions" including government, private enterprise and the community as a whole. This was recognized by the more than 320 participants from Pacific island governments, Pacific and international organizations and community groups when they met in Rarotonga, Cook Islands in July 2002 for the 7th Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.

This strategy is the major result of that conference. This new Action Strategy focuses on achievable targets and provides broad 30-year goals for each pillar of sustainable development, environment, economy and society. These goals are ideals to achieve over the long term. Achievable five-year objectives and targets have been identified within these 30-year goals at national and regional levels. The targets are estimates of the collective efforts required of all parties. They provide measurable, achievable and inspirational targets for the Action Strategy that can be easily communicated beyond the conservation community. They allow us to start the process of integration into the mainstream.