

Sixth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

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1. Introduction

1.1 THE CONFERENCE

Organisers

SPREP (South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme), based in Apia, Samoa, an agency/programme set up to coordinate and facilitate conservation in the South Pacific (now redefined as Pacific Island Countries). Funded by Pacific countries, international conservation agencies, aid agencies and World Bank. Supported by host government of Federated States of Micronesia and Pohnpei local businesses.

Purpose

Review of past four years (since 5th Conference in Tonga) and redirection of SPREP for next four years; information and experience sharing for Pacific Island conservation; networking for Pacific Island Countries and advisory/aid/funding/support agencies re conservation in the Pacific.

Theme

TOOLS FOR CONSERVATION: the development of tools for furthering and sustaining conservation in the Pacific, based on what has worked, what hasn't and why. A focus on marine protection and Micronesia conservation as subthemes.

Venue

Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Government Administration Centre, Palilid, Pohnpei.

Participants

Representatives of Pacific Islands government conservation agencies, conservation NGOs and international advisory/aid/funding/support/coordination agencies, local teachers and students, interested individuals: a total of around 200 participants from all around the Pacific and further afield. For most, English was their second language.

1.2 DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION REPRESENTATION

The Department of Conservation has a Memorandum of Understanding with SPREP. Attendance at these four-yearly conferences, even if to simply 'bear witness', is a prime opportunity to keep abreast of what is happening in Pacific conservation.

DoC has been involved in Pacific Islands conservation for many years, mostly via SPREP. An excellent example is the provision of advice and expertise in the

setting up of the Kakerori Recovery Programme (Rarotongan flycatcher, see SPREP newsletter item appended as Section 7.1). At least two DoC staff have been key advisers in this programme. Another example is of DoC staff working on community-based conservation areas in Samoa.

The Pacific is vast, and almost wholly ocean! A major focus for this particular conference was on marine protection, in honour of the 1997 Pacific Year of the Coral Reef. Hence Kathy Walls' marine protection experience and prior knowledge of the Pacific were highly appropriate.

Geoff Walls has attended and reported on the previous two such conferences: the 4th Conference held in Vanuatu in 1989 and the 5th Conference held in Tonga in 1993. His terrestrial protection experience, ethnobotanical knowledge of New Zealand and the Pacific, and ecological monitoring expertise were equally pertinent.

Last but not least, these conferences are invaluable for learning, sharing of information, ideas and experience, and networking. DoC has a useful role to play in the Pacific conservation theatre, and also much to learn from it.

2. Comments on particular conference sessions

2.1 CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION

The opening of the conference was like the powhiri on a marae in New Zealand. The FSM President's opening address and the welcomes of the Pohnpei traditional leaders were remarkable for their warmth and conservation insight.

Of significance to DoC were opening statements from several agencies working in the Pacific. UNESCO is beginning a 'People and Plants' programme that will document and foster traditional plant uses and plant materials throughout the Pacific. A Biodiversity Conservation Network for the region is being set up. The New Zealand Government, via NZODA which is under the wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, is spending a further \$2m in the Pacific (on top of its current level of funding), as a response to Agenda 21 (Rio). Its Action Programme for 1997-98 includes environmental impact assessments, education programmes, setting up new conservation areas and supporting existing ones, ecotourism, information needs (natural histories, databases), species protection, invasive species, climate change, and conservation management training. DoC has the expertise to advise on most of these aspects.

IUCN is exploring the option of forming a regional committee in Oceania. It makes sense for Department of Conservation to consider membership of that committee. Department of Conservation is already a member of IUCN and is represented on a World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) region that involves New Zealand and Australia. There is also a Pacific WCPA.

2.2 ACTION STRATEGY REVIEW

In a presentation entitled "From Tonga to FSM", Iosefatu Reti and Sue Miller of SPREP detailed the progress in the last four years. It was obvious that lack of resources is hampering conservation in the Pacific, but despite that, much progress has been made on almost every front. The most interesting thing is that there has been a radical paradigm shift: away from single-species programmes and hands-off protected areas and towards community-based enterprise development that benefits conservation. The resourcing agencies have swung accordingly. This paradigm shift occurred at the last SPREP conference in Tonga, in response to "government top down" protection decrees that did not take adequate account of the needs and traditions of local communities. SPREP's Action Strategy for nature conservation now thoroughly accommodates those realities.

2.3 PRESENTED PAPERS

There were over thirty papers, presented during the conference lunchtimes. They were mostly case-studies of local conservation projects, and served to give substance to the conference themes as well as providing tangible platforms for sharing ideas and information. Although the conference structure partly marginalised these presentations, they turned out to be real highlights.

2.4 INVASIVE SPECIES TECHNICAL SESSION

Mick Clout and Sarah Lowe of School of Environmental and Marine Sciences, University of Auckland, convened a technical session to focus on the problems of invasive species in the Pacific. Both are members of IUCN's Invasive Species Specialist Group, which among other things produces *Aliens Newsletter*. The session served to sheet home the enormity of the issue, the common ground among numerous Pacific countries, and the needs for information sharing and monitoring. It also highlighted the practical expertise of New Zealand DoC and the useful role this could serve in the Pacific.

3. Working group sessions

3.1 TOOL 1A: MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

More than 65 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) have been established in the Pacific region to date. These range from strict 'no access' nature reserves and single-species 'no take' zones to the more recent community-based conservation area initiatives. The latter type of areas often includes coastal land, which can be a key for successful catchment management. A recent global assessment of

existing and proposed MPAs has endorsed this approach. There is a message here for New Zealand's marine protection. The key problem in New Zealand is that establishment of a continuum of protection from the catchment area to offshore, which is the ideal design, is difficult to achieve. No single piece of legislation provides for this, although the National Parks Act or the Reserves Act combined with the Marine Reserves Act could be used in circumstances where strict protection is desirable. Another fundamental concept that was confirmed was that MPAs had to be set up to be sustainable, with secure funding and proper monitoring of key indicators.

3.2 TOOL 1B: COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION AREAS

Community-based Conservation Areas (CBCAs) are areas (land, sea or both) recognised locally, nationally or internationally as important for the conservation of ecological/cultural features, whilst allowing for the sustainable use of natural resources by local communities. They are owned and managed by local communities according to their needs and priorities. Establishment of CBCAs has been the region's main approach to biodiversity conservation since the early 1990s. It has superseded the 'parks and reserves' and single-species-focus approaches. Despite some draw-backs and limitations, it is clearly answering the needs of the region.

There are very strong messages for conservation in New Zealand from this. The prime one is that, when local communities continue to own and derive economic benefit from their traditional areas, and have full and active roles in decision-making and implementation, conservation can progress where it hitherto seemed impossible. Examples of working CBCAs were given. DoC could look to these as models in the context of the Chathams (Pitt Island in particular), conservation partnerships with iwi, and stalled southern MPAS.

3.3 TOOL 2: ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AS A CONSERVATION INCENTIVE

Enterprise Development as a Conservation Incentive (EDCI) is "any economic activity undertaken by a community that through its need to use natural resources, engenders community will and action to conserve and sustainably use those resources and at the same time improves the socioeconomic well-being of the community". Their key characteristics are:

- they are owned and managed by the local communities;
- they are profit-making activities that generate local employment;
- there is equitable distribution of benefits and costs;
- they result in reducing threats to or loss of biodiversity.

Funding agencies, including World Bank and NZODA, are supporting the establishment of increasing numbers of these enterprises throughout the

Pacific. Ecotourism is the major kind of enterprise, e.g. forest trekking tours, mangrove boating tours and coral reef diving tours. Included also though is the production for sale of products based on traditional resource use, e.g. weaving, carving and cosmetics. In some cases the products are cultivated or farmed to provide economic sustenance as an alternative to practices that are not ecologically sustainable. There are pitfalls, such as in ensuring sustainability and equitable sharing of benefits, but many such enterprises are now working to serve both local community well-being and biodiversity conservation.

3.4 TOOL 3: CONSERVATION TRUST FUNDS

A Conservation Trust Fund is "a financing mechanism established to generate an ongoing or sustainable stream of funds to support conservation and sustainable development, whether on a local, national or regional level". An example of an existing Pacific region trust fund is the Rainbow Warrior Trust Fund, administered by the NZ Ministry of Internal Affairs. Grants from this fund have been used to support the Kakerori Recovery Programme (see Section 7.1), in which DoC staff have been involved. A smaller more local example is the trust fund that supports the Hinewai conservation project (a mainland island) on Banks Peninsula. Other such funds have been used extensively in Latin America and to a lesser extent in Asia and Africa. There is clearly a widespread need for such funds. They can be large or small.

3.5 TOOL 4: WORLD HERITAGE

The entrance of the World Heritage concept on to the Pacific stage was the truly inspirational aspect of the Conference. Bing Lucas (ex Director-General of Lands, New Zealand, now working for the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas) gave a keynote introduction in which he explained the workings of the World Heritage Convention (1972), to which New Zealand is a signatory, and the process for the listing of World Heritage sites.

Sites must be recognised as having "outstanding universal value", for their natural or cultural qualities or both. There are four criteria for natural qualities and six for cultural. Listed sites are mostly discrete features or areas, but they don't have to be so. Sacred places and migration routes, even where not well defined, are included.

Few Pacific Island countries are members of the Convention, and so far only a handful of sites have been nominated for World Heritage listing in the region. Impediments include limited awareness, complex land ownership, lack of recognition in the Convention of traditional protection of sites and perceived costs and obligations. However, the potential benefits, both economic and protective, are immense. Most of the conference participants visited Nan Madol, a megalithic city of artificial islands in Pohnpei's south-eastern lagoon. This site is truly stunning, and will gain the recognition it deserves if it attains World Heritage status. New Zealand is clearly a leader in the Pacific region in terms of World Heritage listing, even though its focus on south-west South

Island, the subantarctic islands, and Tongariro is very recent and as yet is largely confined to natural values.

3.6 TOOLBOX

In a final conference ceremony, each of the four tools developed and embellished by the conference working groups were presented to the assembled participants and with due reverence placed in a toolbox, to be taken back to Apia by SPREP, worked upon some more, then handed back to the Pacific Islands conservation community to assist and guide future efforts. An enormous amount of work and experience went into that toolbox. Time will tell how useful it will be.

Much of the detail covered in the workshops by the many working groups was not able to be put together in time for reporting back to the full conference. In particular, there were numerous excellent examples given in each working group which highlighted conservation efforts throughout the Pacific region. The draft Toolbox Paper is appended as Section 7.3.

4. Revision of Action Strategy

The consensus was that not much was wrong with the 1994 Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific Region. However, a revision committee (which included Kathy Walls) was set up and worked hard to make several key changes:

- document title change to: Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands 1999-2002 (the previous title being recognised as misleading because it did not include North Pacific islands such as FSM);
- address the issue of intellectual property rights and ownership of access to genetic resources;
- encourage ratification of conventions that may facilitate or support conservation in the region;
- increase emphasis on prevention and control of invasive species (both marine and terrestrial);
- improve measures of success for capacity-building;
- describe practical methods for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the Action Strategy.

The paper in which Action Strategy revisions were presented to the conference is appended (Section 7.2). Since the Action Strategy is the guiding document for SPREP, making these endorsements and key changes has profound potential implications for conservation in the Pacific. Because SPREP is both a Pacific conservation umbrella programme and an agency, there has been confusion in

the past about the role of the Action Strategy. This review therefore sought to ensure wide ownership of the new strategy for 1999-2002 by having a coordinating committee comprising wide membership (all regional and international organisations with active programmes in the Pacific). Thereby it was hoped that Pacific Island nations and conservation agencies would be empowered and guided strategically, and that strategic targets would be met.

5. Resolutions

It is tradition that each of these conferences provides the opportunity for resolutions to be generated and discussed before being adopted by the conference. Accordingly, another working group was set up for this purpose, and it too worked long hours. Eventually, 19 resolutions were drafted and put to the final plenary. Strangely, the one that met with most resistance was the one drafted by Geoff Walls proposing that SPREP coordinate a network of ecological monitoring sites throughout the region, even though that flowed logically out of almost every part of the tools discussions, the Action Strategy, the technical sessions, and the presented papers! We realised later that it was either being seen as in the 'too hard' basket or was being sidelined in the current focus on community involvement in Pacific conservation. In other words, it was a slightly premature concept at this stage. However, it was generally agreed at the conference that the concept of ecological monitoring would be identified in the revised Action Strategy.

Other key resolutions included: control and management of the live reef fish trade and the decimation of shark populations in the Pacific Islands region; recognition that the World Heritage Convention has an important role to play in protecting and managing natural and cultural areas in the Pacific; and the importance of protecting intellectual and genetic property rights in the Pacific.

6. Conclusions

6.1 PACIFIC CONSERVATION TRENDS

The conservation scene in the Pacific is dynamic, innovative, adaptive and truly international. We were struck by the focus on community development, almost at the expense of conservation as we think of it in a conventional sense in New Zealand (with a prime focus on conservation of biodiversity, threatened biota, key sites, and representative areas). There has been a profound paradigm shift in the conservation scene in the Pacific, reflected in the way government agencies, NGOs and funding agencies are now directing their resources into community-based conservation. The approach taken aims at balancing sustainable resource

use with biodiversity protection. The 1999-2002 Action Strategy will assist in identifying whether or not this is the right approach.

The momentum for marine protection in the Pacific is increasing as Pacific Island nations recognise the integral relationship of sea with land and that the sea provides vital resources for community survival. Terrestrial protection is metamorphosing, as just explained above.

6.2 NEW ZEALAND DoC PARTICIPATION

1. There is a Polynesian connection whereby New Zealand has a legitimate place in the wider Pacific. Many of the conservation issues and ingredients are virtually identical. DoC has played only a minor role in Pacific conservation so far; thereby it has largely missed out on the lessons to be learnt from the Pacific, and has transferred little of its expertise to Pacific countries. More active involvement by DoC in the Pacific would be beneficial to all. This could include joint programmes with conservation NGOs and specific Pacific countries, membership on the proposed IUCN Oceania committee and IUCN's Invasive Species Specialist Group, more collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade/NZODA, and encouragement of specialist networks such as those already in existence with colleagues in Australia and USA.
2. DoC's Pacific involvement so far, small though it has been, is regarded as positive and welcome.
3. DoC should review its Pacific involvement in the light of its Memorandum of Understanding with SPREP, and staff should be made more aware of its existence and the opportunities it offers.
4. If not already, DoC should be on the subscription/circulation list for SPREP newsletters and information and make this material more widely visible to its staff.
5. DoC should liaise with MFAT/NZODA regarding opportunities for the supply of practical conservation expertise to NZODA's Pacific conservation programmes.
6. Tangata whenua community-based enterprises and partnerships in New Zealand lag behind other places in the Pacific. There are useful lessons for DoC in this regard.
7. The process of obtaining marine conservation/protection in New Zealand parallels that in the Pacific. It is a universal concept whose time has arrived (at long last!).
8. Terrestrial conservation/protection is different in the Pacific from that currently pursued in New Zealand: without community participation and economic benefit, no conservation is sustainable. This is a clear signal for the way DoC could be looking to make progress in difficult situations such as on Pitt Island.
9. There should be Maori participation at the next conference, to be held in the Solomon Islands in 2001, as part of DoC's participation.

7. Appendices

7.1 A FLYING SUCCESS: THE KAKERORI RECOVERY PROGRAMME

Anna Tiraa, Takitumu Conservation Area Support Officer

(From CASOLink, June 1997, no. 6, SPREP.)

Established in early 1996, the Takitumu Conservation Area (TCA) is the home of many unique plants and animals. However, few need more care than the critically endangered kakerori, or Rarotonga flycatcher.

The 155-hectare Takitumu Conservation Area is located on the south-east side of inland Rarotonga, Cook Islands. It is owned by three major landowning groups, and contains the core breeding grounds of the kakerori (*Pomarea dimidiata*). In fact, the conservation area was primarily established to protect this unique bird.

The main dangers to the kakerori are introduced predators, particularly the ship rat (*Rattus rattus*) which preys on the nestlings. In 1987 a recovery programme to help save the kakerori commenced. This programme involves a number of activities designed to help the kakerori breed successfully.

The breeding season lasts from mid-October to early January. Before it starts, an annual census of the kakerori is undertaken. This involves counting the adult birds, which can be recognised by the combination of colour bands (placed on their legs) and the territory they occupy. The fledglings from the previous breeding season are caught with a mist net and colour banded, and these are also included in the count.

Kakerori generally build their nests in trees over valley streams, and pairs defend their territories aggressively while breeding. Their nests are made with moss (*Aerobryopsis longissima*) commonly found in the area. To prevent rats from reaching the nest, the trunks of nesting trees and adjacent trees whose branches touch those of the nest-tree are banded with aluminium. In addition, poisoned rat baits are laid in the area both before and during the breeding season.

Soon after the kakerori breeding season finishes, the search for fledglings commences. This is normally carried out until early March.

In 1989 there were 29 birds left. At the last annual census in 1996, their population stood at 134, giving hope for the kakerori's future. The next census is due to start in August.

Financial support from the SPBCP has enabled the continuation of the Kakerori Recovery Programme, which has moved out of the government sphere and is now managed by the landowners through the Takitumu Conservation Area.

Acknowledgements

So many individuals and groups have contributed to the Kakerori Recovery Programme over the years. However, I would especially like to thank Eddie Saul, Hugh Robertson, the staff of Tu'anga Taporoporo (Environment Service), Pacific Islands Development Conservation Trust Fund and SPREP.

Meitaki maata e kia manuia.

7.2 ACTION STRATEGY PAPER

Introduction

The review of the 1994 *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific Region* at the conference reaffirmed that the mission and six objectives still reflect the priorities for the region. The discussions at this conference also confirmed that we should continue to emphasize the use of community-based conservation, and the 1998 Action Strategy will highlight the promising progress of the past four years. The attached mission and six objectives in a new order are recommended to the Plenary.

At the request of the 1993 Conference, the *Action Strategy* is simple and brief to maintain focus on the most critically needed actions rather than being a shopping list of possible activities. Proposed revisions for the 1999 Action Strategy include:

Proposed 1999-2002 Action Strategy

1. **Title** - Change the title of the document to *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands 1999-2002* to recognize that the islands of the North Pacific are included. This will also help address a common misconception that SPREP has total responsibility for this action strategy.
2. **Objectives** -
 - Reorder the objectives to follow a more logical sequence.
 - Revise the name and text of the *NEMS* objective to reflect the focus on Planning and Legal Frameworks and the new National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) process supported by the Convention on Biodiversity.
 - Revise the name and text of the *Training and Extension* objective to reflect the regional recognition that "capacity-building" is greater than "training and extension".
3. **Key Actions** - Many of the key actions have been fully or partially completed, and some new priorities have emerged. All key actions will be reviewed and updated following the conference based upon:
 - Recommendations in *From Tonga to FSM...*, prepared by Joe Reti and Sue Miller
 - Input from the Conference
 - Input from the Action Strategy Revision Committee
 - SPREP Action Plan
 - Feedback from the Measures of Success questionnaire

Thus far, five substantial revisions have been recommended:

- develop key actions addressing the issue of intellectual property rights and ownership of access to genetic resources
 - identify and encourage ratification of conventions that may facilitate or support conservation in the region
 - increase emphasis on prevention and control of invasive species (both marine and terrestrial)
 - improve measures of success for capacity-building
 - describe practical methods for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the Action Strategy (see discussion below)
4. Update all basic facts, lists and annexes with the most current available information with the exception of Annex 2: *NEWS Country Priorities for Action and Nature Conservation and Protected Areas*. This annex will be omitted in recognition that many of these priorities have been accomplished. These priorities will be updated in many countries in the coming year as part of the requirement under the Convention on Biodiversity.

Implementing, Monitoring and Evaluating the Action Strategy

The 1994 Action Strategy states that "implementation of this Strategy will depend upon the efforts of organisations and individuals throughout the region." It also called for a mechanism to:

- identify how (or by whom) these actions will be implemented; and
- develop a way to regularly measure progress toward these objectives.

These two important elements of the Action Strategy have not yet been accomplished. The Revision Committee believes that the responsibility for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the Action Strategy's regional actions can and should be shared by the region's conservation organizations. Therefore, the Revision Committee recommends that:

- all regional and international organizations with active programs for nature conservation in the Pacific region agree to share the responsibility for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the regional actions of the 1998 Action Strategy; and
- SPREP take the lead role in convening a meeting of these organisations for this purpose and seek the necessary financial resources to support this meeting from its donors.

These organizations would be invited to volunteer to take the lead or play a collaborative role in implementing and monitoring actions relevant to their priorities and work programs. The group would also agree on mechanisms for measuring progress and identifying difficulties and actions needing special attention at least once a year.

It is hoped that the formation of this working group will foster greater coordination, closer partnerships, and even more effective action for conservation by the region's conservation organizations. Ideally, the working group would meet before the 1998 Action Strategy is finalised, so that the results of their deliberation can be incorporated into the Strategy's monitoring and evaluation actions.

In addition, all countries are encouraged to use the Action Strategy as a guide in updating their national priorities through the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan required by the Convention on Biodiversity or other planning processes. If the regional working group is successful, SPREP may facilitate similar coordinating meetings at a national level for countries that would like assistance with updating their national priorities and determining how their national organizations wish to share the work to be done.

Review and Approval of the Action Strategy

The draft Action Strategy will be distributed for review by the Revision Committee, SPREP, and outside reviewers. After comments are incorporated, the final Action Strategy will be presented to the 1998 SPREP Meeting for approval.

Annex 1:
Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in Pacific Islands 1998-2002
Mission Statement and Objectives

Mission Statement

To protect the rich natural heritage of the Pacific Islands forever through the conservation and sustainable management of its natural resources and biodiversity for the benefit of the peoples of the Pacific Islands and the world.

Major Objectives:

Objective 1: Biodiversity Protection

To identify and address the most urgent threats to the region's biodiversity and protect the region's plants, animals and ecosystems for future generations.

Objective 2: Planning and Legal Framework

To develop or update national conservation strategies for all countries and territories within the region and begin or continue implementing priority conservation and sustainable resource management actions in at least half the countries and territories.

Objective 3: Local Communities and Customs

To involve communities, resource owners, and resource users in cooperative natural resource management and conservation that recognises and strengthens the rights of local people and uses environmentally sound customs, and develop mechanisms for distributing resource benefits as equitably as possible throughout communities.

Objective 4: Capacity Building

To strengthen local expertise and technical ability in planning and implementing sustainable natural resource management and conservation programmes for marine and terrestrial environments through capacity building programmes that utilize local expertise whenever possible.

Objective 5: Environmental Awareness, Information Sharing and Partnership

To improve environmental awareness and information sharing and to build working partnerships at the local, national, regional and international levels in support of conservation activities.

Objective 6: Funding Mechanisms

To develop and advocate appropriate funding mechanisms for the sustained support of conservation and sustainable resource management activities at the local, national and regional levels.



6th Conference Final Plenary Paper 2 <i>draft TOOLBOX</i>
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1. Purpose

To present the draft TOOLBOX containing the summarised outputs from the TOOL Working Group Sessions for:

- **TOOL 1 Protected Areas - marine protected areas and community based conservation areas**
- **TOOL 2 Enterprise Development as a Conservation Incentive**
- **TOOL 3 Conservation Trust Funds**
- **TOOL 4 World Heritage Convention, and**
- **to outline proposed follow-up to complete the TOOLBOX,**

The *draft* TOOL results are attached as an annex to this document.

2. Introduction

The Conference Theme "TOOLS For Conservation" focused on using facilitated Working Group Sessions to stimulate discussion on lessons learnt and best advice for using these approaches for conservation in the Pacific Islands region. Feedback from delegates indicates that this approach was useful and enabled '*real dialogue, participation and learning*' in these sessions. As a result there was a tremendous amount and range of discussion produced for each TOOL. The TEAM has been able to collectively pull together the 'best advice' for three top issues of concern in using each TOOL in our region. This is presented in bullet point format in the attached drafts. However, it has not been possible due to time constraints to completely compile all the feedback received.

Overall feedback for the TOOLBOX can be summarised as:

1. suggested improvements on the working definitions
2. supporting information to link working definitions to international definitions but not to lose the importance of having a working definition that is from the region and meaningful to the region
3. new use and issues information with often many examples given
4. these issues are often developed into new questions raised that in some cases were answered
5. advice and requests to agencies to assist use of these TOOLS

The Framework for the TOOLBOX below takes on board these points and suggests a process of follow up to ensure that the results of discussions are not lost but are developed in to a dynamic document that can be used by those working with these TOOLS in the region. Finally, it was seen that this TOOLBOX forms an important resource for any conservation network that may be established as part of conference follow-up.

In addition, introductory material to the overall TOOLBOX needs to be drafted and should reflect that advice given for use of each TOOL is based on experience to date . It was widely recognised that it is too early to confirm success and advice taken in this context.

3. *Framework and recommended process of follow up.*

- **TOOL BOX FRAMEWORK**

For each TOOL:

1. Brief background summary of key information about the TOOL.
2. Working Definition in Pacific Islands region (with amendments as necessary based on group results)
3. Use and Issues (with amendments as necessary based on group results)
4. Best Advice (based on experience to date) on key issues answered by conference based on collective experience in using these TOOLS. In this section a personal 'story/lesson learnt' insert for each TOOL is suggested that gives key experience related to the best advice.
5. Any overall advice to agencies relating to ongoing work in using the TOOL.
6. Annex containing a network of contacts for each TOOL.

- **PROCESS FOR COMPLETION**

After the Conference

1. For all input from working groups to be collated, edited and circulated as a draft to the TEAM for final input as part of conference proceedings,
2. first draft deadline October 20th
3. final completion December 1997.

- **HOW THE TOOLBOX CAN BE USED**

The TOOLBOX will be produced as a set of guidelines for using these approaches for conservation. It will be published in a format that can be used in the field. The TOOLBOX will also make reference to the revised Action Strategy so that it develops the 'how to' of actions.



*draft TOOLBOX input for
TOOL 1 Protected Areas
(mpas & cbeas)*

Note - Based on results of the TOOL1a and TOOL1b Working Group Sessions the TEAM combined marine protected areas and community based conservation area discussion outputs and decided to use conservation area as a generic term rather than 'protected area'.

Type of process recommend for establishment of conservation areas...

Transparent with the following elements:

- participatory, with community involvement at every step
- builds capacity of all stakeholders
- flexible and adaptive
- integrates traditional/contemporary conservation approaches

Experience indicates that this process takes 2-5 years to establish conservation area that has the greatest chance to succeed in our region e.g. Arnavon.

Suggested Steps to be considered in the process of establishing a conservation area.....

- initial realisation from resource owners, local communities that resources are declining and there is community willingness and shared vision for conservation area,
- seek government support and sanction
- seek experience, technical advice and information from governments, NGOs, private sector e.g. tourism, fishing and other agencies
- hold community meetings to develop and agree on process, goals and objectives, and to clarify concepts
- gather necessary information
- refine goals and objectives and develop concept into a conservation area plan;
- develop management structure, stakeholders review process and seek stakeholders approval for the plan
- once a conservation area plan is in place, recruit local support staff (conservation officers) and provide training and resources
- develop strategy for securing long term funding hence sustainability of marine protected areas (MPAs) and community-based conservation areas (CBCAs) using mechanisms such as income generating activities, user fees, trust funds, budget allocations and others
- document, disseminate, promote methodologies (awareness raising)
- develop and implement a monitoring programme for key indicators
- where appropriate, revise plans to take into account monitoring results

Recommended criteria for measuring success in conservation areas....

When developing criteria for measuring success, the following factors need to be taken into account:

1. criteria must be measurable and directly related to goals and objectives of conservation area.
2. they must also measure what the community perceives as important;
3. they must measure both short (2-3 years) and long term outcomes

criteria for measuring success should include...

- degree of equitable sharing of both effort and benefits
- extent of compliance with rules
- degree to which identified threats to the conservation area are alleviated
- are the resources more or less abundant than when the conservation area started?
- is there adequate community participation in decision making (empowerment of communities)
- the extent to which the conservation areas contributed to community well-being e.g. did the conservation area generate employment and by how much?
- degree of ongoing participation and satisfaction of all stakeholders involved
- degree to which the conservation area is self funded
- have others copied this conservation area process?
- use of local languages and customs in materials produced and actions taken
- ability of plans to be adaptive in response to review recommendations



Information needs about the capacity of the resource and the proposed enterprise before embarking?

Note:

1. all information needs to be up to dated as needed
2. information depends on the enterprise
3. range of information types needed - biological, ecological, socio-economic baseline
4. Information needs can include:
 - current resource use/users (both commercial and subsistence)
 - carrying capacity of the resource and supply/assessment of resource vulnerability
 - projected quantities of the resource to make the enterprise viable (consumptive and non consumptive uses)
 - EIA of proposed enterprise on resource
 - need for market studies - demand, access, financial viability, long term projections, capital investment required
 - information on the level of existing expertise in the community
 - detailed information about community's attitudes and obligations
 - identification of biologically sensitive areas/species not suitable for the enterprise development
 - know the other commercial threats e.g.- competing non sustainable commercial activities like logging
 - know government requirements e.g. licensing, laws, incentive schemes
 - infrastructure present versus infrastructure needed for the enterprise development
 - existing traditional management methods
 - control sites for comparisons

Are there any examples in the Pacific where such enterprises have resulted in both increased income and conservation

Noted that these are "initial indicators" of success only and it is too early to confirm long term success. There is a need to monitor and collate EDCI initiatives. Current examples include:

- conservation of rare palms in Vanuatu
- small scale residential ecotourism in Koroyanitu, Fiji
- ecotourism sites in Pohnpei - mangrove tour part of watershed projects
- ngali nut enterprise -Solomon Islands
- handicraft enterprise by women using pandanus in Niue
- diving Utuko reef, Niue, taboo area
- trekking linked with forest in Samoa
- wood carving linked with forest - Uafato
- nature based mangrove protection in Saanapu - Sataoa
- Verata, Fiji bioprospecting USPBCN
- tapa cloth production PNG
- bird-wing butterfly farming, PNG
- research station usage and lab/bench fees e.g Crater Mountains, Kimbe - PNG
- Vaitupu Island ecotourism in Tuvalu
- ecotourism and sustainable agricultural system in Vatthe
- Arnavon Islands fishing enterprise
- Chuuk - trochus, under water monument

- **What are the necessary and sufficient conditions for EDCIs to work effectively in the Pacific context**
- community need to want income - want money
- community approval and support of proposed enterprise
- capital base for investment available
- marketing and feasibility analysis indicates a proven market
- infrastructure sufficient-i.e goods to market
- equitable distribution of benefits
- locally appropriate technology available
- ecologically and culturally sensitive approach to business planning and implementation
- maintaining links between enterprise and conservation
- resource must be suitable to develop enterprise
- suitable training and skills support
- good management skills
- assessing risk - financial and biodiversity
- ensure that legal framework is clearly defined - ownership and tenure system
- transparency in business development, cost and benefit
- focus private sector input into building partnerships and supporting capacity of local communities e.g develop skills to take over or manage projects in the long term
- expectation of all parties needs to be made clear
- for the private sector and local community there needs to be security which has some backing through agreements or legislation e.g. long term leases
- need information on EDCIs needs to be usable at the local level e.g. by translating into local languages, interpreting technical information
- real need to assistance in this areas and networking with others in PICs who have experience in EDCIs.



Should the goals of a regional conservation trust fund be narrowly defined, or should they be expanded to include promotion of the sustainable use of resources?

-primary goal (should be very focused) and should assist community based conservation areas (CBCA)

-secondary goal to assist related community conservation initiatives

Projects that can be funded should focus on:

- -community based,
- -conservation,
- -integrated development.
- -capacity building (including ngos),
- -education/awareness
- -sustainable income generation

Agreed that CTFs appear to be an appropriate tool for conservation. It was thought that the technical, complex and expensive process required to set up a CTF is the key reason for limited use in the region to date.

Is the concept of a South Pacific Biodiversity CTF as set out in the SPREP Concept Paper considered appropriate or inappropriate? And why?

Yes, but. . .

- a regional entity/fund should be established to achieve economies of scale in terms of fund-raising investments and management, with national small grant agencies disbursing grants based on local priorities.
- there should be flexibility for the regional fund to disburse grants directly in countries with limited capacity
- the regional fund should also disburse grants directly for projects that would benefit more than one country
- a regional fund should encourage and support the establishment, where appropriate, of national funds
- there is scope for establishment of local CTFs for specialised projects/sectors
- there is a need to evaluate very carefully the purpose of the fund; i.e. will it become a source of funds for new projects, or will it fund the ongoing needs of identified existing initiatives?
- to be effective, and to match current SPBCP spending of approximately USD \$1 million dollars per year, a trust would have to be capitalised in the order of USD \$20 million.
- SPREP should dialogue with regional stakeholders regarding the details of establishing the regional CTF.
- Beneficiaries should be
 - any regional organisation, governments, NGOs, communities, etc., involved in community based conservation.
- Composition and function of the Board should be clearly defined.



draft TOOLBOX input for
TOOL 4 World Heritage Convention

What are the present constraints keeping Pacific Island countries from joining the World Heritage Convention?

- lack of awareness, knowledge and understanding of the convention
- lack of support in-country to assess benefits and costs of joining
- lack of capacity in-country to assess benefits and costs of joining
- lack of clarity of benefits to existing parties of being convention members
- concern at documentation processes
- lack of political will

What benefits and costs are seen for a Pacific Island Government joining the WH Convention?

1. BENEFITS

- focused attention on heritage within national boundaries
- funding and technical assistance from world heritage
- through WH site listing leverage funding from other donors
- capacity building
- access to technical assistance
- networking regional/international
- learning from each others experience
- empowerment of ngo's on conservation efforts
- conservation of biodiversity (target species)
- Recognition of any Pacific country in the regional/international scale
- helps to consider culture and nature conservation together
- increase conservation awareness among countries

2. COSTS

- contribution US\$371 per year
- staff time and resources
- political costs
- dependence on external funding nature and resource
- loss of choices for natural resource exploitation
- potential cost of commitment, including opportunity costs.

What are the present constraints keeping Pacific Island countries from using the World Heritage Convention.

- they are not parties
- lack of knowledge on how the convention works
- lack of surveys of potential sites
- conflicts between government and tenure owners/resource users,
- conflicts within government agencies mandates
- a concern for not having the capacity to manage a WHC site in the future (e.g. monitoring, surveillance, enforcement)
- the Convention's lack of recognition of traditional protection for natural sites (this is already recognised for cultural site listings)
- apparent separation of cultural and natural sites in the Convention's criteria

- special issue for conservation of serial sites e.g. migration routes, lapita as these often involve more than one sovereign state making a nomination

What are the perceived benefits and costs to local site owners of allowing their government (who is a WHC Party) to list their site on the World Heritage List?

1. PERCEIVED BENEFITS

- pride of the local community and culture
- promotion of the area e.g. for tourism
- gives additional protection which is recognised nationally, internationally
- provision of assistance (funding and technical) from the World Heritage Centre
- can assist co-operation and partnership building between all levels (government and communities)
- assists evaluation and monitoring of a site
- site listing assists in accessing/leveraging resources and support from other donors
- provides mechanism for formal recognition of partnerships
- increase appreciation for and recognition of, and may revive and strengthen cultural values and traditions
- increase tourism opportunities and employment

It was noted that many the perceived benefits could be costs or negative factors also if fundamental process of partnership building and recognition of local tenure was not followed e.g. tourism development

2. PERCEIVED COSTS

- restrictions to future development options
- financial obligations - administrative
- reduce rights/choice to self determination
- potential loss/change of cultural/traditional integrity
- concerns about implementing a 'management plan'
- impacts to surrounding communities
- adverse effects of increased tourism opportunities & employment

How can the World Heritage Convention be effectively used in a way that is driven by the needs and specific circumstances of Pacific Island countries and territories? What are the recommended Next Steps?

- require in-country assistance for non-Parties to assess benefits and costs of joining the convention
- need to develop simple and regionally relevant documentation processes
- need to build political will for joining and using the convention as only government parties can nominate site
- need partnerships with local tenure holders/resource users in site selection and development of nominations
- identify potential revenue generation/employment opportunities of site listing
- require assistance to collect and review existing knowledge/information of cultural and natural history
- recommend monitoring assessment of the expected and then realised benefits and costs of site listing
- note that WHC is not going to solve all issues for a site e.g. conservation areas but it is another tool for conservation that can assist
- note that the Convention on Biological Diversity focuses on representative site conservation and the World Heritage Convention focuses on 'special' sites of outstanding value and provides direct linkages to cultural heritage conservation
- *review and incorporate recommendations of the 3rd Global Strategy Meeting (Suva, Fiji-July 1997)*
- *note Thailand Government organising a workshop in January 1998 (Lucas)*