



Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

TWENTY-FIRST SPREP MEETING

Madang, Papua New Guinea
6 – 10 September 2010

Agenda Item 9.1.2: 2010 International Year of Biodiversity and Pacific participation in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 10th Conference of the Parties, Nagoya, Japan 18 – 29 October 2010

Purpose of Paper

1. To inform members of the Progress in Implementing the 2010 Year of Biodiversity and Pacific Participation in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): 10th Conference of the Parties, Nagoya, Japan 18 – 29 October 2010.
2. To seek endorsement of recommendations relevant to these topics.

Background

3. SPREP is the regional focal point for the CBD with the mandate to assist countries implement key objectives of the CBD and to provide technical support to assist countries with their preparations for the meetings of the conference of the parties
4. Members approved at the 20th SPREP Meeting in Apia in 2009 the recommendation from the Secretariat for the Pacific to celebrate the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity

Fourth National Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity

5. SPREP in collaboration with the Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) conducted a regional training for CBD National Focal Points in April 2010 in Apia on the requirements for the preparation and completion of 4th National Reports to the CBD. The 4th National Reports to the CBD were due in March 2009; however, only three reports from the Pacific region were completed and submitted to the SCBD. The 4th National Reports were expected to inform the Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 Report. It is envisaged that all the outstanding 4th National Reports from the Pacific would be completed and submitted to the Secretariat for the CBD in advance of the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October 2010.



National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

6. SPREP continues to provide support to the contracting parties to the CBD with the preparation of the NBSAPs and their subsequent implementation. In 2010, SPREP has assisted Tuvalu to complete its NBSAP. Through the Round Table mechanism, assistance has been provided to countries to implement key priorities in the NBSAPs and related activities. A number of countries have identified the need to review their current NBSAPs to take into account new and emerging issues particularly those relating to climate change. Based on requests from countries, SPREP will support the review of existing NBSAPs and continue to assist in identifying resources to assist countries to implement key priorities in the NBSAPs. This will be the main focus of SPREP's support in 2011.

2010 International Year of Biodiversity

7. At the 20th SPREP Meeting in Apia, Members agreed to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity in the Pacific. In February 2010, the Pacific International Year of Biodiversity logo and theme "*Value Island Biodiversity: It's our life*" were officially launched and these have been adopted and used widely in official SPREP communications to promote the Pacific International Year of Biodiversity. The Secretariat has provided technical and financial support to assist countries with their national activities to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity. A wide range of activities are being implemented by countries such as information kits, art and poster competitions, tree planting, video documentaries. The Secretariat is hoping to select innovative and creative initiatives from countries to be showcased at the CBD COP 10. The intention is to set up a Pacific exhibition or side event at the COP10 to share our Pacific stories and to highlight key challenges that the Pacific is faced in achieving national, regional and global biodiversity targets.

Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation

8. SPREP hosted the 13th Pacific Islands Round Table in Apia in July. The Round Table discussed and considered key strategic priorities for the next ten years as part of a strategic process leading up to the 2012 Nature Conservation Conference where the new Action Strategy 2013 – 2017 will be discussed and considered. SPREP will initiate preparations for the 2012 Nature Conservation Conference as part of its work programmes for 2011. The review of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) was conducted during the Round Table which involved representatives from countries which are currently implementing PoWPA activities. The PoWPA review provided an excellent opportunity for country representatives to share information and experiences which will progress the implementation of country PoWPA activities. The Round Table recognized the need to coordinate assistance from its members to support countries with their preparations to the CBD COP 10 in October in Japan and to raise the profile of the Pacific through joint side events and activities. The Round Table also considered ways to effectively implement and monitor the work of the Round Table in particular strategies to better engage with donors and countries. The Round Table will continue to provide support to countries in a more coordinated and collaborative manner. The report from the 2010 Roundtable will be tabled at the 2010 SPREP Meeting.

Pacific regional pre-COP meeting

9. In preparation for COP10, the Secretariat, in collaboration with key partners, implemented a Pacific regional pre-COP meeting in Nadi, Fiji in August 2010. The overall objective of the pre-COP meeting was to provide assistance and support to prepare countries for engaging with the agenda of COP 10 (Annex 1). Draft briefing papers on key CBD issues were produced as one of the key outputs of the pre-COP meeting. The pre-COP meeting targeted national biodiversity focal points, particularly those attending COP10. A special training on negotiations skills was conducted by SPREP to assist and equip country delegates with appropriate tools and skills to effectively negotiate at COP 10. SPREP will continue to provide technical assistance and advice to countries in the lead up to COP 10.

10th Conference of the Parties to the CBD

10. A small delegation from the Secretariat to be led by the Director will be attending the CBD COP10 in Nagoya, Japan from the 18 – 29 October, 2010. The Secretariat's participation at COP10 is primarily to provide support to the countries and assist in coordinating input and information as required by country delegates. The Secretariat will be responsible for coordinating a Pacific exhibition or side events at COP10. The Secretariat will also dialogue with donors and partners on opportunities for new regional initiatives to strengthen the Secretariat's programmes on biodiversity conservation.

Recommendations

11. The meeting is invited to:
- strongly **encourage** contracting parties to the CBD to complete their 4th National Reports to the CBD and submit to the CBD Secretariat prior to CBD COP10;
 - **support** a Pacific-wide exhibition or side event to showcase innovative biodiversity initiatives from the Pacific campaign to amplify the voices of the Pacific at the CBD COP10;
 - **consider** including in the national work programmes for 2011 a review of the existing NBSAPs;
 - strongly **encourage** CBD contracting parties to demonstrate and present a coordinated and united position on key issues at the CBD COP10; and
 - **note** and **provide** advice and guidances in relation to the 2012 Nature Conservation Conference preparations which will start in 2011.