

## Pacific Position Paper (Chapter 7 & Attachments)

### Furthering Implementation of the BPoA and New and Emerging Concerns

#### VISION

Improved quality of life for all Pacific Islanders through achieving measurable Sustainable Development

#### MISSION

To further the implementation of the BPoA including the new and emerging issues at all levels in the Pacific Region, with particular focus at the National level

#### OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the draft Pacific regional position would be to:

- Ensure the sustainable development priorities of the Pacific region are fully acknowledged and integrated in the BPOA+10 outcomes;
- Secure and strengthen political support from the international community for programmes and initiatives that are essential to sustainable development of this region's people, their environment and natural resources;
- *Work to ensure BPOA+10 provides impetus to relevant multilateral processes, including promoting more concerted action on climate change (looking beyond the initial Kyoto commitment period to call for further greenhouse gas reduction commitment in the future by major greenhouse gas emitters, including large developing countries), and encourage progress with the Doha round.*
- *Work to ensure that BPOA+10 engages a broad range of donors to support the sustainable development of SIDS.*
- Promote new and existing partnerships beneficial to sustainable development of the region;
- Enhance the efficiency of use of existing resources and secure and mobilise resources to build capacity for sustainable development.
- Set targets by which to measure implementation, which are consistent and harmonious to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), designed in a manner to assist other reporting requirements.

#### GENERAL STATEMENT

We, the Countries of the Pacific region, share a common unique identity, and have a responsibility for the stewardship of our large Ocean, small islands and resources.

The Sustainable Development of our region is fundamental to the well-being of our future generations and is a responsibility we choose to embrace.

We express deep concern that relative poverty is increasing in some parts of the region and includes the scarcity of opportunity, as described in the Pacific Human Development Report (2003), note that abject poverty is increasing and must be addressed especially in urban areas and squatter settlements.

Our ecosystems contain high biological diversity that has sustained the lives of Pacific communities, since first settlement. They contain the most extensive coral reefs in the world, unique landforms, globally important fisheries, significant mineral resources and high numbers of endemic species. They may also contain many undiscovered resources of potential use to humankind. To safeguard Pacific communities and maintain the health of our ecosystems, in perpetuity, it is imperative that we apply the precautionary approach as outlined in the Rio Declaration, Principle 15.

We acknowledge the acceptance by the international community at Rio and Barbados of the “special case for SIDS” and the support we have had over the past decade in assisting us to address our needs in this context. However, the special case has not been diminished over that period, in fact our social, economic and environmental vulnerability is increasing whilst our capacity to build resilience has not. We seek through the ten-year Review of the BPoA a renewed commitment by the international community at all levels in partnership with SIDS to address this overarching commonality embedded in the “special case” for sustainable development through enhanced implementation of the BPoA and the new and emerging issues.

***At the political level, BPOA + 10 should serve to refocus donors' attention on SIDS issues, at a time when competing demands, particularly from Africa, risk drawing increasing amount of donor funding away from SIDS regions.***

***BPOA + 10 could also provide impetus to multilateral processes of interest to Pacific Islands Forum members. Given the importance of addressing climate change, the meeting should promote more concerted action, including looking beyond the initial Kyoto commitment period to call for further greenhouse gas reduction commitments in the future by all major emitters, including large developing countries. The meeting could also deliver a message in support of the successful conclusion of the WTO Doha round, if still relevant (as seems likely).***

We recognize the importance of mainstreaming into our own national sustainable development policies the recommended actions in the BPoA as a critical undertaking by ourselves to ensure its successful implementation at the national level

We recognize the key role played by women and youth in promoting a sustainable development future for the region, and noted the importance of encouraging youth to contribute to the decision making process for sustainable development

We recognize the continued validity of the BPOA as the blueprint for sustainable development in the region and for SIDS in general. We wish to express continued support to the principles of the Declaration of Barbados 1994.

We recognize that there have been considerable strategic policy gains for this region and SIDS in general at the international level, and that SIDS themselves have progressed some sustainable development initiatives significantly.

We recognize that any blue print for sustainable development should be a living document, in particular to incorporate new and emerging issues and concerns, and we are happy to present the Pacific Regional Assessment as a comprehensive summary of the needs for further work in the region towards implementing the BPoA.

We recognize that there is a need to strengthen self-reliance and build on internal strengths and to commit domestic resources to strengthen the capacity for national implementation of the BPOA.

We emphasize the importance of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

We emphasize the need to build on Pacific traditions and to strengthen the use of culture and history in the development of strategic planning processes for sustainable development.

We reconfirm our commitment to the significant targets and achievements in the MDG's, and the JPoI, and in particular the matters of significance to SIDS in the JPOI, especially matters contained in Section 7.

We recognize the need for greater support from and coordination among our international partners for better implementation of actions at the national level.

We highlight the further actions needed for the improved implementation of the BPoA, in addition we emphasize the cross-sectoral, and new and emerging issues that also need to be addressed in order to improve the overall Sustainable Development agenda of the Pacific Island SIDS:

### **Needs and Priorities for further Implementation of the BPoA**

In addition to the cross-sectoral and new and emerging issues that are identified below, attachment 1 contains a summary of the sectoral needs for furthering the BPoA, as have been highlighted as a way forward in the 10 review of the BPoA contained in the Pacific Regional Assessment document.

#### **1.) Governance and Security**

Peace and security, political stability, rule of law, respect for human rights, gender equality, including the right to development and market oriented policies are important for the promotion and advancement of good governance.

Governance needs to be expanded to include the notion of economic, social and environmental security. Security also encompasses food and water security, transnational organized crime such as such as money laundering the illegal trade in wildlife, manufacture of and trafficking in illicit drugs, and identity fraud and the need to address this issue is a matter of urgency.

The implementation of Biketawa Declaration and other regional initiatives, such as the Honiara Declaration, the Aitutaki Declaration and the Nasonini Declaration are essential for the maintenance of peace and security in the region.

We call for International Community Support in our efforts towards the promotion of good governance at all levels as essential for Sustainable Development. These include:

- Sound economic policies,
- Democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and suitable infrastructure as the basis for sustained economic growth,
- Poverty eradication, and
- Employment creation,
- Security,
- *The protection and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.*

## **2.) Enabling Environments at the National Level**

We seek the support of the international community to strengthen our enabling environments at the national level in order to:

- Formulate and implement National Sustainable Development Strategies by 2005 as agreed to in the JPoI.
- Incorporate guiding principles for Sustainable Development into all sectoral policies
- Develop appropriate national targets and indicators for Sustainable Development, that can be incorporated into existing national reporting systems.
- Improve administrative and institutional structures to implement and operationalization strategies, policies and plans
- Give sustainable development task forces or their equivalent the official authority and validity to permit their continued meeting as interdisciplinary and communally representative advisory bodies. (BPoA para 49. vii)
- Take stock of the numerous legislation that affects SD at the national level and Improve coordination between legislative frameworks, and develop guidelines for those who must carry out legislative objectives.
- Develop integrated planning systems

## **3.) Capacity Building that lasts**

We seek the support of the international community to strengthen and improve the capacity of Pacific SIDS at the national level in implementing/monitoring the BPoA and related programmes by:

- Ensuring that technological, institutional, physical and financial resources are available
- Building capacity of countries to monitor the state of their environment, economies and people to meet their national priorities and international obligations
- Building core competencies such as, participatory learning techniques, learning networks, competency-based learning, increased mentoring and succession planning, to assist stakeholders in delivering their sustainable development programmes.
- Developing human resources, there is also the need to provide them with the necessary resources to achieve desired actions
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- Building the skills base and the techniques in the areas such as EIA, and Strategic Environmental Assessment and Planning and GIS and its application for use in government decision-making.
- Using regional / national experts for national / regional training
- Improving in-country scientific and technical human resources through training especially at tertiary level
- Improving the capacity of non government organizations and community based organizations
- Establishing “centres of excellence” for training and applied research

#### **4.) Financial Resources**

We acknowledge that there is a need to enhance the efficient utilization of existing resources at the national level. International assistance, however, remains crucial across many areas of sustainable development in SIDS

We seek support to:

- Develop and strengthen regional and bilateral engagements (arrangements) informed by mutual interests, agreed sustainable development priorities which include joint planning, design and management processes across all issues raised in this submission.
- Build capacity at the national level towards a country-led and country-driven donor harmonization process.

#### **5.) Partnerships**

We recognize that a multi-stakeholder partnership approach is essential to achieving sustainable development in SIDS, which is reflected in the Pacific Type II initiatives launched at the WSSD, national partnerships and SID to SIDS partnerships.

In consistence with national priorities we seek support to:

- Implement existing partnerships
- Develop further partnerships
- Develop appropriate guidelines for best practice sustainable development partnerships

## **6.) International Agreements**

SIDS have successfully achieved a special case status in overarching sustainable development agreements such as Agenda 21 and the WSSD JPOI, but this is not adequately recognized in relevant multilateral environment agreements.

Whilst internationally agreed goals, such as the MDGs, offer important benchmarks for success, additional effort is required to adapt these goals to suit the particular needs of SIDS. It is essential that the burden on SIDS from reporting against MDGs and to MEA's be alleviated.

We seek support to:

- Develop, where necessary, SIDS specific implementation programs under MEA's such as the decision of the CBD SBSTA to develop a special programme on islands;
- Improve the representation of SIDS at the political level within the MEAs
- Streamline international sustainable development reporting requirements.

## **7.) Information for Decision Making**

We seek the support of the international community to improve information for decision making at all levels through:

- Identification and addressing of gaps in data and characterisation of information related to environmental and development areas.
- Developing databases, vulnerability indexes, GIS and other information systems;
- Establishing a regional information / database centre;
- Analysis of data
- Accessibility of data / information
- Develop indicators that is practical to the Pacific and consistent with Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other international development goals (IDGs) including those within the JPoI and BPOA
- Establish effective monitoring systems
- Improvement in coordination of data

## 8.) Awareness and Communications

We seek the support of the international community to enhance the awareness of our Pacific communities and political leaders on the BPOA and other sustainable development processes through:

- Actively engaging community at all levels to secure lasting behavioural change and commitment to sustainable development outcomes, noting the difficulties in conducting comprehensive community consultations in the Pacific SIDS, caused by dispersion, vast distances and high transportation costs.
- Developing appropriate communication strategies to promote lessons learnt, success stories and project replication

## 9.) Trade and Investment

We recognize the special challenges posed by globalisation and trade liberalization and the need for adjustment measures to ensure sustained levels of economic development. ***In this respect, the successful conclusion of the WTO Doha Round of negotiations will play an important role in addressing the special needs of SIDS.***

We seek support to:

- Assist Pacific SIDS mainstream trade and investment into the development objectives and programmes of the BPOA+10.
- Assist Pacific SIDS adjust to the new competitive international trade environment through adjustment programmes that build and enhance their export capacities, including trade facilitation and regional integration initiatives, such as Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) and the Pacific Islands PICTA.
- Promote investment into the Pacific SIDS by assisting them improve the regulatory and policy environment for investment domestically; and in attracting quality, value adding investment through promotional activities in targeted markets
- Promote international advocacy on the Pacific SIDS vulnerability to the multilateral trade rules and to support the active participation in multilateral trade negotiations.
- Further advance the Doha mandate on the Work Programme on Small Economies by finalisation of a definition on small vulnerable economies
- Ensure that trade, investment and sustainable development objectives and programmes are mutually supportive
- Protect unfair commercial exploitation of traditional knowledge, support the negotiations under paragraph 19 of the Doha mandate that will result in multi-lateral disciplines for traditional knowledge protection.
- Further to ensure that current negotiations on trade and environment under the Doha mandate do not disadvantage the trade and sustainable interests of SIDS

## **10.) Health**

Increasing incidence of health issues such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, diabetes, drug resistant malarial strains, dengue, nutritional disorders and non-communicable diseases and their impact on sustainable development is a concern in the Pacific region.

Communicable and non-communicable diseases will continue to have a significant impact on the health of Pacific island peoples for the foreseeable future. Further, the experience of other regions has shown that failure to effectively control diseases such as HIV/AIDS will have substantial negative impacts on future sustainable development in the Pacific. We seek international support for the effective control of these diseases through:

- The development and implementation of effective Surveillance initiatives at the national and regional level
- The facilitation of early information sharing on possible emerging outbreaks
- Preparedness of countries and regional organisations to respond rapidly and effectively to outbreaks, requiring development and regular testing of response plans, strengthening of response capacity and identification of resources which can be accessed quickly
- The Development and implementation of modern, flexible national public health legislation
- The Active implementation of effective prevention programmes, in areas such as health education, harm-minimization, environmental health and immunisation.

## **11.) Education**

Whilst access to education in the region has developed considerably over the last decade it is still a fundamental component of sustainable development and capacity building for the long term. In this regard Education Strategies and Action Plans that encompass the wide ranging needs for improved access to and quality of education need to be implemented.

In this regard we seek support to further implement the Forum Basic Education Action Plan (FBEAP) through:

- Strengthening Ministries of Education in the area of financing education through for example a regional training programme.
- Promote technical and vocational education as a viable alternative for many students so that they learn skills to earn a livelihood..
- Assist with basic infrastructure, curriculum development and teacher training in information communication technology (ICT).
- Assist with further development of programmes for people with special needs in particular children and youth, especially training at a regional level.



- Further strengthen the teaching of governance and civic values by the development of appropriate curriculum and related materials and teacher training.

**ATTACHMENT 1: Summary of further actions needed to implement the BPoA as highlighted by the 10 year review of the BPoA in the Draft Pacific Regional Assessment.**

<p><b>I. Climate change and sealevel rise</b></p>	<p>Regional and national climate change coordination mechanisms and the links between the two, needs to be strengthened and broadened, so that multi-lateral institutions, donor/recipient countries and organisations activities are enhance and not duplicated.</p> <p>Future approaches to climate change should be programmatic. Short-term project cycle have limitations and relevant milestones and evaluations should be built into a longer term approach, along with flexibility to enable strategic change of direction if required.</p> <p>There is a need to Develop and further strenghen a pool of national expertise to address UNFCCC implementation issues at the international and national level and develop the linkages within national planning processes.</p> <p>While capacity needs to be continuously built and sustained, there is a high demand for GEF Stage 3 projects particularly in the area of adaptation. Some good pilots have been commenced to build the adaptive capacities of some local communities but more activity in this area is needed.</p> <p>At national level mainstreaming climate change into overall the development processes is very important. This needs to be done in the context of an ecosystem management approach that also takes into account efforts to protect biodiversity.</p> <p>Programmes should be designed from multi-sector viewpoint i.e. addressing of coastal erosion, environmental threats, current climatic implications (hazards), coastal resource management, infrastructure management – inclusive of potential effects of Climate Change.</p> <p>Assistance is required to facilitate the improvement of sector coordination among relevant ministries, departments, community, and non-government organisations.</p> <p>Awareness programmes focused at communities, private sector and government on the economic, environmental and social effects of Climate Change must be incorporated into as many communications programmes as possible.</p>
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	<p>A number of National Implementation Strategies still need to be completed and assistance will be required for countries to complete the more detailed requirements of their second national communications.</p> <p>While the promotion of technology transfer is addressed under the BPOA, no country has undertaken in-depth technology assessment and capacity building needs for technology. The utilization of renewable energy needs to be further developed and Pacific success stories explored.</p> <p>National assistance is required to access global financial support from the Global Environment Facility and its Implementing Agencies and other multilateral and bilateral agencies and organizations. There also needs to be compatibility between the efforts of the various funding and executing institutions and organizations within the framework agreed to by Pacific island countries.</p> <p>There needs to be greater international financial coordination to assist small vulnerable countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise. Partnerships to adapt to all aspects of Climate Change are necessary if our approach to reduce vulnerability is going to be a sustainable and long term one. In this regard interested partners are asked to consider joining the Pacific Umbrella Partnership Initiative on Adaptation.</p>
<p><b>II. Natural and environme ntal disasters</b></p>	<p>Disaster management and preparedness needs to be reflected in National development Strategies and policy and integrated into all sector strategies and plans to be effective.</p> <p>Development of building codes that are cyclone proof.</p> <p>Capacity building of National Disaster Units needs to be built and fairly resourced.</p> <p>Ongoing work is needed in the area of accurate and timely predictions of some disasters, rapid emergency response, and improved land-use and coastal zone planning.</p> <p>Endorsement of the CHARM all hazards, whole of country and integrated approach to reducing vulnerability in Small Island Developing States and it's use as a valuable decision making tool for sustainable development planning in Small Island Developing States</p> <p>Endorsement of the Pacific review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action and its links to the outcomes of the BPOA+10 discussions</p>

	<p>Work to improve regional understanding of the causes and effects of hazards to improve mitigation strategies</p> <p>Continued promotion of the objectives of ISDR in the region</p> <p>Development of disaster risk management education and training in the region</p> <p>Need to promote the process of strengthening community resilience through the integration of cultural and traditional systems with scientific and technical knowledge and tools and the development of regional policy for the management of communities at risk</p> <p>Partnerships with international agencies and Countries who have the technical expertise and access to technology need to be facilitated in order to maximize on experience and activities already underway around the world, that may be able to benefit SIDS.</p> <p>The issue of insurance and re-insurance needs to be investigated and some cost-effective and affordable schemes should be made available for SIDS.</p>
<p><b>III. Managem nt of wastes</b></p>	<p>Regional and global level assistance activities should be designed to assist or complement these national and local level activities. These approaches should be designed to assess and evaluate the existing in-country activities and policies and highlight the major need areas, which need to be improved.</p> <p>A major need for urgent development is the national waste management plans or strategies, which should be back up by appropriately structured legislation with enforcement components. These individual national plans can then be used to prepare a regional waste management strategy, which would serve as a guiding document for future activities. These national plans would then pave the way for integrated waste management systems to be developed within the countries with the help from external experts in the region. This would also be used to study the main waste streams, which subsequently would lead to understanding the main areas of waste generation so appropriate actions can be developed to minimise or stop their generation.</p> <p>Another area of urgent attention is in the regulated control in the movement of hazardous material into and out of the region. Most countries do not have a regulatory mechanism to address this and urgently need assistance in this area. The Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans project is in a way helping to address this but a lot more needs to be done to overcome all eventualities. Again this can be addressed by having the necessary legislation in place together with an integrated waste stream system, which would help highlight the areas where minimization of waste</p>

is required.

In the area of shipping related marine pollution, the plans for the future are centered around the constraint about the size of maritime administration and lack of specialized capacity in this area that remains and is unrealistic to expect most (all) PICs to be able to develop and retain capacity in this area. This basically means that there will always be a need to maintain this function within a regional organization (SPREP or SPC Regional Maritime Programme) to provide technical assistance, advice and co-ordination.

Specifically on waste - ships' waste management should be integrated within a country's overall waste management. This is how SPREP has formulated the regional ships waste management arrangements and any change in this will rely on any development in overall waste management practices, i.e. the national waste management plans and strategies.

There are two new areas emerging: the first is shipping related invasive marine species and this is being addressed at the international level through the convention on Ballast Water up for ratification in February. There is a need for assistance to implement a regional programme to assist PICs with management measures to address this. The second is on WWII wrecks where we need to address the issue on to the global agenda.

As waste management is not specifically covered by a single convention, treaty or protocol, the financial assistance required to help develop the work programmes will have to be drawn from a number of sources and under a number of related conventions and protocols. The next decade should be dedicated to putting in place integrated waste management systems backed up by appropriately worded legislation which should lead to effectively reduce, prevent and control waste in the Pacific Island region. Once this has been achieved the next step is to effectively implement the plans and strategies.

There is a need however where techniques have already proved positive results in the region to look at replicating such successful case studies in other SIDS to address the issues at hand while policy measures are put in place. Best practice methods of waste management need to be widely distributed to raise awareness amongst sectors currently dealing with waste management at all levels.

Data collection methods and analysis must be improved at the National level to ensure targeted activities at the most pressing problems.

Maximise on the options for recycling in the region, and the use of alternative biodegradable packaging and products.

	<p>Need policy for the protection of ambient air quality as well as supportive legislation framework to control emissions</p> <p>Promote the increased involvement of NGO's and civil society in waste management initiatives.</p> <p>There is a need for land use / resource use planning systems to cater for site selection &amp; control uses/activities in close proximity to dumps, or control new uses/activities to ensure reduced waste production.</p> <p>Support for the removal of existing stockpiles and the consolidation of investments to improve landfill design and management are important building blocks for the overall reduction of the waste stream. Investing directly in systems for deliberate and permanent reduction in the waste stream, including the identification of environmentally sound and affordable alternatives will provide significant benefits. These benefits will not only be in the form of environmental goods and potentially reduced recurrent expenditure in waste management but also in terms of benefits for tourism and public health</p>
<p><b>IV. Coastal and marine resources</b></p>	<p>The development and regional endorsement of the Pacific Islands Regional Integrated Framework for Strategic Action in Ocean and related initiatives.</p> <p>Capture quality information to support decision-making at the community, district, provincial or island-wide national scale</p> <p>Development of National Integrated Ocean/ Coastal Management Policy / legislation / Plans</p> <p>Coordinated acquisition and management of baseline and monitoring data.</p> <p>Adoption of Ecosystem-Based approach to fisheries management, particularly coastal fisheries - a more holistic approach to designing fisheries promoting integrated and sustainable resource management rather than overemphasizing increases in production – including training program for fisheries managers</p> <p>Establishment effective vessel registration and monitoring system for offshore fisheries</p> <p>National and Regional Networks of MPA / CA for ecosystem and coastal fisheries management</p> <p>High Seas MPA for protection of submerged seamounts</p> <p>Support for and increased use of community based approaches to conservation and management of inshore resources and strengthen and</p>

	<p>revitalize traditional management regimes, supported by science and precautionary approaches.</p> <p>Development of appropriate aquaculture initiatives with care that use of non-native species can pose significant risks – village fishponds and supporting infrastructure (local hatcheries, etc.) in appropriate environments directly improve the food self-sufficiency and the quality of the diet for poor households</p> <p>Enhance intra-regional cooperation and actions on conservation and management of threatened migratory marine species (whales, turtles dolphins) including regional Conservation Areas / Sanctuaries;</p> <p>Assist select Pacific coastal States to secure resources to prepare their submissions, before November 2009, for potential claim to extended continental shelf under Article 76 of the Law of the Sea Convention.</p>
<p><b>V. Freshwater resources</b></p>	<p>The Pacific SIDS need to maximise the opportunities offered through the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) process where the focus for 2004 / 2005 (CSD12 &amp; CSD13) will be on the thematic cluster of water, sanitation and human settlements, through collective submission and input during CSD 12.</p> <p>Assist and support the implementation of the Pacific Regional Action Plan (RAP) on Sustainable Water Management (2002) through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Building adequate capacity in the region to provide the necessary technical support and advice in the five technical fields of: water resource management; water demand management; on-site sanitation, off-site sanitation; and hygiene.</li> <li>- Using the RAP to improve existing polices and develop new water policies where applicable</li> </ul> <p>To assist and support the implementation of the Pacific Wastewater Policy Statement and Pacific Wastewater Framework for Action (2001) with key action areas: governance, awareness, infrastructure &amp; information, financing and capacity building</p> <p>Continue to encourage the facilitation of regional consultation and dialogue on national policies and strategies to strengthen existing partnerships and develop new partnerships including the involvement of civil society and NGOs, including the relevant CROP Working Groups</p> <p>Work with partners such as ADB, World Bank, EU Commission, AusAID, NZAID, JICA, and UN agencies to identify and design appropriate projects that fit into a longer term programme for addressing some of constraints</p>

	<p>faced by Pacific SIDS to develop and protect their freshwater resources.</p> <p>Maximise on inter-regional SIDS partnerships by facilitating joint initiatives and networks that enable a sharing of expertise, innovation and experiences such as the Pacific-Caribbean Joint Programme for Action on Water &amp; Climate (JPfA), and input into the global Dialogue on Water and Climate (DWC) Synthesis Report</p> <p>Increase and develop human capacity at the national level and improve, through technical training and the provision of assistance, in developing best practice guidelines and technical backstopping.</p> <p>Support where identified the development of freshwater management plans and national water profiles at the National level and include freshwater in the heads of consideration in current planning tools such as EIA.</p> <p>Establish a regional database for all water and sanitation information and available training and expertise in the region.</p> <p>Call on the international community to from capacity-building, for the development and further implementation of freshwater programmes for SIDS, including through the Global Environmental Facility focal areas.</p>
<p><b>VI. Land resources</b></p>	<p><b>Agriculture</b></p> <p>Enhance food production and security throughout the region by improved husbandry, irrigation and water management, and use of appropriate modern technologies for smallholder agriculture.</p> <p>Enhance small scale urban, periurban and rural house-yard mixed agricultural systems as a mean of enhancing food security and the provision of a range of other economically valuable products and cultural amenities.</p> <p>Develop participatory approaches to address specific production problems.</p> <p>Increase capacity and effectiveness of quarantine and plant protection services in the region.</p> <p>Develop and implement national and regional alien species action plans (ASAPs)</p> <p>Develop sustainable pest management systems (prioritising control of fruit fly, taro beetle and taro leaf blight).</p> <p>Provide effective information and extension services in plant protection and integrated pest management (IPM).</p> <p>Legislate to ensure use of IPM compatible pesticides or zero pesticides.</p> <p>Ensure genetic improvement of planting materials (disease resistant and</p>

disease free seeds stock) and livestock production.

Promote tropical fruit crop production (including fruit tree development/ improvement and banana black leaf resistant cultivar).

Develop capacity of diagnostic laboratories to investigate livestock related diseases such as leptospirosis and brucellosis, alongside formal training of para-veterinary officers.

Promote export marketing and trade penetration for, amongst others, kava, black pepper, cut flowers and medicinal plants.

Enhance human resource development and establish training opportunities in basic agricultural management, strategic planning, budgeting, programme monitoring and evaluation.

Strengthen agricultural trade and development policy (in all sectors), by ensuring that national resources are optimally deployed, whilst raising national capacity and awareness in domestic and international trade.

Raise awareness of the need for land management

Improve data collection on the extent of land degradation

Improve integration between agencies dealing with land degradation

Integrate EIA and legal procedures into decision making through 'integrated planning' systems

Acknowledge communal land tenure and resource use systems when designing sustainable land management systems

Find mechanisms that strengthen the ability of traditional systems and which are acceptable within Pacific cultures

**Forestry**

Increase awareness , promotion and the adoption and enforcement of legislation to ensure that sustainable rotational logging practices and replanting initiatives are implemented.

Increase stakeholder participation in all forms of discussions/negotiations regarding development, management, and conservation of forest and tree resources.

Ensure adherence to national forest policies and legislation that has been developed to safeguard rights of resource 'owners' through administrative and management mechanisms for alienation, licence or transfer of 'traditional rights' for commercial development purposes.

**Mining**

Improve national capacity for policy and legislation formulation, negotiations with transnational corporations and evaluation of mineral sector projects. This includes environmental impact assessment,



	<p>compliance, rehabilitation reclamation and environmental bonds, and compensation.</p> <p>Ensure full cost-benefit analysis and environmental impact assessment (EIA) are undertaken, taking into account social and environmental costs and risks, before the grant of any mining licence, ensuring that the competing uses of the area to be affected are fully investigated and the mitigation of adverse impacts are included in the project design.</p> <p>Establish fair and transparent compensation systems that fully compensate all natural resource loss (including water, forest, and land resources), environmental damage, disamenity costs, recreational loss, and socio-cultural effects. This can be non-monetary as well as in monetary terms.</p> <p>Progress, legislate, and manage national mineral policy frameworks and environmental management plans. Enforceable mineral policy and legislation are both necessary for a country to maximise the benefits it receives from its natural endowments. Fiscal policy should include a taxation and incentive scheme that provides a competitive environment for investors, whilst ensuring fair return to the country for the exploitation of a non-renewable resource.</p> <p>Facilitate institutional capacity in PICs to deal with mining tenement issues, mine company selection, closure, institutional weaknesses, environmental issues related to mining and raising of land 'owner' awareness.</p> <p>Develop regional mineral databases, assess and evaluate mineral and aggregate resources.</p> <p>Build sustainable development capacity in the mineral sector through training, promotion and raising of community awareness</p> <p>Increase stakeholder participation in all forms of discussions/negotiations regarding access to and exploitation of mineral sector projects.</p>
<p><b>VII.</b> <b>Energy resources</b></p>	<p>That PICs, regional organisations, and development partners contribute actively to the implementation of the Pacific Islands Energy Policy and Plan.</p> <p>National Energy Policies and Plans should be completed and supported by institutional measures. Further to that energy issues should be incorporated into National Development Policy and all other sector policy in order to address the cross-sectoral nature of energy.</p> <p>Energy Policy, Plans and legislation must address the wide ranging issues of power supply, transportation infrastructure, planning, renewable energy options, energy efficiency and environmental considerations of the effects of pollution and climate change.</p> <p>Capacity development efforts such as improvements in energy planning</p>

	<p>and management, development of human resources, creation of public awareness and advocated behavioral change.</p> <p>The coordination and monitoring of all regional energy activities (projects and programmes) through the CROP EWG and where possible rationalise the number of focal point/s for energy matters in the region so as to ensure the most optimal use of resources and provide the maximum benefit to the PICs in particular to build national capacity.</p> <p>Opportunities through the GEF and the Type II mechanism must be actively pursued so as to ensure that maximum support to the region can be secured in particular with emphasis on reducing the impacts due to climate change, climate variability and sea level rise.</p> <p>Access to current international funding support can be quite cumbersome and takes into account the unique situations of SIDS. A collaborative agency for financing SIDS projects that is suited to country needs, and in consideration of their unique socio-economic and geographical status should be investigated.</p> <p>Greater accessibility and more affordable energy services must be made available to the rural and remote communities</p> <p>As was agreed to in the JPoI develop and promote efficient use of sources of energy, including indigenous sources and renewable energy, and build the capacities of SIDS for training, technical know-how and strengthening national institutions in the area of energy management.</p> <p>That the region continues to be represented through the CSD and WSSD processes and that technical support and assistance be provided in regard to the relevant global and regional energy initiatives in particular relating to the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and the Alliance of Small Islands State for the sustainable development of energy resources and renewable energy technologies and systems.</p> <p>To maximise the opportunities offered through the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) process where the focus for 2006-2007 (CSD14 &amp; CSD15) will include energy and climate.</p>
<p><b>VIII.</b> <b>Tourism</b> <b>resources</b></p>	<p>The major issue relates to the “<b>implementation gap</b>’ between policies and actions.</p> <p>There is a need to raise awareness on the importance of how tourism can contribute to sustainable development across all sectors.</p> <p>Develop a monitoring system with achievable, measurable and timely indicators to denote incremental achievements</p>

	<p>Ensure that tourism development and social and environmental management are mutually supportive at all levels through monitoring impacts of tourism development;</p> <p>Adopt integrated planning, policies and implementation plans to ensure sustainable development, especially land-use planning and coastal zone management, requiring environmental impact assessments for all tourism projects and cultural impact assessment for all large tourism operations;</p> <p>Identify and develop facilities to meet specific niche tourist markets, strengthening environmental and cultural based products;</p> <p>Adopt proactive measures to protect the cultural integrity – making it mandatory for cultural impact assessments to be carried out for all large scale tourism operations;</p> <p>Credit and budgetary commitments need to be aligned to sustainability indicators and practices;</p> <p>Strengthen Pacific countries responses to international commitments which have a bearing on tourism, including WTO, through improved information flows and training</p> <p>Establish or strengthen national and regional mechanisms for information exchange and promotion on development of a safe and sustainable tourism sector</p> <p>Promote recognition of the value of tourism in SIDS, yet the fragility of resources upon which it depends, including need for international commitment to accomplish this</p> <p>Encourage decision makers at all levels to develop lateral thinking mechanisms, considering activities from a holistic approach.</p> <p>Partnerships for sustainable tourism, in terms of both impacts and to assist in the development of environmentally and culturally sustainable tourism</p> <p>Improve links between national tourism offices, environmental agencies and NGO's and industry</p> <p>Further development of environment (green) based tourism</p> <p>Regional work on eco-tourism: guides, best practice and benchmarks</p>
<b>IX. Biodiversit</b>	<p>Building upon earlier programmes is a priority to ensure sustainability and to maximise wise use of resources, as well as learning from previous</p>

<p><b>y resources</b></p>	<p>efforts before developing new initiatives.</p> <p>Collective efforts need to focus on the environment, social and economic goals set in the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region (2003 – 2007) that reflects the new regional focus. The emerging focus is on integration of nature conservation objectives into wider sustainable development goals, processes and practices</p> <p>There is a need to strengthen networks and partnerships to provide ongoing support to existing community based conservation areas, and to encourage the development of new ones.</p> <p>Other emerging issues requiring particular attention or strengthening include key threats such as terrestrial habitat loss and degradation; terrestrial, marine and freshwater invasive alien species; over-exploitation or unsustainable use of species; loss of traditional ethno-biological knowledge; and biodiversity implications of climate change. These need to be tackled collectively in an effective cross-sectoral partnership approaches, as for example, with the Pacific Invasive Species Management Initiative and the development of a comprehensive approach to the protection of island biodiversity from invasive alien species.</p> <p>Information management, analysis and presentation is a major regional need to support biodiversity conservation and resource management activities.</p> <p>Completion and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans is an increasingly important mechanism at the national level for strengthening country capacity to manage key threats and to reach biodiversity goals such as protection of significant species and ecosystems and ensuring sustainability of customary and emerging natural resource uses.</p> <p>The access to genetic resources and equitable benefit sharing arising from those resources is an area still requiring much support in the region.</p> <p>The access to and protection of traditional knowledge arising from the use of biodiversity in the region is still a priority area needing support under the CBD.</p>
<p><b>X. National institutions and administrative capacity</b></p>	<p><b>Policy, Strategies and Plans</b></p> <p>There is a need to pursue the formulation and implementation of national sustainable development strategies by the target date of 2005, as agreed in the JPOI, integrating actions across the three pillars of economic development, social development, and environment protection, and to include targets and regular monitoring and evaluation procedures</p>

Emphasis on assistance and availing of resources to tackle national **Coordination** of policy, strategies, guides and practices for SD pursuits:

- Identification of all players and their roles – emphasis on integrative efforts
- Integrate cross-sectoral programmes
- Policy analysis to identify gaps in policy, institutional frameworks, data, actions
- Increase in NGO / Civil Society involvement (partnerships) in policy development and implementation.
- Improve administrative procedures / institutional arrangements (including government restructuring where effective across governments to ensure sound environmental responsibility incorporated from Corporate plans through to programme/ extension delivery processes.
- Improve conduits of communication between government agencies, and between government and civil society
- implementation of resource use planning and management
- advancement of training in integrated resource management

Initiatives to further the involvement of NGOs / Civil Society in governance, including the delivery of programmes / activities.

Complete and make operational policies, strategies and actions under the NEMS

Sector Specific Policy and Management Strategies required in areas such as fisheries, forestry, tourism, population, energy.

Planning: sustainable development pursuits should see equal emphasis on macro –development planning (ie economic policy & mainstreaming) and micro- development planning (physical decision making integration & management) – bearing in mind the need to expand linkages.

Sustain all SD programmes in the longer term by government taking the lead role in providing local budgets to conduct activities of the programmes, and to enhance awareness and policy formulation.

Redesign existing programmes to be in line with the national strategies and to take on a participatory approach to gauge community involvement

### **Legislation**

National Assessment reports summarise some of the following weaknesses in national legislation that need to be addressed:

- Poor laws relative to Soil Conservation

- Poor laws relating to englobo biodiversity protection and enforcement
- Poor laws relating to planning for and control of waste [dumping & litter]
- Need to stock take existing laws / instruments governing environmental management and sustainable development – with the view to analyzing options for improvement, integration and participatory methods.
- Poor coordination between legislative frameworks for SD at the State and sub-national levels
- To facilitate grass-roots environmental management and sustainable development practices encourage national laws to re-enforce village level / village by-laws where they exist.
- Upgrade legislation and administrative processes to provide better enforcement. Current environmental legislation does little – reliance on fines and short imprisonments. Fines should be increased.

#### **Decision Making**

- There is a need for actions in developing decision-making systems suitable for SIDS.
- Assistance to develop institutional frameworks for integrated decision making & community based design and delivery of SD programmes
- Need for physical land / resource use planning systems to address: urbanization, decentralization, settlement patterns, rural land use, equity in development, inclusion of adaptation measures in the development process, protection of vulnerable & sensitive areas, avoidance of hazards, good delivery of quality of life services.

#### **Information**

- Enhance provision on review and monitoring tools and methods – SD and environmental performance/status indicators
- Need for long term monitoring of environmental changes and germane data collection mechanisms for national planning purposes
- To ensure proper utilization of land resources there is a need to promote land capability guidelines and an integrated system of land information

#### **Coordination & Cooperation**

- Need for institutional mechanism and processes based on community development and delivery ethos
- Genuine involvement of NGOs & Civil Society in Participation approaches to development decision making needs to be encouraged
- Resources need to be made available to build capacity of NGOs at

	<p>national level, with the view of partnering with Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening the roles of major groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Involvement of major groups in national task forces, and committee's</li> <li>○ Formal and Informal regular consultations between state and major groups on planning, implementation and awareness</li> <li>○ Involvement in National Development Plan process</li> <li>○ Land owner consultations for development (including tourism, logging, fishing, and other development programs)</li> <li>○ Establishment of Multi-sectoral task forces and Commissions which include participation of civil society groups</li> <li>○ Strengthening the level of services to rural areas in consultation with existing networks</li> <li>○ Need to balance top-down and bottom-up approach in national planning</li> <li>○ Church – national reconciliation eg. Independent religious groups</li> <li>○ National Youth Congress</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>XI. Regional institutions and technical cooperation</b></p>	<p>Although the Pacific has an effective system of cooperation amongst regional agencies, through vehicles such as the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), further improvements in regional programming and technical assistance are still required.</p> <p><b>Actions include:</b></p> <p>Pending the results of the Forum Review, further avenues such as the development of a Regional Sustainable Development Strategy (RSDS) to improve regional coordination will enhance technical and policy implementation of activities for sustainable development is underway.</p> <p>Support to strengthen the operational effectiveness of the regionally present UN Agencies especially with respect to the inter-agency cooperation.</p> <p>Improve linkages between central offices of the UN Agencies and country offices in the Pacific.</p> <p>Improve alignment of UN activities with existing regional organizational strategies and work plans, through the UN SIDS office.</p> <p>Development Country profiles to assist with Programme/project design and delivery</p> <p>Promote an integrated approach in implementing current programmes such as POPs, Climate Change, Montreal Protocol on ODS, Marine Protected areas and International Waters – to include all stakeholders</p>

	<p>Develop and maintain effective conduits of information on SD between Regional and national governments and their agencies</p> <p>The review and monitoring of the BPOA and its derivatives as well as regional based programmes and projects are integral to the sustainable development of Pacific Island Countries. In this connection there is an urgent need to strengthen the links between the environment and integrated development by building capacity through education, training and awareness programmes, the development of appropriate benchmarks for sustainable development, information sharing and the use of quality data for decision-making. [Government of Samoa WSSD draft NAR, May 2002]</p> <p>Regional NGO's need to organize their consistent representation on different programmes to ensure that civil societies views are considered in programme development and implementation.</p>
<p><b>XII. Transport and communic ation</b></p>	<p>PICs, regional organisations, and development partners should contribute actively to the regional reviews of shipping and aviation, and consider ways to develop and cooperate on implementation of feasible recommendations</p> <p>Assistance is required from the international community to help improve civil aviation infrastructure and update civil aviation legislation and harmonise civil aviation technical regulations</p> <p>Implementation of the PIASA to create a single aviation market</p> <p>Greater and more affordable access to satellite communications to increase connectivity in rural and remote locations</p> <p>More active development of low-tech communication solutions such as HF radio for Internet access in rural and remote locations</p> <p>Increased attention to land transportation regulations to reduce the environmental and economic impacts of emissions and congestion</p> <p>There is an opportunity for National communications regulatory frameworks to move toward liberalisation of markets to progressively eliminate the problems and high costs caused by existing monopoly service providers</p> <p>Land use planning systems to enable planning for and consistent development of infra-structure and minimization of environmental impacts</p> <p>Land tenure management systems to enable construction and maintenance</p>



	<p>of necessary public infrastructure</p> <p>Human resource development should be tailored to suit the PIC's requirements</p>
<p><b>XIII. Science and technology</b></p>	<p>Science &amp; technology activity needs to become an integral part of the development process</p> <p>Build on existing regional communities' expertise in forest knowledge, land capabilities &amp; problems, biodiversity, climate change.</p> <p>Science and Technology must be addressed at a regional level as treating science at a national sectoral level will mean that cross-sectoral and regional synergies are overlooked, and scientific services will be too peripheral, or too costly, for PICs.</p> <p>Better support for regional organization collaboration is needed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define a simple framework for the advancement of S&amp;T activities in or as part of the sustainable development process.</li> <li>• Assistance to Pacific island countries to adopt this framework to their specific situation, and to use it to review their S &amp; T activities in relation to environmentally sound and sustainable development.</li> </ul> <p>International community support is required to assist PICS to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access and coordinate donor funding support for priority renewable energy initiatives to achieve economies of scale;</li> <li>• Efficient and low maintenance alternative energy technology, instituted after careful evaluation of economic, social and environmental implications</li> <li>• Access and develop human resources for the regional renewable energy sector</li> <li>• Develop mechanisms to encourage R&amp;D and private sector investment in priority renewable energy projects.</li> </ul> <p>Integrate science and technology activity with development and integrate actions with existing or future planning processes and mechanisms.</p> <p>Support the application of modern technologies such as GIS and Remote Sensing as effective tools for synergetic actions and providing data for decision making.</p> <p>Build on existing regional communication and technology to enable income generating opportunities.</p> <p>Promote the use of local products as a substitute to imported products, especially where biodegradable packaging is concerned.</p>

	<p>Successful traditional technology should be identified and, where necessary adopted, for the modern society. Schools and curricula should give more emphasis on this. For example in the climate change adaptation debate, many of the traditional practices such as mangrove replanting etc are proving some of the most sensible options.</p> <p>Targeted research on practical SD actions at national level: inshore fisheries, coastal management, climate change &amp; SLR adaptation options; valuation of natural resources</p> <p>Technical capacity development (training, equipment &amp; technology transfer) in monitoring &amp; surveillance</p>
<p><b>XIV. Human resource developme nt</b></p>	<p>HRD needs to be coordinated and planned for in the long term, whilst it should be incorporated into over sustainable development plans and strategies, there also needs to be a strategy focused on HRD.</p> <p>Countries should maximize on the opportunity in the National Capacity Self Assessments funded by GEF through UNDP, and identify where capacity building can be done at the national and regional levels.</p> <p>HRD focus should be made on strengthening education, fostering traditional knowledge, ameliorating the impacts of urbanization and empowering NGO civil society and women.</p> <p>There is a lack of land use/ resource use planning frameworks in most PICs. Integrated but flexible systems (to suit the unique customary systems of PICs) could do much to coordinate utility and service provision, the provision of services suited to urban extension, and supply a base upon which to plan re-augmentation programmes.</p> <p>Training in Adaptation techniques for Climate Change at the National level</p> <p>Continue targeted awareness and training toward waste management &amp; recycling– health and economic implications</p> <p>There is a need for human resource development in environmental reporting and monitoring Environmental Impact Assessments and other such tools for planning and sustainable development.</p> <p>Need for capacity building/training in land use and resource use planning frameworks and sustainable development policy analysis</p> <p>There is a need to ensure equal access to education for both males and females</p>

	<p>There is a need to develop equal employment opportunities</p> <p>There is a need to promote the indigenous language, traditional culture and knowledge and for this knowledge to be written and stored appropriately</p> <p>Distance learning opportunities need to be explored to provide training requirements to isolated individuals.</p>
<p><b>XV. Implement ation, monitoring and review</b></p>	<p>Effective monitoring and review of the Barbados Programme of Action must be improved for the achievement of sustainable development at all levels.</p> <p>Economic instruments should be explored and used to protect the environment and promote sustainable development</p> <p>Resources need to be made available for national capacity building to integrate all aspects of environment and development</p> <p>Coordination must be improved amongst international, regional and national donors through long term partnerships and a programmatic approach to dealing with sustainable development</p> <p>Resources need to be made available to take into account environmental and social effects and dimensions of ongoing economic reforms</p> <p>At the national level develop effective partnerships among all stakeholders, especially local communities, NGO's and the private sector.</p> <p>International support is required to develop specific mechanisms to facilitate the development of Partnerships for sustainable development.</p> <p>There is a need to foster development by bringing people into the process through initiating policies that makes development more participatory and equitable, involving all stakeholders in decision making at all levels particularly in natural resource management, improving incentives for people to manage resources sustainably, enhancing opportunities for low income earners to enter the formal economy, promoting a greater role for NGOs in development and using information technology for awareness raising. [Government of Samoa National Assessment – draft, May 2002]</p> <p>Improve National and sectoral Policies, strategies and plans as well as administrative approaches to take into account the need for integrated decision making systems. Awareness and training must center around wide ownership of such cross cutting policies to ensure a good understanding and therefore full implementation of sustainable development aspirations.</p>

	Encourage greater cooperation in efforts amongst resource use, planning, economic and environmental agencies.
	<b>CROSS CUTTING ISSUES</b>
<b>Financing and investment for SD</b>	<p>To enable the mobilisation of financial resources for sustainable development it is essential to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improve good governance through increased transparency and accountability;</li> <li>• tackle the unfinished structural reform agenda as a priority;</li> <li>• improve the law and order situation so as to reduce the perceived levels of country risk;</li> <li>• strengthen cooperation between governments and the private sector;</li> <li>• review government policies and enforce those that promote saving and investment;</li> <li>• broaden the financial system to include SMEs and microfinance borrowers;</li> <li>• implement policies designed to lower the costs of doing business;</li> <li>• secure property rights and the related examination of land markets;</li> <li>• develop mechanisms for access to micro financing for sustainable development in remote areas and the use of other innovative small grants programmes to finance community-based sustainable development initiatives.</li> <li>• free up factor markets, including the regional labour market, so allowing an improved supply response.</li> <li>• The financing of sustainable development can be supported by industrialized countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing equitable treatment for investments in SIDS;</li> <li>• recommitting to implement the aid target of 0.7 percent of GNP; and</li> <li>• cooperating more closely with ODA recipients to improve aid effectiveness.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Building on the recommendations, there are a few issues of key concern to the Pacific region in promoting the finance and investment to support sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging country-driven donor harmonisation;</li> <li>• Developing an improved security environment;</li> <li>• Promoting partnerships between government and private sector;</li> <li>• Continuing structural reform; and</li> <li>• Creating an enabling environment for business.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Capacity Building and Coordination</b></p>	<p>Despite of considerable progress, there remains inadequate skills training, basic and higher education opportunities for sustainable development.</p> <p>Current efforts are insufficient and the resources needed to improve this capacity are limited.</p> <p>Environmental concerns and the achievement of sustainable development require the active contribution of the community.</p> <p>Awareness of issues and trends and how they can be addressed are ingredients for engagement of Civil Society.</p> <p>Support is therefore needed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- implementation of the region's human resource development strategies, education for sustainable development and context-sensitive gender balance in the delivery of all education and public awareness programmes;</li> <li>- bringing into operation sustainable development management concepts within sectoral management agencies;</li> <li>- greater use of traditional and indigenous skills, training and awareness approaches and the use of local languages in the development and presentation of resource material;</li> <li>- the development of partnerships that will increase the skills of the private sector (in particular technical and management skills) and re-invigorate community involvement in education, training and awareness programmes;</li> <li>- support for regional training and scientific research centres.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Trade and Investment</b></p>	<p>Continued awareness raising on the benefits, pros and cons of investment by both locals and foreigners, targeting elected officials, public servants, resource owners and the general community.</p> <p>Build partnerships between the public and private sectors and other non-state actors.</p> <p>Governments to seriously consider addressing the high cost of doing business in the region as well as other well documented investment impediments.</p> <p>Training on the private sector orientation of civil servants and 'incentivising' them to be more committed to their roles in the overall economic development process.</p> <p>Technical and financial assistance to implement regional integration commitments particularly under PICTA, including trade facilitation measures (customs, quarantine, standards and conformance).</p> <p>Technical and financial assistance to develop export capacity including</p>

	<p>diversification opportunities in goods and services in the Pacific Island Countries in order to increase trade and take advantage of trade agreements.</p> <p>Need for greater flexibility in the WTO rules to accommodate the vulnerable position of small Pacific Island Countries in regional integration initiatives with developed partners, as well as in the preservation of their existing trade preferences, accession rules, in the use of subsidies that mitigate their cost disadvantages.</p> <p>Financial and technical assistance in dispute settlement, as well as in WTO representation in Geneva.</p> <p>Developing/improving national capacities for improving trade facilitation measures (legislation, enforcement, infrastructure etc.)</p>
<p><b>Millennium Development Goals (MDG's)</b></p>	<p>While the Pacific Region as a whole is committed to the achievement of the MDG's it is important to note that the following activities need to take place before this can be achieved effectively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MDG's must be tailored to the Pacific Sub-Regional Context so there is more relevance to the Pacific Island Countries.</li> <li>• Any regional reporting should be on a sub-regional basis and the Pacific should not be included within the ESCAP region.</li> <li>• At the national level goals and indicators need to be developed that are relevant to the Country's needs.</li> <li>• Reporting at the national level should be integrated into the national development reporting system that is already in place or being developed, and reporting on MDG's should not become a separate and additional exercise.</li> </ul>