"Our world has enough for each person's need, but not for his greed.
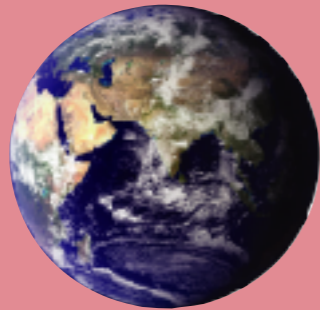
You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

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Sustainable Development Priorities for South Pacific

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FOREWORD

The Sustainable Development Priorities for South Pacific is published by UNEP to present the sustainable development challenges and priorities for the South Pacific region over the next decade. The report aims to focus on the existing set of policy initiatives, various strategies to implement the policies, and the challenges which need to be overcome.

Chapter 1 is an introduction of general concepts discussed in this paper. This paper draws heavily on existing material with a view to stimulate discussion and ultimately agree around a set of common priorities to advance sustainable development in the region.

Chapter 2 presents the political, economic, social and environmental conditions and their trends for considering action that needs to be taken to achieve sustainable development in the region. Besides these conditions, there are a number of common characteristics that are usually reviewed before considering action: geographical isolation; fragility of the Pacific island environment; rapid population growth; limited land resources; dependence on marine resources; vulnerability; economies of small scale; and customary resource tenure.

Many existing priorities and commitments for sustainable development at national, regional, and international levels have been highlighted in chapter 3. This chapter also assesses the effectiveness of current policies, strategies, and action plans that address the emerging environmental issues. Besides, the success story of sustainable development in the South Pacific that concern about National Environment and Sustainable Development Strategy is also summarized in chapter 3.

Chapter 4 analyses the progresses and gaps towards sustainable development in the region. Examples of progresses are: progress to address critical waste management issues; and increased engagement of civil society.

Finally, chapter 5 gives many recommendations for sustainable development such as: credible investment plans and strategies; essential performance monitoring; community-based conservation; saving valuable assets; and watershed management. The success story concerning about strengthening local level governance contributes to forest conservation is summarized in chapter 5.

UNEP hopes that the Sustainable Development Priorities for South Pacific would be useful for government, non-government, private, regional and international organizations in the pursuit of developing policies, strategies, and action plans. UNEP gratefully acknowledge the contribution of organizations, institutes and individuals in the preparation of the report.

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Executive Summary

Priorities for sustainable development have been discussed and identified by the Pacific at national, regional and international levels. This paper does not revisit or redefine these but focuses on how to support implementation of the many priorities and recommendations that already exist. This draws heavily on existing information prepared recently by PIFS, SPREP and the ADB.

It is clear that priority environmental concerns of the past decade have now been placed within a broader sustainable development framework. This framework now forms an essential basis for what the international community recognise as a special case both for environment and development in Small Island Developing States of the Pacific. In the Pacific, the implementation of this framework will rely on a solid partnership between governments, the private sector and civil society and must be grounded within communities and local indigenous knowledge and cultural systems.

There have been considerable strategic gains for this region and islands as a whole at the international level. The focus on island priorities at a time when the focus of geopolitical debate was moving away from these States towards the "poorer States" and the newly independent States in Central Europe, has been a significant achievement. Considerable international commitments now exist although there may be limited capacity to service these conventions and a local cost in terms of the time available to undertake

national priorities. At the regional level, plans and agreements and strengthened coordination are also in place, covering a wide range of issues relevant to the sustainable development of the region.

While the translation of these achievements and plans into benefits at the national and local levels has been naturally slower the opportunity exists to take advantage of the momentum that has been created at regional and international levels by:

- Empowering people andcommunities and directly engaging young people as agents of community-based change
- Strengthening our ability to manage knowledge both indigenous and science-based
- Improving our ability and procedures for planning
- Developing effective partnerships between at local and national levels
- Influencing resources flows so that they provide the incentives for sustainable development
- Valuing the environment appropriately

A number of essential building blocks have been identified. These include: the implementation of existing credible plans and strategies; undertaking essential performance monitoring; ensuring the basic environmental functions are performed well; improving governance and legislation that can be enforced; and improved coordination. Given the project based spending on sustainable

development, better design and implementation will also be essential. This will require stronger stakeholder involvement, designing for diversity - one size (still) does not fit all - building a skills base that is relevant and that lasts, and targeted public awareness.

To make some headway with the environmental challenges that are beginning to undermine sustainable development in the region it will bee essential to invest in: institutions for mainstreaming; scaling up community-based conservation; saving valuable assets; permanently reducing the waste stream; managing water and watersheds in an integrated manner; developing effective partnerships that bring skills and limited resources together; and a focus on Pacific youth.

Chapter 1

Introduction

Chapter 1

Introduction

This paper was initially prepared to stimulate the discussion of sustainable development priorities in the South Pacific at a meeting of civil society convened by UNEP, 12-13 November 2003. It has been revised based on input from this meeting and comments received from reviewers.

It has been prepared for the "South Pacific", a group of countries , both north and south of the equator that is increasingly referred to as the Pacific Island Countries - an increasingly distinct group within the Asia/Pacific region . By the very nature of the challenge, these priorities must be relevant to, and developed by, the wide range of stakeholders engaged in balancing the social, economic and environmental choices that are commonly referred to as the pillars of sustainable development. For this reason this paper draws heavily on existing material with a view to stimulating discussion and ultimately agreement around a set of common priorities to advance sustainable development in the region.

Numerous reports completed in recent years that record the status of the region's environment (SPREP 1992; Thistlethwaite & Votaw 1992; UNEP/EU/SPREP 1999) and development (ADB 2002; PIFS 2002) trends. While there is reasonable information concerning a range of socio-economic indicators (see Annexes 2-4) the data and information on environmental trends, and most importantly about the links between environment and development, is scarce. The root causes of environmental impacts are being increasingly being discussed but there is little by way of data that directly links cause and effect (ADB 2004).

Similarly on the basis of the information that has been available over the past decade, governments and civil society have identified a wide range of sustainable development priorities that have been recorded in various reports and United Nations agreements . The need to prepare a Regional Sustainable Development Strategy has also been agreed among members of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP).

This paper therefore does not attempt to reanalyse the state of the region's environment or reinterpret what have already been identified as priorities in other forums. It instead attempts to take stock of what has been achieved, identify the gaps that exist, the commitments that are already in place and the context within which the process of sustainable development can move forward. The conclusions and recommendations drawn are intended to stimulate discussion between governments and civil society and lead to the identification of a set of priorities for sustainable development necessary to achieve results against the targets that governments and civil society have set for themselves.

[1] Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall, Nauru, Nuie, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

[2] Civil Society representatives highlighted a recurring theme among Pacific Island Governments that clearly defines the Pacific as a sub-regional grouping warranting specific and separate attention and is concerned that their priorities are lost in any analysis of the broader "Asia/Pacific" region.

[3] Material that has been adopted by consensus or well recognised in the region

[4] Contributions have also been made to ESCAP reports on the State of the Environment in Asia Pacific and to the Global Environment Outlook.

[5] Most recently National Assessments and Reports of Civil Society consultations were completed in most countries in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

[6] These agreements include Chapter 17(g) of Agenda 21, the Barbados Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small island Developing States and most recently the World Summit on Sustainable Development Plan of Implementation

Chapter 2

The Context for Action

Chapter 2

The Context for Action

The following is a sketch of the social, political, economic and environmental conditions and trends that provide the context for considering sustainable development priorities in this region. This is not comprehensive and participants are encouraged to highlight those aspects they consider will have a profound affect on efforts to advance sustainable development.

2.1 Commoncharacteristics

When considering action that needs to be taken by the region as a whole there are a number of common features that are commonly referred to. A recent review of these characteristics by the Asian Development Bank, in developing its Pacific Regional Environment Strategy, drew the following conclusions:

- **Geographical isolation:** this remains unchanged and although communications have improved over the last 10 years, this remains a fundamental challenge to development in the same way it has contributed to the specialised ecosystems and species endemism that occurs in the region.

- **Fragility of the Pacific island environment:** Island environments have the highest rates of extinction globally and recent evidence of the impacts of ocean temperature on coral bleaching highlights the relatively fragile nature of these systems. Compounded by smallness.

- **Rapid population growth:** Pacific island countries populations have grown rapidly since the turn of the century and this has been linked to the degradation of forests and fisheries and to the loss of species. These rates are beginning to slow and the role of out-migration is becoming a significant factor in balancing environment and development.

- **Limited land resources:** With the exception of PNG, most Pacific islands are characterised by extremely limited land resources. Limited land makes many terrestrial and near-shore resources, including freshwater, very vulnerable to over-exploitation and to pollution from poorly planned waste disposal. This has become increasing concern for low-lying atolls with the continued increased in emissions of greenhouse gases and the projected rates of sea level rise of the next 50-100 years.

Figure 2.1: Many islands of the Pacific remain isolated and often uninhabited.

- **Dependence on marine resources:** With the exception of some of the higher islands, there remains a strong dependence for daily needs, foods, tools, transport, and waste disposal on marine resources. This may be slowly weakening in some areas with the increasing dominance of the cash economy but remains essential to the sustainable development of the smaller atoll States such as the Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu.

- **Vulnerability:** This has received increasing attention over the last decade. The original concept has remained unchanged from 10 years ago – the Pacific being vulnerable through its exposure to natural disasters and to external and global changes for instance in climate, trade and capital markets and a heavy reliance on certain economic sectors (Thistlethwaite and Votaw 1992) - but the number of factors relating to vulnerability have increased. The "baseline" of vulnerability is also increasing as populations and infrastructure located in coastal areas increase and

as Pacific island economies attempt to become more open to the global economy. (ADB 2004)

In addition to these common:

Figure 2.2: Coconut and crop damage from even a modest cyclone can be devastating to the local economy and subsistence livelihoods.

- **Economies of small scale:** There are inherent economic constraints relating to scale both in terms of the resource base and population size that affect institutional capacity and increase the unit cost of many services, and also limit the potential for private sector growth and investment. (PIFS 2002)

- **Customary resource tenure:** With over 80% of land and marine resources in the Pacific in a range of customary tenure arrangements, the operationalisation of sustainable development requires investment at national and community levels.

2.2 Political environment

The political environment has been summarised in the recent EU/PIF Regional Support Strategy (2002).

During the 1990s dramatic changes occurred within the Pacific, stimulated by long-term international and regional trends, such as globalisation, deteriorating terms of trade, rising external debt and unsustainable development policies, and by more short-term developments such as the financial crisis in Asia. The security and stability of several Pacific Island countries consequently declined marked by growing unemployment, poverty, social disintegration and widening income differentials. (PIFS 2002)

A particular concern is the issue of globalisation. Countries in the region have experienced globalisation through, for example, the advent of the Internet and the recent development of regional trade agreement that form part of a response to pressure for liberalisation of trade. Accelerated change has in some cases challenged local culture and traditions with direct political repercussions. This is expected to steadily compound, as inadequate investment in education in the region will

widen the gap in knowledge, income, privilege and power, between Pacific people and those with whom they interact (PIFS 2002).

Security interests are now a significant component of the political landscape. This is largely due to local conflict, often involving ethnic differences; land disputes; economic disparities; poor dispute resolution by the Government of the day, as well as external threats discussed today in terms of terrorism.

A survey of governance issues in the region by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat found that the region was characterised by: weak legislatures with a prevailing weak culture of accountability and transparency and lack of clarity in the independence of Parliament; weak regulatory frameworks in which laws on the responsibility of public institutions and officers are often ambiguous or absent, with few sanctions against non-compliance; and weak judiciaries that are generally understaffed and weak (with the possible exception of PNG) and the courts often have a considerable backlog of cases (PIFS 2002).

These issues are considered to present fundamental challenges to sustainable development, in particular, where government policies, political commitment to sustainable and regulatory frameworks are considered necessary to achieve environmental benefits.

2.3   Economic situation

Both the Asian Development Bank's draft Pacific Regional Environment Strategy (2003) and the EU/PIF Regional Support Strategy (2002) highlight the great diversity among the Pacific Island Countries in terms of both their natural resource base and "stages of development". Table 1 lists the main economic activities by country.

Overall economic performance over the past decade has been poor (ADB 1999). The public sector remains a dominant feature of the economic landscape although the its capacity is often stretched financially and in terms of human resources when dealing with vast distances between population centres/outer islands. This often limits a Government's opportunity to focus or participate fully in international events and agreements that can profoundly affect their economies (PIFS 2002) or to allocate significant resources to environmental management and dependent on significant aid flows to support this area of investment (ADB 2004).

The private sector in Pacific Island Countries is typically small and finds it difficult to achieve economies of scale. This can also be limiting in terms of sustainable development. Weaknesses in the private sector constrain the ability of many firms to respond positively to environmental or sustainable development imperatives that may require the reorientation of production and services or the staff training and skills generate innovative proposals and business opportunities.

The impact of globalization on sustainable development of Pacific Island Countries, although not solely economic in nature, is nonetheless increasingly profound. As was highlighted by the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development, external factors attributable to globalization have become critical in determining the success or failure of developing countries to achieve sustainable development (UN 2002).

The economic impacts of globalization are invariably characterised as both good and bad; as representing "opportunities and challenges". There are new opportunities to trade, investment and capital flows that are important elements of any national balance sheet. To take advantage of these opportunities many Pacific Island Governments are involved in some form of tariff reform and export led development agenda. At the same time, the challenges posed for small economies that are already comparatively open include increased

vulnerability to economic shocks, such as serious financial crises, and inequality within and among societies. This is of particular concern for civil society representatives . They have highlighted the pressure of global markets on resource use and on local ownership that is steadily increasing inequalities and eroding the decision-making powers of local communities. This is viewed as an issue of community "sovereignty"; constraining the ability of communities to self organise and thus their ability to determine an appropriate development path.

2.4 Social Context

2.4.1 Community ownership of resources

Over 80% of land and marine resources in the Pacific are owned by local communities in a variety of customary tenure arrangements. These communities are therefore critical to any process to that aims to address the management and sustainable use of resources. Participatory approaches to

Table 1 Main Economic Activities of Pacific island Countries	
Country	**Industries**
Cook Islands	Fruit-processing, Tourism, Finance, Copra, Citrus fruits, Clothing, Coffee, Fish, Pearls and pearl shells, Mining, Handicrafts.
FSM	Tourism, Construction, Fish processing, Craft items (shell, wood, pearls), Garments, Bananas, Black pepper.
Fiji	Sugar, Tourism, Copra, Gold, Silver, Clothing, Timber, Fish processing, Cottage industries.
Kiribati	Fishing, Handicrafts, Copra
Marshall Islands	Copra, Fish, Tourism, Craft items (shell, wood, pearls), Offshore banking (embryonic), Coconut oil, Trochus shells
Nauru	Phosphate mining, Financial services, Coconut products.
Palau	Tourism, Craft items (shell, wood, pearl), Commercial fishing, Agriculture.
PNG	Copra crushing, Palm oil processing, Plywood production, Wood chip production, Mining of gold, silver, and copper, Crude oil production, Construction, Tourism, Timber, Coffee, Cocoa, Seafood.
Samoa	Fishing, Tourism, Timber, Food processing, Coconut oil and cream, Copra, Beer
Solomon Is.	Timber, Fish, Palm oil, Cocoa, Copra
Tonga	Tourism, Fishing, Squash, Fish, Vanilla, Root crops, Coconut oil
Tuvalu	Fishing, Tourism, Copra; Stamps/coins.
Vanuatu	Fishing, Offshore financial services, Tourism, Food and fish freezing, Wood processing, Meat canning; Coconuts, Cocoa, Coffee.

Source: ADB (2004) from ADB Annual Reports, ABC World Fact Finder, SPC Pocket Statistical Summary (1998)

[8] Notes provided from UNEP Civil Society meeting, 12-13 November 2003

conservation and

development have been increasingly used with successful results. As mentioned above, globalization is placing increasing pressure on local resource owners and traditional systems of decision-making. This presents a particular challenge for Pacific Island Governments as they try balance often rapidly changing macro-economic policy with the need for local engagement and traditional systems that are typically much slower to respond to change and to protect their long term interests.

2.4.2 Poverty

Poor economic performance, fairly rapid population growth and urban drift, rising expectations, and growing inequalities, has contributed to poverty becoming a significant and growing problem in some countries (ADB 2004). Two relevant United Nations measures are shown in Table 2. Increasing poverty has also put pressure on traditional mechanisms that have are used to support individuals and families in need and to maintain social cohesion. (Success Story 1 - Gardening Good Governance)

SS1 - Gardening Good Governance

Poverty and political instability in the Pacific has become increasingly recognised as a constraint to sustainable development. Fostering good governance at the local level to address these constraints is the focus for innovative work by the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI). The FSPI project, Voice and Choices, works at four levels to:

Community

- Facilitate local planning and decision-making through … community "life plans" … created by the … empowers communities to … resolve critical

problems (such as leadership issues and inadequate local services and structures) …**District**
- Improve linkages between communities and municipal or other sub-national authorities… to better engage citizens in official decision-making …**National**
- Build capacity in … good governance … through incorporating rights-based principles within school curricula and national-level … policies.
Regional
- Establish and work with a Regional Governance Advisory Group … and … promote greater accountability and transparency and to lobby for increased participation by communities and civil society … in policy-making... (extract from www.fspi.org)

To date, the project has recruited and trained local consultants who are responsible for facilitating community planning and for the implementation of these plans. Community mapping has been completed

Figure 2.3: Village gardens and family plantations provide essential food security for most resource owners in Melanesia.
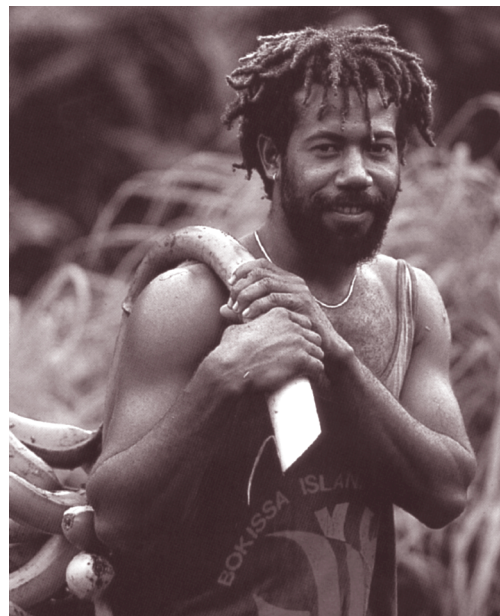
with four communities in both Fiji and Vanuatu, and in one community in each of Solomon Islands and Kiribati. The mapping exercises are accompanied by a survey on knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) that serves to establish the baseline against which the impact of the project will be later assessed. Fiji has begun to record its' community activities on video for possible dissemination to other NGOs. The completion of this effort by the Fiji team has been deterred by high costs of video projection. In Vanuatu, the project won a UNDP Human Rights award. (FSPI 2004)

Both the young and women are typically at a disadvantage in the job market and in this region the concept of poverty of opportunity (UNDP 1999) and access has been increasingly used to describe the social challenge facing communities and national governments (ADB 2004; PIFS 2002).

2.4.3 Youth

Civil society representatives have identified youth as essential vehicles for sustainable development and poverty reduction. Young people are an important driving force and are potential catalysts for change. Any approach to people centred development will require "youth centred engagement". The use of community scale teaching and learning to reconnect or engagement youth in indigenous knowledge systems could be particularly valuable in the transfer, preservation and strengthening of many traditionally sustainable practices. The YMCA and YWCA continue to play an important role in many countries and the UNEP ROAP have helped develop the Pacific Youth Environment Network.

2.4.4 Population, Education and Health

Resolving population, education and health issues in the region remain at the core of any list of sustainable development priorities. It is expected that population growth will continue for at least in the next three decades in most countries and finding a balance between population and resources is an "unprecedented challenge" (SPC 2002). As highlighted by the PRES (ADB 2004):

Perhaps the most urgent concern across the region is how to better meet the needs and aspirations of the upcoming generation. The UNDP notes that 20% of the region's population is aged between 15 to 24 years – a total of 1.4 million, which is expected to rise by a further 300,000 by the year 2010. Many school leavers find they have inadequate or inappropriate skills for the few waged jobs that are available, for agricultural work or for other types of livelihood. Most lack opportunities to upgrade their skills because too few non-formal training programmes are available (PIFS 2002).

The overall health of Pacific Island people has improved now presented with threats from HIV and AIDS and resurgence in infectious and vector-borne diseases. This is exacerbated by structural weaknesses of health systems have increasingly become evident at the same time as the demand for community and national health services has grown (PIFS 2002).

2.5 The environment

The state of the region's environment has been central sustainable development priorities presented by this region over the last decade. It has been extensively reviewed and although there is a paucity of data, the basic context or relationship between environment and development has been regularly recorded. The natural resource base that is critical to further economic development in the region is described below.

- Oceans, with vast offshore areas comprising underexploited fisheries of high economic

and strategic value, and yet to be exploited undersea minerals.

- Coastal areas provide the food, income, culture, and recreation that are important to Pacific Islanders but which are increasingly threatened by over-fishing, pollution and poor planning, and hence undermining the livelihood of coastal communities.
- Agriculture is a major source of export earnings for many states, particularly Melanesia, and the source of employment for the majority of Pacific Islanders. A wide variety of agricultural production though focused on horticultural takes place throughout Melanesia and the higher, larger, islands of Polynesia.
- Forestry, which like agriculture has potential throughout Melanesia and the higher, larger, islands of Polynesia.
- Minerals, which are being increasingly exploited throughout Melanesia and provide significant cash flow.

- Tourism, which capitalises on the advantages of coast and climate, and can be significant for export earnings and employment. (PIFS 2002)

The environmental issues that have regularly been identified include:

- Loss of biological diversity
- Threats to freshwater resources
- Degradation of coastal environments
- Climate change and sea level rise
- Land and sea based pollution

Behind each of the issues is a relatively complex set of conditions, pressures and responses that are discussed in more detail in a range of comprehensive reports.

Table 2 Human Development and Poverty Indices		
Country	**Human Development Index (1)**	**Human Poverty Index (2)**
Palau	0.861	10.8
Cook Islands	0.822	6.1
Fiji Islands	0.667	8.5
Nauru	0.663	12.1
Tonga	0.647	5.9
Samoa	0.590	8.6
Tuvalu	0.583	7.3
FSM	0.569	26.7
Marshall Islands	0.563	19.5
Kiribati	0.515	12.6
Vanuatu	0.425	46.4
Solomon Islands	0.371	49.1
Papua New Guinea	0.314	52.2
Average	0.597	19.3

2.6 Engaging Civil Society

A range of NGOs exists within the Pacific and their constitution and emphasis varies from country to country. Of particular interest was their institutional capacity, their ability to work together/coordinate and their relationship with communities and Community Based Organisations that represent the interests of individuals and traditional community or village based decision-making structures.

Figure 2.4: **Balancing conservation with extractive industries such as forestry have proven difficult.**

National

2.6.1 Institutional capacity

The institutional capacity of NGOs/CBOs varies greatly at the national level. From the discussions held with stakeholders, the need for capacity building and broad institutional development was well recognised. Of particular importance is the financial management capacity of NGOs. While it was not possible to determine the extent to which individual NGOs have adequate capacities in this area, it is noted that the major donor small grants programmes mostly managed their own funds or used government treasury to disburse payments. Exceptions included the Te Kikano Fund run by NZ in Fiji.

2.6.2 Coordination

Coordination among NGOs is steadily increasing but, again, different countries are responding differently to the challenge. In Samoa, the Samoan Union of NGOs (SUNGO) has been established with a relatively broad membership, whereas in Fiji NGOs coordinate most effectively around a particular theme or issue and on an ad hoc basis. In Vanuatu, there are few organisations (2-3) dealing specifically with environmental issues and the Vanuatu Association of NGOs (VANGO), historically linked to the Commonwealth National Liaison Units, has had difficulties establishing a clear mandate within the NGO community.

Coordination between NGOs and government is also steadily increasing and an extremely important trend in small islands. Governments in the Pacific have recognised the role NGOs can play and, although not uniformly across all NGOs, they have encouraged NGO engagement in the delivery of programmes that relate to community development. This partnership utilises the range of skills available to communities and avoids duplication.

2.6.3 Links to communities

The links between NGOs and communities are becoming increasingly important. Sustainable development will depend on strong and positive relationships between NGOs, often used as intermediaries, and communities. Youth will play an important role in this regard. The development of trust is essential and different models are used by NGOs to achieve this trust (e.g. co-management). The nature of these links will vary from country to country and should be given time as well as direct support. (Insert Success Story 2 – Community based MPAs)

SS2 - Community-based Marine Protected Areas – Samoa

The World Conservation Union (IUCN), World Bank and Department of Environment & Conservation of the Government of Samoa have been working with two districts (Aliepata comprised of 11 villages and Safata comprising 9 villages) to establish effective community based marine protected areas (MPAs),. The primary objective has been to empower local communities in these Districts "to effectively protect and manage coastal marine biological diversity and help them achieve sustainable use of marine resources." (ICRAN 2004). The success of the project rests largely with the open and transparent way the project and its staff have engaged community leaders in District committees and the planning and decision-making. Detailed records of decisions by the village chiefs concerning the establishment of the two MPAs, including the work plans and budgets, ensure all in the community are aware of progress and how money is being spent. By establishing trust, avoiding raising unrealistic expectations by the communities, and focusing on sustainability (ICRAN 2004) the project is considered best practice by ICRAN.

A Local level Financing Mechanism

The early establishment by the communities of a joint bank account that has now been formalised as a Trust Account provides the communities with an opportunity to address the sustainable financing to their MPAs. The Management Plans developed through extensive community consultation include a schedule of charges and fines. These all contribute to the Trust that operates principally as a revolving fund. Funds are drawn down on the basis of decisions taken by the District Committee to implement the MPA Management Plans. Strong partnerships have also been developed with the local bank discounting its management and service charges. This is a particularly valuable model for this region.

Typical links between town-based NGOs and villages include:

- Personal connections between those engaged in the NGO and particular villages;
- The establishment of village based groups (e.g. sporting groups YMCA);
- Village committee structures (e.g. women's committees) under a national umbrella;
- Awareness campaigns around specific issues.

Regional

2.6.4 Institutional capacity

Institutional capacity of the regional NGOs also varies but provides a solid platform on which to facilitate the development of the SGP in the region. The challenges facing NGOs in the region were well recognised at the Second Regional Stakeholders Workshop on Strengthening Civil Society in the Region, Nadi, 29-31 October 2001. A broad set of actions was agreed upon to strengthen regional NGOs in the areas of:

- Sustainability and resourcing
- Organisational development
- Legal and regulatory frameworks
- Information and communications

Capacity building of NGOs/CBOs has been actively supported by WWF, Greenpeace and TNC over a number of years. A set of principles has now been developed for capacity building of civil society in the region.

2.6.5 Coordination

Coordination among Pacific Regional NGOs (PRNGOs) has been further strengthened by the development of a common capacity building framework. PIANGO has been identified as the most appropriate organisation to coordinate this work however this does not appear to be a broad mandate for coordination. As PIANGO works through a number of institutional and staffing issues it currently faces, the most appropriate approach appears to build on the experience of PRNGO coordination based around specific issues and themes.

Roundtables for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change have been established that bring together NGOs, relevant intergovernmental organisations and donors. This provides a valuable regional mechanism for sharing experience, focusing assistance and monitoring progress at a regional level.

2.6.6 National networks

No single regional NGO has a network of affiliates covering the entire region. While the relationship between the regional NGO and their affiliates has not been examined in detail, one example is the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific (FSPI). This supports a solid network of national affiliates in seven of the 13 countries. It is also coordinating at least 2 regional projects – coastal management and governance.

International

The international NGOs WWF, Greenpeace and TNC have a well-established regional presence. WWF South Pacific has country offices in PNG, Solomon Islands, Fiji and the Cook Islands; TNC has country programmes in PNG Solomon Islands, Palau and FSM. More recently Conservation International (CI) has established an office in Samoa with Birdlife International and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) establishing offices in Fiji in the last 18 months.

2.6.7 Institutional capacity

The institutional capacity of international NGOs in the region is well established. They provide a valuable resource for regional and national NGOs and in many cases are directly assisting governments with the implementation of their obligations under the MEAs relevant to the GEF - notably the CBD and UNFCCC. As highlighted earlier, WWF, Greenpeace and TNC in particular are actively engaged in building NGO capacity in the region.

It is expected that national level programmes run by the international NGOs or through their partners at the national level will contribute directly to the implementation of the sustainable development at national and community levels.

2.6.8 Coordination

No formal mechanism exists for coordination among international NGOs in the region, other than the Pacific Biodiversity Roundtable that is a mix of NGOs, IGOs and countries. Like national and regional NGOs, coordination tends to be issue or project specific. A recent example is collaboration among WWF, CI and TNC in the area of eco-regional planning and the identification of hotspots. Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Birdlife International are also making contributions to this process.

Chapter 3

Existing Priorities & Commitments

Chapter 3

Existing Priorities & Commitments

The existing priorities and commitments relevant to sustainable development of the Pacific are many. Throughout the international sustainable development debate there has been the clear recognition that the primary responsibility for action today rests at the national level but that some, the developed countries, are "more" responsible for many of the environmental problems we are facin . Based on a long history of regionalism, Pacific Island Countries have found common positions and strategies useful over the past decade to strengthen their voice at the international level. At the same time countries have found it important to commit to a range of new agreements and conventions that bring with them essential resources to assist them implement sustainable development.

3.1 NATIONAL LEVEL

While it is not possible to reiterate the full range of national priorities, Table 3 highlights the range of reports, which have been prepared specifically in response to the question of sustainable development (see Success Story 5– NEMS and Environmental Policy Formulation in Samoa).

SS5 – NEMS and Environmental Policy Formulation in Samoa

The National Environment and Sustainable Development Strategy (NEMS), adopted in 1993, identified 12 Target Environmental Components, which required the formulation of policies and strategies to address each issue, as follows: land use, population and sustainable development, waste management, protection of freshwater, biodiversity, heritage, climate change, protection of the atmosphere (ozone), combating deforestation, development of human resources, protection of the sea and marine resources and promoting sustainable economic growth. Since 1993, five have been approved as national policies in Samoa:

- o   National Waste Management Policy;
- o   National Land Use Policy;
- o   National Water Resource Policy;
- o   Natural Heritage Conservation Policy; and the
- o   National Forestry Policy.

Each of these policies include strategies that the focal implementing agency, the Department of Land, Surveys and Environment, and all relevant stakeholders-government departments and the private sector-can use as working documents to meet the objectives they set out.

Source: ADB (2004) & Samoa Country Report to the UNCCD. 2002.

3.2 REGIONAL LEVEL

Common national concerns have been regularly aggregated at the regional level. Depending on the countries or stakeholders that have participated in the regional dialogue, these common or aggregated views may be modified by developed country perspectives.

3.2.1 Policy and "Action Plans"

At the regional level Governments and institutions have clearly recognised the need to actively consider sustainable development as an essential element of strategies and plans. The SPREP Action Plan for Managing the Environment in the Pacific Islands Region contains a key result area focusing on sustainable economic development and the Governing Council of the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission has recently adopted a sustainable development strategy to help guide the organisations work. Collectively, the region's organisations under the auspices of the Council of regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) have also developed a Regional Ocean Policy (see Success Story 4 - Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Policy).

SS4 - Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy

The Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy was developed primarily to assist implementation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982). The region's leader's also saw this as an opportunity to ensure the sustainability of ocean resources.

The policy has taken advantage of the already extensive regional framework of cooperation embodied in the regional inter-governmental bodies and their enabling legislation. It was developed by the Marine Sector Working Group of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) in consultation with key stakeholders.

Table 3
Reports containing national priorities for sustainable development

Country	NEMS	UNCED Country Report	UNFCCC National Report	CBD National SAP	WSSD National Assessment	UNCCDD Country Report	WSSD Civil Society
Cook Islands	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Fiji Islands	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kiribati	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Marshall Islands	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
FSM	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Nauru		✓					✓
Niue	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Palau	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Papua New Guinea		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Samoa	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Solomon Islands	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Tonga	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Tuvalu	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Vanuatu	✓		✓			✓	✓

CBD = Convention on Biological Diversity; NEMS = National Environment Management Strategy; SAP - Strategic Action Plan; UNCED = United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; UNFCCC = United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; UNCCDD = United Nations Convention to Combat Drought and Desertification; WSSD = World Summit on Sustainable Development. Civil Society reports were conducted by the Earth Council and the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre in lead up to WSSD.

The Pacific Regional Oceans Policy presents a vision for healthy oceans that sustain the livelihoods and aspirations of Pacific island communities and provides the basis for the harmonizing national and regional actions in relation to oceans and coastal resources. The Policy aims to:

• Ensure future sustainable use of oceans and resources
• Promote stewardship and ownership
• Articulate the following principles:
• Improving understanding of the oceans
• Sustainably managing oceans resource use
• Maintaining the health of oceans
• Promoting the peaceful use of oceans
• Creating partnerships
• Promoting cooperation

A multi-stakeholder dialogue, the Pacific Island Regional Ocean Forum in early February 2004 has outlined a number of strategic directions for the implementation of the Policy. While it is too early to say whether the Policy will be successfully implemented, this approach has contributed to stronger coordination on ocean and coastal issues at the regional level.

(after E. Sopoaga (2003) For further information www.piocean.org)

A range of existing plans also exist that form part of a patchwork that are all relevant to sustainable development. These include the Forum Economic Action Plan, the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA), the Forum Communications Actions Plan, the Forum Aviation Action Plan, a Pacific Islands Air Services Agreement (PIASA), and the Forum Basic Education Action Plan.

The regional institutional framework that exists (see Annex 5) to facilitate this Pacific-wide dialogue on common concerns and shared natural resources has been further strengthened by the advent of the Council of Regional in the Pacific (CROP). Within CROP

there exist a number of working groups including the Sustainable Development Working Group established formally in 2001.

In addition to these officially recognized regional organizations, there are a growing number of regional NGOs in the Pacific focusing their attention on environmental issues. These include the World Wide Fund for Nature South Pacific Program (WWF-SPP), The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific (FSPI), the Pacific Concerns Resource Center (PCRC), Pacific Youth Caucus for the Environment (PYCE), Pacific Island Association of NGOs (PIANGO), and The Nature Conservancy's Pacific Program. These organizations are in addition to the broader-based Pacific Congress of Churches and youth groups such as the Young Men's or Young Women's Christian Associations (YMCA and YWCA), that also are engaged in certain environmental management and sustainable development activities. (UNEP/EU/SPREP 1999)

Figure 3.1: The final stages of the negotiations for Kyoto Protocol on climate change- Pacific Island Countries played a significant role.

3.2.2 Apia Statement on Sustainable Development

The most recent statement of regional priorities, including Australia and New Zealand, in relation to sustainable development was made at Apia in 2001 in preparation for the WSSD. This statement is contained in Annex 4. The statement and the participation by Heads of Government in the World Summit in 2002 led to the launching of a number of initiatives for sustainable development.

3.2.3 Initiatives

The initiatives launched in Johannesburg include:

- Capacity building and
- Energy distance education
- Land resources
- Adaptation
- Tourism
- Governance
- Vulnerability and
- Health disaster management
- Information
- Water communication technology
- Mainstreaming
- Oceans conservation
- Planning and community
- Waste development management

They are essentially partnerships that are evolving between governments, regional organisations, NGOs and donors to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of sustainable development activities at the local level.

3.2.4 National versus regional

There has been concern expressed by governments and civil society over recent years that the delivery of regional programmes is not necessarily contributing sufficiently to national capacity. The question of effective governance has also been raised; whether the regional intervention is responding to a real/requested need or one that is perceived and is responding largely to "donor" initiatives or objectives.

Regional level interventions can be justified on the basis of common action concerning common problems, developing collective positions for use at the international level and in terms of economies of scale. However, in terms of project implementation that has primarily a national or community level benefit they may be less able to respond to changing local conditions and to "leave behind" the skills and capacity to "continue the good work". Driving this concern is apparent competition between national and regional institutions (including NGOs) for access to resources; both groups often struggling to fund "under-financed" core budgets. More critical assessments of what should most appropriately be delivered through regional organisations are already taking place. At the end of the day, however, it will depend largely on the context/level of the intervention and the skills/support that can be provided.

3.3 INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

3.3.1 Policy commitments

At the international level the latest expression of priorities comes from the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Pacific Submission of the Summit is reflected in the section addressing the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (see Annex 4). This can be summarised as:

- Sustainable fisheries management and financial returns from fisheries;
- Delimiting and managing coastal areas, exclusive economic zones and the continental shelf;
- Conserving marine and coastal biological diversity;

- Improved freshwater management;
- Reducing, preventing and controlling waste and pollution and their health-related impacts;
- Developing community-based initiatives on sustainable tourism;
- Comprehensive hazard and risk management, disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness;
- Developing economic, social and environmental vulnerability indices and related indicators as tools for the achievement of the sustainable development;
- Adaptation relating to the adverse effects of climate change, sea level rise and climate variability;
- Capacity building to implement intellectual property regimes;
- Developing environmentally sound energy services including strengthening efforts on energy supply and services, promoting efficient use of sources of energy and capacity building for renewable energy;
- Equitable access to health care and health systems to fight and control communicable and non-communicable diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, diabetes, malaria and dengue fever;
- Maintaining and managing systems to deliver water and sanitation services, in both rural and urban areas; and
- Poverty eradication and improved trading conditions.

It is clear that priority environmental concerns of the past decade have now been placed within a broader sustainable development framework. This now forms an essential basis for what the international community recognise as a special case both for environment and development in Small Island Developing States. Civil Society representatives have also outlined that, as a priority, sustainable development in the Pacific must be grounded within communities and local indigenous knowledge and cultural systems.

3.3.2 The conventions

Pacific Island Countries have ratified a significant number of international agreements and conventions. Those related to the environment and sustainable development is outlined in Table 4 below.

These conventions represent a commitment by Governments and potential access by countries to resources for sustainable development. Each convention commitment brings with it a range of responsibilities and a commitment of time and limited national resources that limit the ability of each country to focus on national and local priorities.

3.3.3 The Plan of Implementation - a new global framework

56. At the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development, the international community committed themselves to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The Plan of Implementation provides a step forward and maintains interest in the pursuit of multilateral negotiations on sustainable development. It is designed to identify gaps in the implementation of Agenda 21 – sustainable development – that could help target the support of the international community. It provides a focus for work on sustainable development in the next decade and in this context the sections on the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States and Africa are highlights. It mostly reiterates or consolidates existing agreements that have been reached in other meetings but presents them in the context of sustainable development (SPREP 2002).

Of particular significance to this process is the overarching objectives agreed to by the Summit are to eradicate poverty, change unsustainable patterns of consumption and

Table 4
Pacific Island Participation in Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Pacific Developing Member Country	Global Agreements/Conventions																Regional Agreements/Conventions				
	Ramsar Convention	World Heritage Convention	MARPOL	CITES	Convention of Migratory Species	UNCLOS	Ozone Layer (Vienna) Convention	Montreal Protocol	Basel Convention	Rotterdam Convention	Convention on Climate Change	Kyoto Protocol	Convention on Biological Diversity	Cartagena Biosafety Protocol	Convention to Combat Desertification	POPs Convention (Stockholm)	Waigani Convention	SPREP Convention	Regulation of Whaling Treaty	Apia Convention	Pacific Tuna Convention
Cook Islands						®	®				®	®	®	S	A		®	®		®	S
Fiji Islands		®		A		®	A	A			®	®	®	®	A	®	®	®		®	S
Kiribati		®					A	A	A		®	A	®	S	A	S	S	®	®		S
Marshall Is.		®	®			®	A	A	A	A	®		®	A	A	A	®	®			S
FSM		®				®	A	A	A		®	®	®		®	S	®	®			S
Nauru						®	A	A	A		®	®	®	A	A		®	®			
Niue (tba)																					
Palau (tba)																					
Papua New Guinea	®	®	®	A		®	A	A	A		®	®	®		A	S	®	®		®	
Samoa		®				®	A	A	A	A	®	®	®	®	A	®	®	®		®	S
Solomon Is.		®				®	A	A			®	A	®		A		®	®	®		
Tonga		®				®	A	A			A		®		A	S	®				
Tuvalu		®				®	A	A			®	®	®		A		A	®			S
Vanuatu		®	®	A		®	A	A			®	A	®		®	S	®	®			S

® = Ratified; S = Signed; A = Acceded.
CITES = Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; MARPOL = International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships; SPREP = South Pacific Regional Environment Programme; UNCLOS = United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
From ADB (2004)

production and protect and manage the natural resource base. In reaffirming commitment to the Rio Principles and pledging to fully implement Agenda 21, adopted at the Earth Summit 10 years before, and the internationally agreed development goals, the international community has highlighted the importance of:

• Integration of the three inter-dependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development - social development economic development and environmental protection
• Implementation of sustainable development should benefit all actors;
• Partnerships should be used to involve all
• Good governance is essential
• The necessity of peace, security, stability and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, as well as respect for cultural diversity; and
• The importance of ethics for sustainable development.

In terms of the overall priorities within the Plan of Implementation it is difficult to know where to start. Poverty eradication is clearly stated as the greatest global challenge and action is called for at all levels. The Plan also supports the need to fundamentally change the way societies produce and consume resources to achieve sustainable development. In relation to sustainable consumption and production, the Plan of Implementation contains a number of key commitments relating to increased eco-efficiency; investment in cleaner production; integration of production and consumption patterns into policies and programmes; enhanced corporate environmental and social responsibility and accountability; and financial institutions to incorporate sustainable development considerations.

In relation to energy for sustainable development, this section of the Plan of Implementation promotes the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments; programmes for energy efficiency; policy and regulatory frameworks that create a level playing field did agree to phase out harmful subsidies "where appropriate", but also included text that advances fossil fuels that are the main cause of global warming and nuclear power.

Targets for the introduction of renewable energy were not part of the final agreement but many regions are moving ahead to set their own. Waste and chemicals management is seen in the Plan of Implementation as a key aspect of consumption and production. Important agreements include a new globally harmonized system for the classification and labeling of chemicals by 2008; maximizing the reuse, recycling and use of environmentally friendly alternative materials; developing waste management systems and environmentally sound disposal facilities; and efforts to prevent international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes and to prevent damage resulting from the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes.

Ocean management issues are included within the Plan of Implementation. "Oceans, seas, islands and coastal areas" are recognised as an "integrated and essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are critical for global food security and for sustaining economic prosperity and the well-being". Significant agreements in the Oceans section include eliminating subsidies that contribute to fisheries overcapacity and to illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing; encouraging governments to make efforts to examine and improve the safety of radioactive materials transport; and recognition of regional fisheries agreements, importantly the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention. References that would support whaling were not supported. A system of global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment has been called for by 2004.

In relation to fisheries, there is agreement to "maintain or restore stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield with the aim of achieving these goals for depleted stocks on an urgent basis and where possible not later
Marine and nature based tourism is a significant component of tourism earnings.

than 2015". Linked to the oceans section is the implementation of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. The Plan places emphasis within
Dredging and land reclamation are significant contributors to sedimentation within the local lagoons.

the next 4 years (by 2006) of the GPA on municipal wastewater, the physical alteration and destruction of physical habitats and nutrients.

A range of new targets for the conservation of biological diversity has important implications for not just SPREP but all those engaged in development activities that may affect biodiversity. These agreements and targets include:

- To significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010;
- To establish representative networks of marine protected areas by 2012, including time/area closures for the protection of nursery grounds;
- Apply the ecosystem approach to oceans management by 2010, and more generally to promote the wide implementation of the ecosystem approach to biodiversity conservation;
- To promote and support initiatives for hotspot areas and national and regional ecological networks and corridors, enhance indigenous and community-based conservation efforts and control invasive alien species;
- Take immediate action on domestic law enforcement and illegal international trade in forest products, and immediate action to achieve sustainable timber harvesting.

The Plan contains a specific target to halve the estimated 2.4 billion people presently living without basic sanitation facilities by the year 2015. This combined with the target to halve by 2015 the proportion of people unable to access to safe drinking water, provide important incentives to improve water supply and sanitation. Integrated water resource management plans are also called for by 2005.

Significant progress on climate change was not achieved, however, in relation to ozone depleting substances, the Plan supports the

replenishment of the Montreal Protocol Fund and improved access by developing countries.

The Plan also outlines specific approaches for agriculture, land degradation, mountain ecosystems, tourism and forests but without reference to time bound targets.

The Plan recognizes the positive and negative impacts of globalisation and the need for assistance to developing countries in their efforts to respond to these challenges. Of particular note is the support given to the strengthening of regional trade agreements.

A healthy population is critical to sustainable development. Considerable emphasis was placed during the Summit on the threat of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. A specific target was agreed for the "reduction of HIV prevalence among young men and women aged 15-24 by 25 per cent in the most affected countries by 2005 and globally by 2010". Targets were also agreed for improved health literacy by 2010, reduced infant mortality by 2015 and reducing maternal mortality by 75%.

At the national level, countries recommitted themselves to formulate national sustainable development strategies by 2005. Their primary responsibility for sustainable development was reiterated and the Plan agrees to enhance the participation of major groups in programmes and activities for sustainable development at all levels.

Assigning targets and timetables to this framework was an important focus for much of the international debate. Some new targets have been introduced but overall the Plan has provided further impetus to meeting the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the United Nations and world leaders in 2000. These targets provide a framework for relevant and complementary targets at the national.

3.3.4 Special Case for Small Island Developing States

One of the most significant elements of these commitments and agreements at the international level is that in one way or another they give some definition to the special case both for environment and development in Small Island Developing States that is now recognised by the international community. This "special case", first coined in relation to climate change, found its way into Agenda 21 in 1992. This special case now covers a wide range of challenges from vulnerability to climate change through to the need for a specific programme of work on Island Biodiversity .

Chapter 4

Taking Stock

Chapter 4

Taking Stock

In any process to develop a strategy for sustainable development it is important to take stock of where we are. This is not an exhaustive list but sufficiently comprehensive to help us focus on critical issues that have not been addressed and to build on successful approaches that can help the region move more rapidly along a sustainable path.

4.1 Achievements

There has been progress towards sustainable development in the region. This progress has been consistent with global agreements on sustainable development, such as Agenda 21 and the Barbados Programme of Action, but not necessarily stimulated by directly by these blueprints. At a strategic level the benefits that have already accrued to the region as a result of this global framework for sustainable development include:

- Agreement to a "special case for islands in environment and development" that led to the Barbados Conference and international platform for the sustainable development of small island developing States (BPoA);
- Development of the concept of vulnerability particularly in relation to islands;
- Additional financial resources through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) totalling over USD60million;
- Progress to address critical waste management issues in the region, including the identification of hazardous waste stockpiles, the improvement of existing landfills and local recycling programmes in some countries;
- Completion of the Implementing Agreement for Highly Migratory and Straddling Fish Stocks that led to the Multi-lateral High Level Consultations concerning the conservation and management of critical tuna resources in the region and the establishment of a new Regional Tuna Commission;
- International agreement to targets and timetables to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Climate Change Convention and Kyoto Protocol;
- Acceptance of the precautionary principle by the majority of the international community;
- Increased engagement of CROP organisations in sustainable development policies and programmes;
- A dedicated chapter on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in the World Summit on Sustainable Development Plan of Implementation;
- Commitment of the United Nations to a High Level International Meeting on the Sustainable Development of
- Mobilisation/increased engagement of civil society
- Special consideration of island priorities within the work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2005; and,
- Recognition of islands as a substantive negotiating group within the UN system through the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

At the national and regional levels, where there has been progress, the benefits have been quite localised. A range of success stories is presented in more detail in Section VI. These examples are important catalysts for change but the pace of change is not keeping up with rate of decline in the environment, natural resources and the standards of living in the region (UNEP/EU/SPREP 1999).

SS3 – Fiji's Locally Managed Marine Areas Network

Since its inception in 1999, the Fiji Locally-Managed Marine Area Network has grown to include communities in six districts and cover 10% of the inshore marine area of Fiji. The involvement of communities in the network has led to increases in the number and size of clams, crabs, and other species harvested adjacent to tabu areas, where fishing is prohibited. As a result, household incomes have increased 35% over three years and catches have tripled. Much of the success of the network can be attributed to its participatory and collaborative focus, which has ensured that local people are at the center of the network's operations. As a testament to the success of the network in protecting marine biodiversity and alleviating poverty in fishing communities, the government of Fiji has recently incorporated many of its approaches into national policies designed to protect the coastal resources of Fiji for future generations.
(From Equator Initiative website http://www.undp.org/equatorinitiative/secondary/awards_winners.htm)

4.2 Gaps

There remains serious concern that environmental degradation continues at an alarming rate in the region. Increasing vulnerability and the challenges of globalisation are expected to reinforce this trend. This process to identify sustainable development priorities must therefore be used

to assist countries to galvanize the commitment and resources required to slow and ultimately reverse the loss of resources and environmental quality that is so essential to the well-being of this region of small developing islands. It must rekindle the confidence in collective action to address common environmental concerns and sustainable development. To do so, it must not only focus the support of the international community in areas where urgent action is required but also in ways to ensure long term, systematic empowerment of people; building of the capacity or core competencies of individuals and institutions to achieve the results required for sustainable development.

There is a considerable gap between national priorities and the support provided under the banner of sustainable development. National and local priorities are often sector based or relate to fundamental social and economic goals that are essential to job creation, health, education and food security.
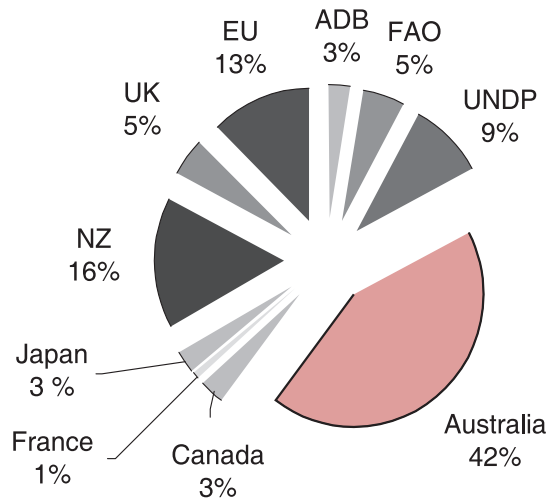
From EU/PIFS (2002) Pacific Regional Support Strategy

Improving the implementation of sustainable development will need to address these pressing national and local priorities directly. Any response will need to provide ways to concentrate effort, to bring individual skills and institutional support together in a more focused way. This is clearly not about single agencies or institutions assuming the sole responsibility for sustainable development but about harnessing the skills and capacity of individuals and organisations (government and non-government) and the private sector. This approach, one of cooperation rather than control is essential to the "next phase".

The relationship between people and sustainable development requires deliberate attention. Increasing poverty, population growth and health impacts, urban expansion as well as the issues of governance, human resource development and the involvement of civil society in sustainable development, are all critical aspects of this relationship. People centred. People centred rather than institution-centred development will need to be a hallmark of sustainable development in this region in the future.

It is clear that the means to integrate environment and development priorities successfully at whatever level may be appropriate remains a gap to be filled. As has been recorded in the ADB's PRES there has been considerable discussion about integrating environment and development-or "mainstreaming"-in the Pacific, beginning as far back as the early 1990s. More recently, the importance of integrated environment-development decision-making also has been highlighted as an essential framework for organizing policy responses to the environmental challenges facing the region. Thus far, however, little progress has been made on the ground with either approach. (ADB 2004) Although there has been limited progress at the regional level (SPREP 2002), the desire does exist at a national level to create stronger links between environmental

information, management, and systems of national planning.

In terms of overall financing for sustainable development, gaps clearly exist. ODA is shrinking in real terms and financial resources need to be more effectively targeted to sustainable development priorities and used efficiently. Where resources are available, for example through the GEF, it is often not possible for Pacific Island Countries to access these due to lack of national and local capacity (Miles 2004).

4.3 The impact of development assistance

Environmental assistance over the past decade has contributed to a general strengthening of capacity in Pacific island countries. The magnitude of this investment and the tools and techniques used have not be adequate but by contrast it has taken most developed countries over 40 years to build the capacity for environmental management we see today (ADB 2004). Figure 1 highlights the source of development assistance in the region.

There is a considerable baseline of ongoing activities and achievements within the region. These have largely focused on planning (to meet external requirements), general capacity building (with often limited impact) or specific infrastructure (often short term measures). To build on this baseline a longer term or more programmatic approach is required that builds directly upon country programming/needs, ensures coordination across the donor community, targets national and local impacts to build capacity and makes best use of regional and national institutions (to ensure administrative efficiency and effective results).

A central issue will be the extent to which national and regional modalities are used. It is clear that national capacity now requires different approach to the traditional regional

programmes. Capacity in many countries is now at a point where it is demanding more and better execution at the national level. But by the same measure, bilateral programmes have faced similar challenges to those at the regional level. While national projects may not have the same overhead costs, the questions of programme and project design and duration and the sustainability of project impacts still arise. Selecting what is most appropriately dealt with through a regional approach, those that can build on the improved coordination between regional organisations add value administratively as well as in terms of effectiveness and the sustainability of impacts, will remain critical.

Chapter 5

Conclusions and Recommendation

Chapter 5
Conclusions and Recommendations

So there have been considerable strategic gains for this region and islands as a whole at the international level. The focus on island priorities at a time when the focus of geopolitical debate was moving away from these States towards the "poorer States" and the newly independent States in Central Europe, has been a significant achievement. Considerable international commitments now exist although there may be limited capacity to service these conventions and a local cost in terms of the time available to undertake national priorities.

Regional plans and agreements are also in place, covering a wide range of issues relevant to the sustainable development of the region.

The translation of these achievements and plans into benefits at the national and local levels has been naturally slower. Of particular note is the extent to which civil society has been increasingly engaged in the global debate concerning sustainable development. This engagement now needs to be translated into constructive action at national and local levels. If we are to take advantage of the momentum that has been created at regional and international levels it is essential that priority needs to be given to:

- Empowering people and communities and directly engaging young people as agents of community-based change
- Strengthening our ability to manage knowledge both indigenous and science-based

- Improving our ability and procedures for planning
- Developing effective partnerships between at local and national levels
- Influencing resources flows so that they provide the incentives for sustainable development
- Valuing the environment appropriately

5.1 ESSENTIAL BUILDING BLOCKS

5.1.1 Credible plans and strategies

There has been a significant investment in plans and strategies in the regional, both at national and regional levels. While many may not have the full ownership of all stakeholders and many may need to be updated, they do provide a credible basis for action. The process of planning, its role in policy and spatial development, is seen as essential building block. The skills and resources required for ongoing planning that is responsive and flexible will require significant investment at national and local levels.

5.1.2 Essential performance monitoring

There remains a dearth of data on the impact of investment in environmental management and sustainable development. Monitoring and measures of performance that are relevant to both the desired outcomes and the people must be considered an essential

building block. It will be important that indicators relate as far as practical to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Considerable work has gone into this area from the top down, including the Commission on Sustainable Development and more recently the OECD. A similar investment, bottom up, will be required from the Pacific island countries.

5.1.3 Basic functions performed well

The capacity that has been built in the region is commonly spread quite thinly. With obligations at the regional and international levels, it remains a challenge for many environment units and departments to put in place the essential policy and institutional framework and to build the skills base to perform the basic environment functions. Investment in basic skills and techniques in areas such as EIA, and its application more strategically in government decision-making, should be considered important first steps.

5.1.4 Improving governance and legislation that can be enforced

The basic legal frameworks at the national level require considerable strengthening. To perform the basic functions well Pacific island countries have recognised the need to have the essential policy and legal frameworks in place. In countries where they exist further effort is required to overcome weaknesses in implementation and enforcement. The introduction of legislation that can further strengthen local level governance and local enforcement would be a worthwhile investment. (See Success Story 6- Strengthening local level governance contributes to forest conservation)

SS6 – Strengthening local level governance contributes to forest conservation

With the vast majority of that forests in the Pacific legally owned and controlled by local communities based around traditional clan structures local responses at this level are of particular relevance. Papua New Guinea is a case in point with over 95 percent of forested land under customary ownership. In an attempt to address the challenges of community development and strengthened local level governance the Almami Local Level Government in the Bogia District of the Madang Province, PNG, Adelberts Range with development of an enforceable legal framework within which clans and communities can prepare plans and agreements with each other for forest conservation. Through the legislative powers of section 44 of the Organic Law on Provincial Governments and Local-level Governments (OLPGLLG) and the relevant sections of the Local-level Governments Administration Act 1997 the Almami Local-level Government aims to protect and conserve the forest resources of the Adelbert Ranges and also facilitate compatible economic growth in the area. By linking community agreements to national legislation in this way helps protect, and make more enduring, the decisions taken by the clan members and Local Level Government.

Source: ADB 2004

5.1.5 Improved coordination

The various committees and institutions that have been established at national and regional levels coherence and coordination provide an important building block for further investment. There is no single model at the national level although a number of countries have aid coordination bodies, all have GEF Operational Focal Points, national task forces for sustainable development have been set up - in many cases linked directly to WSSD preparations, and these can be used or strengthened rather by new environmental assistance rather than creating new ones. At

the regional level, the Council of regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) provides a steadily improving platform for coordination. A number of working groups have been established to advise the Heads of CROP members on the coherence and coordination of regional programmes. The engagement of NGOs and their emerging coordinating bodies in this overall coordination effort will be essential.

5.2 BETTER DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

So much of the work we do is structured around projects - improving their design and implementation should be a facet of any strategy to advance sustainable development. Requests for support in the area of project design and management are now quite common among government and NGOs working in the field of sustainable development.

5.2.1 Stronger stakeholder involvement

One of the hallmarks of the last decade has been the increased engagement of community groups and NGOs, and to some extent the business community, in the design and implementation of environmental programmes. However, as identified by the Second Performance review of the GEF, a more systematic approach to stakeholder participation is required. The lessons learned certainly indicate that continued and deliberate engagement of the relevant stakeholders leads to significant and often more lasting local benefits. This has been particularly true in the area of biodiversity conservation but there are also examples in broader environmental planning, waste management and climate change. Particular effort to engage youth more directly across all the major groups could be extremely productive. Stronger stakeholder involvement will also require organisations such as UNEP to actively engage civil society directly.

5.2.2 One size (still) does not fit all

While this has been recognised widely for many years in the delivery of development assistance the temptation still remains to develop model approaches, set the same requirements for all countries and conditions and expect countries to move at the same pace through the same project or programme. This must be avoided as a matter of course.

5.2.3 Capacity building that lasts

Capacity building is a term that means many things to many people. There is no doubt that the term is used widely and considered important to the region. To make progress in this area it will be important to be quite specific about what we aim to achieve. In essence, building core competencies that assist stakeholders deliver the intended results needs to be the focus of "capacity building" for sustainable development. This will mean not only investing in the skills but also providing them with the resources necessary to achieve. These include the use of competency-based learning, participatory learning techniques and learning networks, increased mentoring and succession planning.

5.2.4 Awareness "in all things"

The importance of raising public and political awareness to securing lasting environmental outcomes cannot be overstated. General awareness raising has its place but to advance sustainable development there must be the deliberate identification of the "marketplace" and the incentives that will be required to change behaviour or secure the commitment of partners to sustainable development outcomes. The development of communication strategies that target not only the direct project or programme recipients but also the wider community will also be

important to promote the lessons learned, encourage project replication or the long term support of the projects outputs.

5.2.5 Programme coherence

While recognising the need for programmes to be flexible and adapt to the changing needs of the stakeholders, it is also necessary to lock in a longer-term vision or programmatic approach to environmental assistance. Although this is likely to be a significant challenge in the region, the development of multi-year (10-15 year) multi-partner programmes should be encouraged at national and regional levels. This approach has been requested by environment Ministers in relation to climate change and the ADB has spearheaded similar work recently for GEF programming in China.

5.3 ESSENTIAL INVESTMENTS

There are many issues that could be addressed and setting priorities is notoriously difficult when it comes to the environment. At the regional level, two have been identified as requiring significant attention in the long term. These are climate change, specifically adaptation in relation to coastal environments and coral reefs, and environmentally sound and sustainable development notably the environmental dimensions of trade liberalisation, population growth, tourism development, urbanisation and settlement patterns (UNEP/ SPREP/EU 2002).

5.3.1 Institutions for mainstreaming

To build the policy and institutional framework for environmental protection and sustainable development it is going to be essential to address the issue of mainstreaming. A central question surrounds how, while supporting efforts towards public sector reform, environment ministries as well as sector-focused ministries can be adequately strengthened to secure environmental safeguards and benefits in the most efficient and effective manner. While this may be common to assistance across the entire environment portfolio, it warrants significant and direct investment.

5.3.2 Scaling up community-based conservation

It is clear that community-based conservation will be critical to community development and poverty alleviation strategies as well as conservation objectives. The question remains, how the achievements to date can be scaled up. This cannot be done with haste, as outlined in the conclusions relating to project and programme design, smaller amounts of money over longer timeframes are required. But the total resources mobilised for conservation must be dramatically increased. These range from income generating opportunities and the use of economic instruments at a local level through to trust funds at national and regional levels where local income can in no way resource the conservation effort required. (See Success Story 7- Establishing the Micronesia Conservation Trust)

SS7 – Establishing the Micronesia Conservation Trust

A group of 18 private and public sector leaders from the four FSM states-collectively representing the national government, state and municipal government agencies and legislatures, private businesses, local NGOs, and traditional leaders-formed a steering committee in February, 2001, to create the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT). Based on the experiences of two other trust funds in the region-the Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE), and Mama Graun Conservation Trust Fund the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws for the MCT were

adopted a board of directors were appointed - including representatives of the largest local conservation NGOs (Conservation Society of Pohnpei, YapCap, GATA (Chuuk), Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization) - and the Executive Director recruited.

The Micronesia Conservation Trust is a private organization with a governing board that includes members from national, state, and municipal governments, NGOs, business, and academic institutions. It will mobilize funding from a variety of sources to build an endowment from which to provide long-term support for sustainable natural resource management. The MCT would also be an excellent channel for funding for the environment sector under the Compact of Free Association and from other donors. The Trust Fund will place special emphasis on building the capacity of Micronesian organizations to design and manage conservation programs, and providing a forum to bring together people from national, state, and local governments with private enterprises and organizations to collectively address the challenges of natural resource management in FSM, form public-private partnerships, and share experiences and best practices.

The MCT will manage a program of grants to support the goals of FSM's environment strategy and has been designed to finance innovative and effective projects that will:

- Support community awareness about biodiversity conservation and related environmental education programs;
- Support the conservation of priority natural biodiversity resource areas;
- Strengthen the ability of communities, community organizations, government agencies, conservation and development NGOs, and other appropriate organizations to conserve FSM's biodiversity and sustainably manage its natural resources for the benefit of future generations; and
- Support biodiversity conservation advocacy.

5.3.3 Saving valuable assets

In addition the community-based conservation a more cohesive approach is required to save a wide range of assets critical to the regions environment and future development. Concentrated in forests and marine ecosystems, the region's biodiversity is under threat from invasive species and habitat destruction (whether through physical loss or pollution).

5.3.4 Permanently reducing the waste stream

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.

Figure 5.1: The placement of landfills close to the sea is contributing to inshore marine pollution in a number of pacific Ports.

5.3.5 Managing water and watersheds

The quantity and quality of water throughout the region is under threat. The recent regional action plan and upcoming Kyoto World Water Forum provides a sound basis for further assistance to countries. By adopting a cohesive watershed management approach to environmental assistance in this area, benefits can be accrued across disaster management, land degradation, biodiversity, and pollution portfolios.

5.3.6 Sector-based regional programmes

There are a number of opportunities to concentrate effort of donors. Important sources of financial resources for environmental management can be found in the regional programmes financed by, in particular, Canada and the European Union. These primarily sector focused programmes do recognise the critical importance of environmental protection and benefits being derived across the range of project results or outputs. In the next five years these programmes will focus on fisheries management, marine pollution, trade, human resource development, hazard mapping and coastal resource extraction (in particular sand and aggregates).

5.3.7 Importance of partnerships

Heads of Government in the Pacific launched a number of voluntary partnerships at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. These are expected to provide a platform for the integration of social, economic and environmental goals at national and local levels and provide a catalyst for the implementation of sustainable development. While they are not projects in themselves they are do promote partnerships that will help leverage resources and improve coordination across projects in a given area. They are expected to bring together a wide selection of partners who have decided to make a coordinated effort in a particular area, to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of deliverables to the local level.

5.3.8 Sub-Regional Information Network for Youth

Using youth as important catalysts or focal point for action regarding sustainable development will require deliberate support and attention. As a group able to draw on indigenous knowledge and culture, reinvigorate it, and to build bridges for communities to "new ways", UNEP can assist through a facilitated sub-regional information network. This network could link youth to other international networks and information. This would not be a "clearing house" but rather be resourced to connect everyone in the community, share resources and knowledge and include the protection of traditional knowledge and using appropriately to benefit of traditional owners.

5.3.9 Making global local

In the Pacific effort to engage local communities and resource owners in the decisions surrounding trade and globalisation will be essential. Much is already going on at national level to develop effective trading regimes regionally or to respond directly to the WTO and its process of accession. The most effective first steps will be to link civil society to this trade focused effort and to bridge a critical gap between those engaged in macro-economic reform and development and those that are more directly concerned with a complex set of social and cultural priorities and the micro-economic impacts of trade liberalisation.

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Annexures
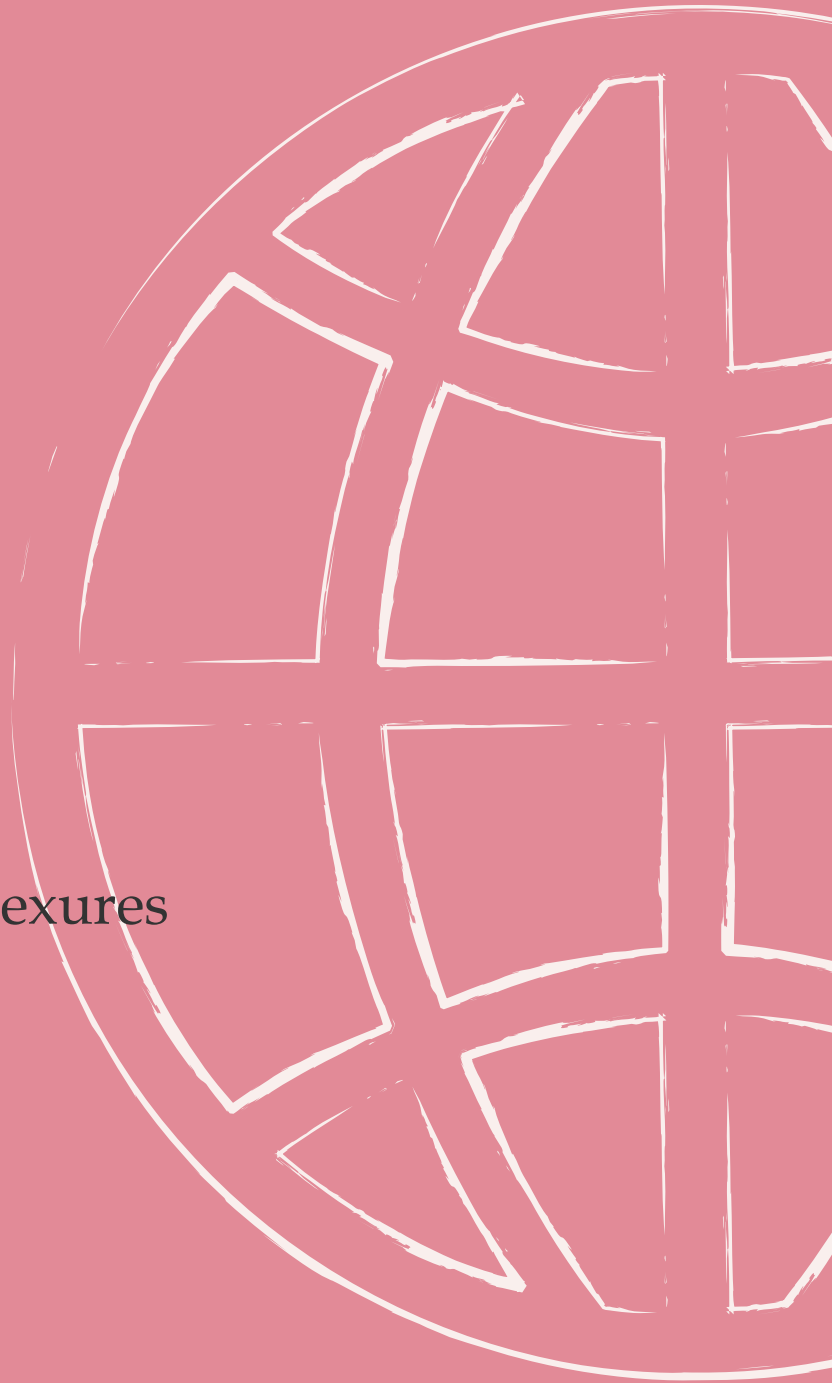
Annex 1. Acronyms

ADB: Asian Development bank
AOSIS: Alliance of Small Island States
AusAID: Australian Agency for International Development
BPoA: Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable development of Small Island
              Developing States
CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO: Community Based Organisation
CI: Conservation International
CROP: Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
EEZ: Exclusive Economic Zone
EU: European Union
FSM: Federated States of Micronesia
GEF: Global Environment Facility
GPA: Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from
              Land Based Sources of Pollution
ICM: Integrated Coastal Management
MDGs: Millennium Development Goals
MEA: Multilateral Environment Agreement
MPA: Marine Protected Area
NGO: Non-Government Organisation
OECD: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PIANGO: Pacific Island Association of Non-Government Organisations
PIC: Pacific Island Countries
PIFS: Pacific Island Forum Secretariat
PNG: Papua New Guinea
PICTA: Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement
PIASA: Pacific Islands Air Services Agreement
PRES: Pacific Regional Environment Strategy
PRNGO: Pacific Regional Non-Government Organisation
SGP: Small Grants Programme
SOPAC: South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
SPC: Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPREP: South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SIDS: Small Island Developing States
SUNGO: Samoan Association of Non-Government Organisations
TNC: The Nature Conservancy
UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
UNCED: United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

USP:	University of the South Pacific
VANGO:	Vanuatu Association of Non-Government Organisations
WCS:	Wildlife Conservation Society
WMO:	World Meteorological Organization
WSSD:	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WWF:	World Wide Fund for Nature
YMCA:	Young Men's Christian Association
YWCA:	Young Women's Christian Association

Annex 2. PICs' Demographic/Population Characteristics of the PICs

Country	Land Area (km²)	Total Population 2000	Mid-year Population Estimate 2002	Population Annual Population Growth Rate(%) 2000	Population Density (people/km²) 2002	Projected Population Doubling Time (in years)	Average Household Size
Cook Islands 237	18027	17,900	-0.5	76	-	4.4	6.8
FSM	701	118,500	110,700	1.9	158	36	5.3
Fiji	18,333	814,000	823,300	1.6	45	45	6.5
Kiribati	811	89,600	86,900	2.5	107	28	7.8
Marshall Islands	181	51,600	53,200	2.0	294	35	10.0
Nauru	21	11,500	11,900	1.8	567	39	5.8
Palau	488	19,129	19,900	2.2	41	32	5.7
Papua New Guinea	462,243	4,810,000	5,471,200	2.3	12	30	
Samoa	2,935	169,000	175,000	0.6	60	110	7.5
Solomon Islands	28,370	459,000	439,400	3.4	15	20	6.6
Tonga	649	100,300	101,100	0.6	649	117	6.0
Tuvalu	26	10,500	10,100	0.9	26	82	6.2
Vanuatu	12,190	191,900	199,600	3.0	16	23	5.6
TOTAL/AVERAGE Reference:	SPC,SOPAC	SOPAC, SPC	SPC	SPC	SPC	SPC	SPC

Source: 1. *Demographic/Population Programme, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Noumea, New Caledonia. 2002*
2. *SOPAC Sustainable Development Strategy, South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, Suva, Fiji. August 2002*

Annex 3. Social Indicators

Country	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	Male Life Expectancy at Birth (Year)	Female Expectancy at Birth (Year)	Age Dependency Ratio (%)	Access to Safe Water (% of the Population)	Daily per Capita Calorie Supply (cal)	Adult Literacy Rate(%)	% Gross Enrollment Ratio (primary)	% Gross Enrollment Ratio (secondary)
Cook Islands	21	71	74	79	99	NA	99	99	98
FSM	20	63	67	85	44	NA	71	83	44
Fiji	18	71	75	68	77	2865	93	125	36
Kiribati	62	92	59	84	76	2851	77	78	47
Marshall Islands	37	63	67	82	82	NA	97	79	49
Nauru	25	55	62	85	100	NA	95	96	34
Palau									
Papua New Guinea	79	55	54	79	41	2224	63	31	23
Samoa	21	65	67	71	68	NA	96	94	70
Solomon Islands	22	66	65	93	64	2122	64	39	24
Tonga	18	65	71	88	95	NA	99	90	67
Tuvalu	40	70	67	72	85	NA	64	95	34
Vanuatu	37	63	66	89	77	2700	64	72	22
TOTAL/AVERAGE									

Source: Basic Statistics, Developing Member Countries. Asian Development Bank, Manila. April 2001

Annex 4. Economic Indicators

Country	Year	GDP Million (US$)	GDP per (US$)	Annual Real Growth Rates 1999				Shares of GDP 1999	
				GDP (%)	Agriculture (%)	Industry (%)	Services (%)	Agriculture (%)	Industry (%)
Cook Islands	2000	78	5,340	3.2	2.5	4.6	2.5	22.6	7.2
FSM	2000	231	1,946	2.5	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Fiji	2000	1,605	1,972	-9.3	-0.6	-14.9	-9.4	18.4	25
Kiribati	2000	42	466	-4.0	-1.8	-34.5	-1.6	NA	NA
Marshall Islands	2000	98	1,890	-2.3	3.6	3.0	1.6	NA	NA
Nauru	1996	59	4,715	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Niue	1997	4.5	2,500						
Palau									
Papua New Guinea	2000	3,439	715	0.8	0.9	-3.3	4.6	29.9	35.7
Samoa	2000	237	1,400	7.0	2.9	10.1	7.1	17.9	24.0
Solomon Islands	2000	243	530	-14.0	-26.6	-30.7	-13.0	22.1	15.4
Tonga	2000	143	1,425	5.3	4.8	4.9	5.3	28.6	15.8
Tuvalu	1998	138	1,385	3.0	0.7	21.5	16.0	NA	NA
Vanuatu	1999	226	1,212	2.8	-2.4	6.6	3.9	21.9	10.7
TOTAL/AVERAGE									
Reference:	UNESCAP	ADB							

Source: 1. *SOPAC Sustainable Development Strategy, South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, Suva, Fiji. August 2002*
2. *Basic Statistics, Developing Member Countries. Asian Development Bank, Manila. April 2001*

Annex 5. SIDS Chapter of the Johannesburg Plan of Action

Small island developing States are a special case both for environment and development. Although they continue to take the lead in the path towards sustainable development in their countries, they are increasingly constrained by the interplay of adverse factors clearly underlined in Agenda 21, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the decisions adopted at the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Accelerate national and regional implementation of the Programme of Action, with adequate financial resources, including through GEF focal areas, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and assistance for capacity-building from the international community;

(b) Further implement sustainable fisheries management and improve financial returns from fisheries by supporting and strengthening relevant regional fisheries management organizations, as appropriate, such as the recently established Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism and such agreements as the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

(c) Assist small island developing States, including through the elaboration of specific initiatives, in delimiting and managing in a sustainable manner their coastal areas and exclusive economic zones and the continental shelf (including, where appropriate, the continental shelf areas beyond 200 miles from coastal baselines), as well

as relevant regional management initiatives within the context of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the UNEP regional seas programmes;

(d) Provide support, including for capacity-building, for the development and further implementation of:

(i) Small island developing States-specific components within programmes of work on marine and coastal biological diversity;

(ii) Freshwater programmes for small island developing States, including through the GEF focal areas;

(e) Effectively reduce, prevent and control waste and pollution and their health-related impacts by undertaking by 2004 initiatives aimed at implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in small island developing States;

(f) Work to ensure that, in the ongoing negotiations and elaboration of the WTO work programme on trade in small economies, due account is taken of small island developing States, which have severe structural handicaps in integrating into the global economy, within the context of the Doha development agenda;

(g) Develop community-based initiatives on sustainable tourism by 2004, and build the capacities necessary to diversify tourism products, while protecting culture and traditions, and effectively conserving and managing natural resources;

(h) Extend assistance to small island developing States in support of local communities and appropriate national and regional organizations of small

island developing States for comprehensive hazard and risk management, disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness, and help relieve the consequences of disasters, extreme weather events and other emergencies;

(i) Support the finalization and subsequent early operationalization, on agreed terms, of economic, social and environmental vulnerability indices and related indicators as tools for the achievement of the sustainable development of the small island developing States;

(j) Assist small island developing States in mobilizing adequate resources and partnerships for their adaptation needs relating to the adverse effects of climate change, sea level rise and climate variability, consistent with commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Changes, where applicable;

(k) Support efforts by small island developing States to build capacities and institutional arrangements to implement intellectual property regimes;

Support the availability of adequate, affordable and environmentally sound energy services for the sustainable development of small island developing States by, inter alia:

(a) Strengthening ongoing and supporting new efforts on energy supply and services, by 2004, including through the United Nations system and partnership initiatives;

(b) Developing and promoting efficient use of sources of energy, including indigenous sources and renewable energy, and building the capacities of small island developing States for training, technical know-how and strengthening national institutions in the area of energy management;

Provide support to SIDS to develop capacity and strengthen:

(a) Health-care services for promoting equitable access to health care;

(b) Health systems for making available necessary drugs and technology in a sustainable and affordable manner to fight and control communicable and non-communicable diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, diabetes, malaria and dengue fever;

(c) Efforts to reduce and manage waste and pollution and building capacity for maintaining and managing systems to deliver water and sanitation services, in both rural and urban areas;

(d) Efforts to implement initiatives aimed at poverty eradication, which have been outlined in section II of the present document.

Undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 2004, in accordance with the provisions set forth in General Assembly resolution S-22/2, and in this context requests the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session to consider convening an international meeting for the sustainable development of small island developing States.

Annex 6. Members of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific

South Pacific Regional Environment Programme. SPREP was established in 1982 by the governments and administrations of 22 Pacific island countries and four developed countries with direct interests in the region to promote cooperation and support protection and improvement of the Pacific environment and ensure its sustainable development. It is based in Samoa.

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. PIFS was established in 1971 by the independent and self-governing countries of the Pacific to enhance the economic and social well-being of the Pacific islands in support of the efforts of national governments. Its now has 16 members – Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu and is the permanent chair of the CROP.

Forum Fisheries Agency. FFA was established in 1979 by the independent states of the Pacific Islands Forum to enable its member countries to obtain maximum sustained benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of their fisheries resources. It is headquartered in Honiara.

South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission. SOPAC originated in 1972 as the Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas. Its member countries, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu have given SOPAC the mandate in relation to the nonliving environment to focus on the development of natural resources in a sustainable manner and

reducing vulnerability. It is headquartered in the Fiji Islands.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community. Established in 1947, the SPC has 5 metropolitan and 22 island country/territory members and is headquartered in Noumea, New Caledonia. Its current work program covers land, marine, and social development.

South Pacific Tourism Organisation. SPTO is an intergovernmental organization that also includes private sector members on its governing council. Its role is to work with national tourist offices, international airlines, and tour operators to increase visitor arrivals to the region, to market and promote tourism.

University of the South Pacific. USP was established in Suva, Fiji Islands in 1969 and has campuses and offices, tutorial studies, classrooms, libraries in 10 of the 11 countries of the region. The university has four schools, seven action- oriented institutions, including a new Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, and units for atoll research and extension services.

Pacific Islands Development Program. Established in 1980 with 21 member countries and based at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, PIDP serves as Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders. It compiles the daily Pacific Islands Report and provides other information services, promotes private sector development and positive cross-cultural business interactions, and conducts education and training programs.

Note: *The CROP has recently accepted two additional members, bringing the total to 10 organizations: Fiji Islands School of Medicine; and South Pacific Board of Education.*

Annex 7. Pacific Regional Submission to WSSD

(7 September 2001)

VISION

Achieving measurable sustainable development in the Pacific region towards improving the quality life for all.

MISSION

Reinvigoration of the implementation of Agenda 21 to achieve priority outcomes, including from the WSSD that reflect and respond to the people, oceans and island dimensions of sustainable development in the Pacific region.

OBJECTIVES

(a) To ensure the sustainable development priorities of the Pacific region are fully acknowledged and integrated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development process.

(b) To 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.

(c) To promote new and existing partnerships beneficial to sustainable development of the region.

(d) To secure and mobilise resources to build capacity for sustainable development.

GENERAL STATEMENT

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

Our Ocean has supported generations of Pacific communities – as a medium for transport and as a source of food, tradition and culture. Our present, and future, well-being is dependent upon it.

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.

Overcoming the well recognized vulnerability of island to the effects of global climate change, natural disasters, environmental damage and global economic shocks will be an essential element of sustainable development in our region.

INITIATIVES

Oceans

We are seeking:

1. A renewed international commitment to sustainable management of oceans;

2. More effective, prioritised and targeted cooperation and coordination among regional and international organisations with responsibilities for marine and oceans protection and management, and relevant national agencies.

3. Develop and implement regional and national oceans policies so as to enhance the sustainable management of the Pacific Ocean and its resources.

4. Promote total ecosystem marine resources management through capacity building and pollution control measures through further development of policy and program options to assist countries to sustainably manage their own marine and oceans jurisdictions.

5. Improved access to survey and monitoring technologies and the resulting products in order to ensure responsible and sustainable use of ocean resources and the completion of maritime boundaries delimitation.

6. The implementation of United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and related conventions in an integrated manner, and support for the development of related national policies and legislation.

Natural Resources

To advance sustainable natural resource development and management we are seeking:

1. To further develop and implement legislation and policies at domestic, regional and international levels that promote sustainable management of natural assets, including enforcement, data collection, and ongoing assessment, evaluation and economic valuation.

2. Recognition of ownership and protection of indigenous practices and knowledge.

3. Access to appropriate technology, data management systems and research and educational capabilities.

4. A global initiative on freshwater to improve the quantity and quality of freshwater supply to all communities through better water resource catchment, watershed management, and improved and affordable technologies for desalination.

5. To sign, ratify and comply with existing natural resource conventions, such as those relating to biodiversity and land degradation.

Climate Change and Variability and Sea Level Rise

1. Encourage all Parties to ratify the UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol so that it comes into force, preferably in 2002. Its implementation is a significant first step towards achieving real and measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Increase international and domestic action in addressing adaptation to climate change, climate variability, sea level rise and other climate change impacts.

3. Call for further commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the future.

4. Develop and promote adaptation strategies.

5. Mobilise resources for adaptation.

6. Consider all the implications of all adaptation needs, options and requirements.

Islands Vulnerability

In the pursuit of sustainable development for island communities we seek the following:

1. Promotion of mutually supportive social, cultural, trade, investment, economic and environmental policies and goals in Pacific countries and the broader global community

2. Effective measures to address the vulnerability of island communities and their ability to adapt to the consequences of climate change, sea level rise and human-induced and natural hazards.

3. Further research and development on the environmental vulnerability index and its implications by the tenth anniversary of the Barbados Programme of Action.

Energy

We seek to promote sustainable energy development through:

1. Promotion of the development and use of renewable energy sources by removing distortions in energy markets.

2. Mainstreaming and commercialising the use of alternative renewable energy, which are more sustainable sources of energy, to reduce their cost.

3. Encouraging energy efficiency.

The People

The people remain at the heart of sustainable development in the region. Recognising social equity for all, including gender, we seek the following initiatives that are essential for their well-being:

Health

1. Prevention, control and eradication of threats to health such as dengue,

malaria and non-communicable diseases in an environmentally safe way by 2020.

2. Effective reduction, prevention and control of waste and pollution and their significant health related impacts

Governance

To advance good governance in the pursuit of sustainable development we seek the following initiatives:

3. Promote good domestic governance through appropriate levels of transparency and accountability and strengthening policies that are proactive and responsive.

4. Improve partnerships at all levels especially with the private sector and civil society.

Capacity Building

To develop and implement a capacity building framework that is responsive to Pacific countries, an integrated and participatory approach, that nurtures the wellbeing of individual, families, communities and society and encourages and empowers people to take ownership of processes that affect them will be required. This framework would include the following critical elements:
- Raise public awareness
- Strengthening technical capacity
- Full participatory approach involving all stakeholders
- Strengthening of existing institutions where weaknesses have been identified
- Evaluate and mobilise human resources
- HRD Initiatives to alleviation of poverty and promote gender equity;
- Implement the Forum Basic Education Action Plan;

- Upgrade and extend infrastructural services such as transport and communication networks to facilitate sustainable development.

We seek the convening of a ten-year review conference on the Global Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States adopted in Barbados in 1994.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Financial resources are imperative for the sustainable development of the region and in that connection we fully support the International Conference on Financing for Development as a key stepping-stone to mobilise resources for sustainable development.

Annex 8. List of Contributors and Reviewers

This paper was circulated to the Pacific participants of the Meeting of Civil Society on Sustainable Development in Asia-Pacific, convened by UNEP, 12-13 November 2003. It was also provided to the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) for comment and use in the preparation of the Pacific regional position for the review of the Barbados Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The primary contributors and reviewers from south pacific in UNEP Asis-Pacific Civil society Meeting are listed below:

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