



# Mainstreaming conservation

Achieving conservation objectives through cooperation and partnerships

## Pacific Type II Partnership Initiative: Mainstreaming Nature Conservation and traditional knowledge

### What is this Type II Initiative all about?

This initiative aims to combine the sustainable development objectives of the Pacific Islands' region with the effective long-term protection of its natural and cultural heritage through the wise management of its natural resources and biodiversity.

### Partnerships

At the centre of this initiative are partnerships. These partnerships and the commitment from the various organisations and governments involved are what makes the Roundtable for Nature Conservation work.

### Mainstreaming Nature Conservation

This Partnership focuses on implementing the *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region, 2003-2007* which guides the conservation priorities of all partnership members and Pacific Island countries and territories. Developed in 2002, through a multi-stakeholder conference, it focuses on achieving conservation objectives within the framework of sustainable development. The Strategy outlines three thirty-year goals related to environment, economy, and society along with five year objectives and targets to reach these goals.

The Action Strategy is reviewed every five years by all stakeholders. The next conference to review the strategy will be hosted by the Government of PNG in 2007.

### What is the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation?

The Roundtable for Nature Conservation has emerged as the partnership mechanism for this Type II Partnership. The Roundtable is an evolving coalition of conservation organizations and donor agencies that promotes effective conservation action in the Pacific islands. It has been instrumental in highlighting and promoting the various conservation projects throughout the region.

### The Roundtable round-up

- The Roundtable involves donors, NGOs, regional organisations, and national level people who are working to implement the region's conservation priorities outlined in the Action Strategy.
- The Roundtable is the only forum in which major regional players come together to discuss and develop new ways to address the main issues of nature conservation facing the Pacific islands.
- It has been officially endorsed by all the Pacific Island governments and representatives from local and national Pacific Island groups.
- Participation is totally voluntary, members fund their own way and the Roundtable meetings are well represented by representatives from NGOs, intergovernmental agencies, and international organisations.
- Participants see it as a powerful tool for sharing expertise and learning from the experience of others.



The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is an intergovernmental organisation that works to protect and improve the Pacific islands' environment, and promote sustainable development and cooperation.

SPREP is based in Apia, Samoa.

## How often does the Roundtable meet?

This diverse group meets every year in a different location in the region to examine progress, gaps and issues in the *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region (2003-2007)*.

The next Roundtable meeting will be held in July 2005, in PNG.

## Achievements to date

- Creating the first "inventory" of conservation activities in the Pacific Islands region. This inventory is now available online at: [www.dev-zone.net/pirnc](http://www.dev-zone.net/pirnc)
- Creating working groups to address gaps in conservation activities and monitor progress
- Members volunteer for tasks to address key actions from the Action Strategy that are identified as critical gaps in conservation in the Pacific Islands region
- The 2004 Roundtable meeting marked the inclusion of NBSAP coordinators within the Roundtable and concerted effort to address development and implementation issues at the national level.
- New website: [www.sidsnetpacific.org/roundtable.htm](http://www.sidsnetpacific.org/roundtable.htm)

## Why is it successful?

The Roundtable includes participation of a wide range of different stakeholders, a single unifying overall strategy for which all members are working, an online inventory of conservation activities in the region, and efforts to measure progress on both the targets of the overall strategy and also the outcomes of this work.

## What are some Roundtable activities in 2005?

- The World Council of Churches hosted the last Roundtable meeting and made a commitment to help implement the Action Strategy, to include environmental education in their curricula and to ensure that conservation and climate change remain a focus of the church agenda.
- Funding has been secured for a monitoring and evaluation consultant to develop outcome indicators for the Action Strategy and to measure the Strategy's targets and objectives. This will help determine the key gaps in activity as well as the level of progress.
- The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP) Working Group of the Roundtable will meet in July 2005, in PNG to review progress and look at opportunities and constraints for national development and implementation of biodiversity activities.



### Initiative Partners:

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Macarthur Foundation, Packard Foundation, Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wide Fund for Nature, University of the South Pacific, NZAID, AusAID, US Fish and Wildlife, US Geological Survey, Bishop Museum, US Forestry Service, US Department of State, World Council of Churches, Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific, Australian National University, Invasive Species Specialist Group, Birdlife International, Department of Conservation - NZ, Live and Learn Environmental Education, National Trust of Fiji, Partners in Community Development, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, World Heritage Center, Wetlands International, Global Green Grants, Marine Aquarium Council, Pacific Science Association, Pacific Islands Association of NGOs, US AID, Traffic - Oceania, The Coral Alliance, National Biodiversity Coordinators for Pacific Island Countries and others.

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