



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Twentieth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa

17 – 20 November 2009

**Agenda Item 9.1.4: 2010 International Year of Biodiversity****Purpose of paper**

1. To seek the Meeting's endorsement to celebrate the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity as a thematic year for the Pacific region.

Background

2. In April 2002, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) committed themselves to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth. As a result, the year 2010 has been designated as the International Year of Biodiversity by the United Nations.

3. The 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will be held in the City of Nagoya, Aichi prefecture, Japan, in this milestone year. COP10 is expected to provide opportunities for evaluating the progress towards achieving a reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity and discussing the framework for the next milestone targets.

4. At the CBD CoP 9 in Bonn Germany, the Pacific came together to develop a plan to mark the year, 2010. The discussion centered largely on preparing for and celebrating achievements at CoP 10.

5. In addition to this, a small group of SPREP staff compiled a preliminary paper to stimulate discussion and obtain input from regional and national stakeholders in jointly developing a Pacific Strategy to mark 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). The draft paper was circulated by email to the Round Table for Nature Conservation (RTNC) Heads of Organisations¹ and the CBD List Serve² with very little feedback. The strategy was discussed and developed at the RTNC meeting held in June 2009, The outcome of that strategy development will be presented verbally at 20SM and a strategy paper distributed to Members..

¹ Consists of large international NGOs, some CROP agencies and donors

² Consists of CBD negotiators, national biodiversity personnel and some CROP agencies

Discussions

6. To celebrate IYB effectively can be best achieved by working together. Regional actions are determined by national priorities. Accordingly our role at the regional level is to support country efforts in conservation. Therefore, to mark this special occasion will require the support, financial and technical resources and commitment of all; otherwise it will not succeed.

Recommendation

7. The Meeting is invited to:
- **consider** and agree to celebrating IYB as a region; and
 - **commit** Members to supporting and participating in the 2010 the international year of biodiversity and making it a success in the region.
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25 May 2009