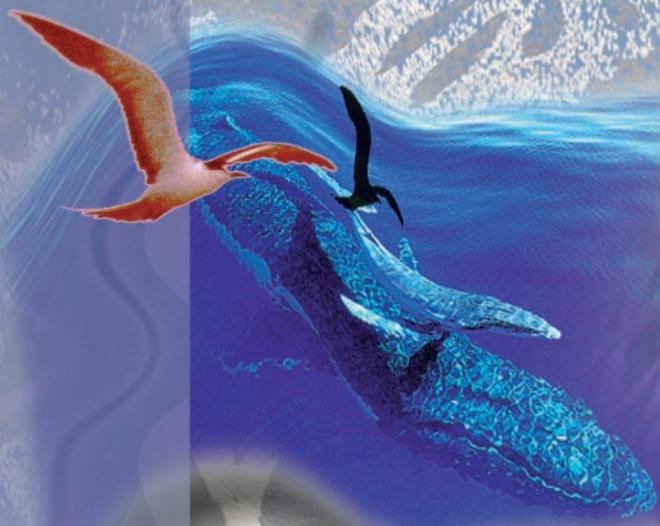


ACTION STRATEGY

for Nature Conservation
in the Pacific islands region



1999-2002



**ACTION STRATEGY
FOR NATURE CONSERVATION
IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION
1999-2002**



FOREWORD

The future prosperity of the Pacific islands depends on the wise stewardship of our natural resources, which form the foundation of our cultures and economies. For centuries, the peoples of the Pacific have relied on the rich bounty of their islands and the sea to meet all their needs.

In this vast region, we have globally important fisheries, coral reefs and rain forests, and more rare, endangered, threatened and endemic plant and animal species per unit land area than anywhere else on earth. Both the forest and marine environments in the Pacific play a significant role in stabilizing global climates and acting as carbon sinks. All of these valuable resources are managed by 22 island nations and territories, many among the smallest and least developed in the world.

Today, these essential resources are threatened by tremendous pressures for rapid economic development, forfeiting the future for short-term gains. Unsustainable logging, fishing, mining and other resource exploitation is widespread in the region and new threats are on our borders. Often this rapid resource exploitation yields minor benefits for local communities and governments. Instead, Pacific island governments struggle against daunting institutional and financial constraints. How can the legitimate development needs of our people be met within the limits imposed by the fragile ecosystems and finite natural resources of our islands?

We have learned that the future must build on the past. The Pacific way to deal with conflicting needs is through consensus and cooperation. Four years ago, the 1994–1998 Action Strategy heralded a major new approach to conservation in the Pacific —community-based conservation. After decades of very limited success with other approaches, this “people first” approach went back to the roots of Pacific island traditions and enlisted local leaders and communities in the management and protection of their precious forest and reef resources. It worked. In four years, new community-based conservation areas have been established in almost every Pacific island country, bringing wise stewardship to rainforests, reefs, mangroves and other valuable island ecosystems.

However, communities cannot protect the resources of the Pacific alone. Decisions are made by governments and businesses every day that help or hinder their efforts. Hence, this Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands calls for yet another breakthrough – the active integration of sound resource management practices into economic development decision-making. Some call it “mainstreaming”, because it requires that we reach out and work with leaders and organizations who do not see biodiversity or conservation as their major concern, including businesses, finance and planning agencies, and policy decision-makers. These new partners for conservation are the key to a truly sustainable future and their support and skills are needed.

The past four years have shown what can be accomplished when people work together in new ways for conservation. The Sixth Conference on Nature Conservation in Pohnpei identified effective “Tools for Conservation” developed through the shared experiences of communities, NGOs, governments and international organizations. The Pohnpei conference also called upon the international conservation community to “share the responsibility for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the regional and international actions of the 1999–2002 Action Strategy.” In February 1998, these groups came together for the first time during the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation in Apia. Their collective resolve is to help Pacific island countries increase effective conservation action in the region.

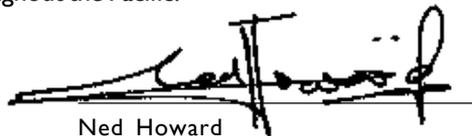
The development of this 1999–2002 Action Strategy reflects the growing regional commitment to participatory planning and action. It is based on input from local communities and international organisations, government agencies and NGOs, public officials and traditional leaders. It builds on the lessons learned from past strategies and planning documents and successful projects throughout the region. As a result, this Action Strategy represents a

broad consensus on the most urgent actions needed to slow the loss of biodiversity in the region and lay the foundation for a sustainable future.

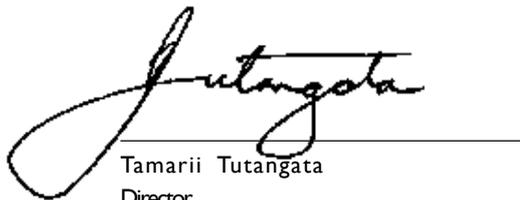
Building on this approach, people in the region should refer to the Strategy when developing priorities for annual work programmes and reviewing annual progress. Pacific island countries are encouraged to draw on this strategy when developing their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) required under the Convention for Biological Diversity or updating their National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS). At a local level, the Strategy can be used as a guide when developing site-specific plans.

All who contributed to this Strategy gratefully acknowledge the hard work of Audrey Newman of TNC and Sam Sesega of SPREP. With the help of many others, these two accepted the task of coordinating the wide array of inputs and comments from many different contributors and attending to all the details necessary to produce this Strategy for our use. The thoughtful discussion and significant contributions of the many reviewers are also gratefully acknowledged.

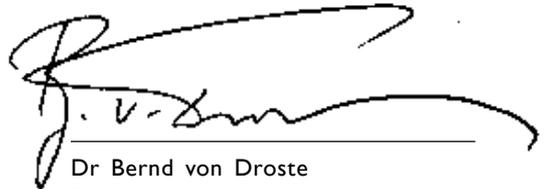
Many of our organisations at the local, national and regional levels have had long histories of working for the conservation and sustainable use of special places throughout the Pacific. This has enriched us with the experience, understanding and knowledge of our special circumstances that must now be used to implement this Action Strategy. We are committed to this task and we look forward to working closely with old partners and new friends in achieving its objectives. We also call on others to join us. Together, we can build on the successes of the last four years and meet the challenges facing island ecosystems and economies throughout the Pacific.



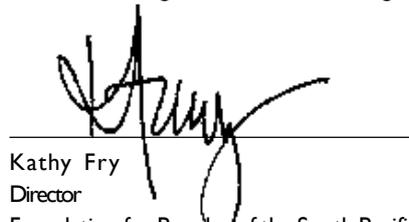
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On behalf of all SPREP member countries



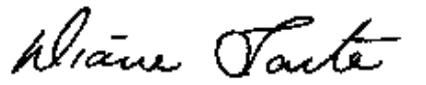
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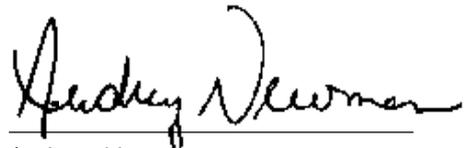
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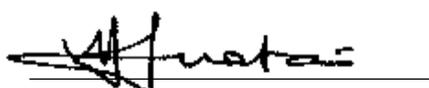
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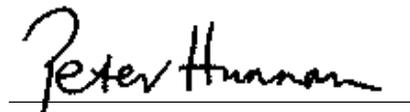
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The Pacific Islands Region

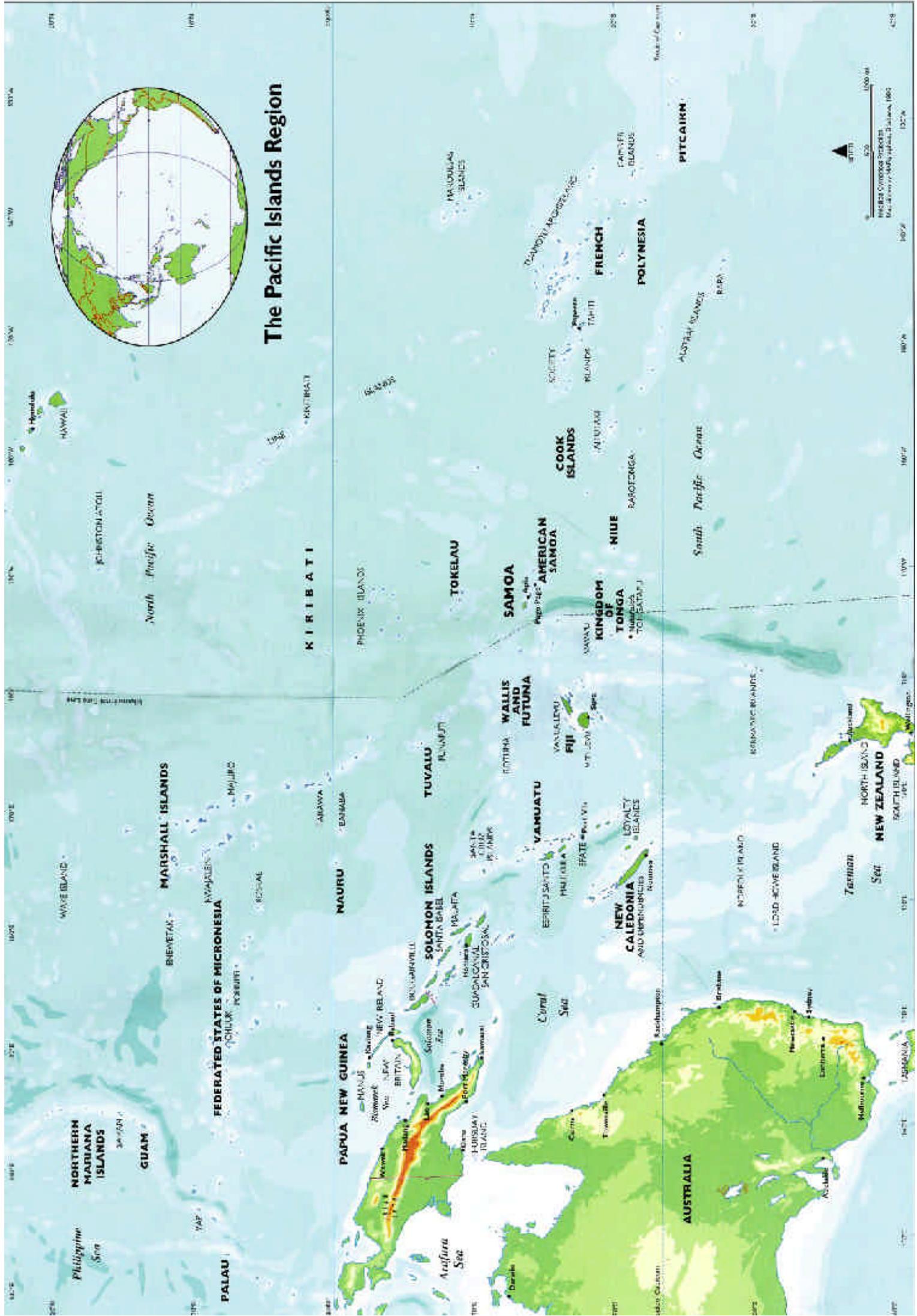
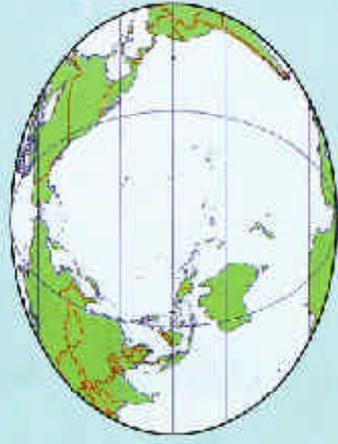
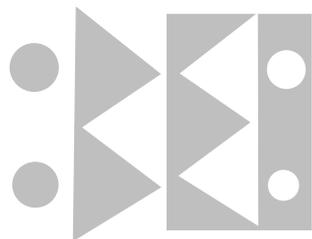




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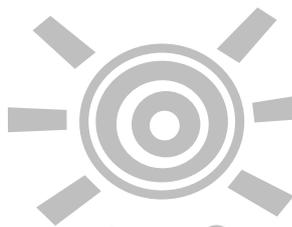


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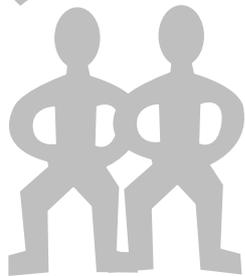


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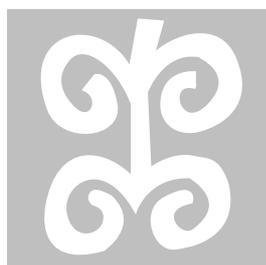
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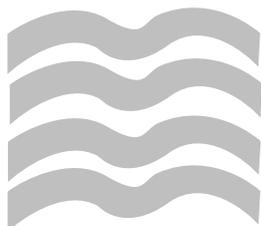


Figure 1 1999–2002 Action Strategy Formulation Process 50

ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
BCN	Biodiversity Conservation Network
BSAP	Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
CBCA	Community-based Conservation Area
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
FORSEC	Forum Secretariat
FSP-I	Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific - International
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
NEMS	National Environmental Management Strategy
NZODA	New Zealand Official Development Assistance
SPBCP	South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme
SPC	Secretariat Pacific Community
SP-PARC	South Pacific Protected Areas Resource Centre
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organisation
UNESCO-WHC	UNESCO - World Heritage Centre
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USP	University of the South Pacific
WB	World Bank
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WI	Wetlands International
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature



I INTRODUCTION

The *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands* summarises the most urgent actions needed for conservation of the rich biological heritage of the Pacific islands over the next four years. As the only regional planning document that focuses on nature conservation, it summarises the views of key stakeholders, including representatives of community, national, regional, and international groups.

In Pacific tradition, the *Action Strategy* represents the Pacific islands' consensus on the immediate steps that we believe must be taken to meet the unique conservation and development challenges facing Pacific island countries. It is intended to be used widely by national and international agencies to plan and evaluate nature conservation and economic development activities throughout the region.

Big Issues, Small Islands

The island countries and territories of the Pacific occupy a vast region, controlling more than 38 million square kilometres of the Pacific Ocean in their national waters and Exclusive Economic Zones, an area more than three times larger than the United States of America or China (see Map). Of this, less than 2% is land, scattered over thousands of large and small islands. Within this vast area are 22 island nations and territories and an incredibly diverse array of traditional cultures, all dependent upon their natural resources for survival.

In their eloquent report to UNCED in 1992, the Pacific island developing countries recognised the fundamental connection between their environment and their future:

We can see the environmental consequences of poor development. We also know that the persistent neglect of environmental issues can over the long-term limit the opportunities for economic development in many Pacific island countries.... [E]nvironmental management and economic development are inextricably linked....[yet] not enough has been done to bring environment and development concerns together with economic planning and decision-making.

As a region, we are custodians of a large portion of the earth's surface....With an estimated population of only 5.8 million, our capacity to protect our fragile environments against damage from both internal actions and external influences is constrained. However, we accept the responsibility placed on our numerically small community, as it is essential for the sustainable development of our region and the world as a whole.

We recognise that the achievement of our goal will require close cooperation with other regions of the world and the continued assistance of the international community. We are ready to play our part.

Pacific Resources at Risk

The Pacific islands region has more rare, endangered and threatened species per capita than anywhere else on earth. Its marine environment comprises an enormous and largely unexplored resource, including the most extensive and diverse reefs in the

world, the largest tuna fishery, the deepest oceanic trenches and the healthiest remaining populations of many globally threatened species including whales, sea turtles, dugongs and saltwater crocodiles. Its high islands support large blocks of intact rainforests, including many unique species and communities of plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. For some islands, 80% or more of the species are endemic, and Dahl (1985) estimates that 50% of the region's total biodiversity is at risk.

Unfortunately, threats to the region's rich biodiversity continue to increase. Rapid population growth (2.2% for the region; as high as 3.6% in some countries); habitat destruction from logging, mining, agriculture, uncontrolled disposal of wastes and coastal/near-shore degradation; over-harvesting of fish and wildlife resources; and invasive species have combined to put tremendous pressure on natural environments and native species. Very new threats to the region's biodiversity are the destructive live reef fish trade from Asia and illegal bio-prospecting.

Large-scale industrial fishing and logging in the region deplete valuable resources while providing minimum benefits to local communities. For example, 50–60% of the US\$1.7 billion commercial tuna industry is caught in the EEZs of Pacific island countries, but these countries realize only 4% of the dollar value of the total catch (World Bank, 1995). Rates of deforestation by timber operations in some countries have increased so drastically that their timber resources could be wiped out in less than 10 years. Yet, less than 10% of the value is estimated to stay within the national economy

Perhaps of greatest concern, coastal fishery yields are projected to decrease over the next 10–15 years if destructive fishing practices, pollution and coastal degradation continue without control. In some countries, more than 80% of the coastal households fish for their food, and the region's population is projected to increase by 48% by the year 2010. This population growth will increase demand for fish for local consumption by 49% at the same time that yields from coastal fisheries are likely to decline. The result will be higher reliance on costly imports, deteriorating food security and diet quality (Cook *Is. et al.* 1998).

Pacific Solutions

The trends in resource over-exploitation are driven by a complex combination of many factors, including overpopulation, high development expectations, dependence on foreign exchange and export revenues, and a system of political and economic values that see the environment as external to social and development concerns.

But recent years have seen these perceptions being challenged. Participatory and transparent decision-making processes in policy and development planning are now more commonplace. Environmental impact assessments are increasingly used to evaluate development projects. Strict resource use legislation, including moratoria on harvesting key species, have been introduced in many countries.

In nature conservation, enormous strides have been made:

- * The community-based conservation area approach proposed in the previous Action Strategy has produced impressive results. At least 34 new conservation areas in 13 Pacific island countries have been established by local communities with the help of regional and national organisations over the past four years (see Annex 2). Together, these areas represent more than 1.3 million hectares of rainforests, mangroves, reefs, coastal waters and other island ecosystems.
- * Extremely effective regional media campaigns have raised awareness about endangered turtles and the value of healthy coral reefs to all Pacific islanders.

- * National campaigns promoting pride in unique island birds and their forest habitats reached everyone — from children to national leaders— in Samoa, Palau and Pohnpei.
- * And scattered across the Pacific are examples of excellence in legislation, policy, enforcement, monitoring, NGO leadership, innovative conservation funding and more, upon which others can build.

For the first time, the Pacific island region has a growing set of proven tools for advancing conservation.

Not surprisingly, nearly all the successful conservation projects in recent years have been built upon strong partnerships between communities, NGOs, government agencies, funding organisations and regional organisations. These partnerships have facilitated the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and information; the sharing of responsibilities; and the pooling of resources. They have also shown what is possible when people with diverse skills and perspectives work together toward a common goal. This is another essential tool for successful conservation.

Today, Pacific island leaders recognise that implementing sustainable development is a task of immense proportion, but commitment is growing at all levels. Over the past four years, at least five countries have established a moratorium or strict controls on harvesting or export of vulnerable species. Twelve countries are collaborating with the GEF/UNDP/SPREP South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP) in community-based conservation areas. USAID's Biodiversity Conservation Network (BCN) and others have supported small-scale community enterprises that depend upon a healthy environment. In Papua New Guinea, World Wide Fund for Nature-US has partnered with Chevron to trial sustainable development at an industrial scale in the Kikori Basin, and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has joined with a private timber company to secure a commercial timber concession to test large-scale sustainable forestry. Four years from now, the lessons from these early efforts will form new and better tools for future conservation.

There is tremendous urgency to slow the rapid rate of resource extraction and environmental damage occurring everywhere in the region. But there is still time to invest in environmental protection and sustainable development. With a few notable exceptions, the environment of the Pacific is still more intact than many other parts of the world. The strong traditional culture and close-knit societies of most island groups make change very possible, once there is consensus on the path to follow. In the past four years, this has been demonstrated in a few important sites across the region. The challenge of the next four years is to apply these successful approaches to conservation and development decisions on ever-larger scales.

II MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of this Action Strategy

To protect the rich natural heritage of the Pacific islands forever through the conservation and sustainable management of their natural resources and biodiversity for the benefit of the peoples of the Pacific islands and the world.

Major Objectives for 1999–2002



1 Biodiversity Protection

To address the most urgent threats to the region's biodiversity and conserve the region's plants, animals and ecosystems for present and future generations.



2 Policy, Planning and Legal Frameworks

To integrate nature conservation and natural resources management into development policies, plans, legislation and budget processes at all levels.



3 Local Communities and Customs

To involve and support communities, resource owners and resource users in cooperative and sustainable natural resource management that recognises and strengthens the rights and customs of local people as a basis for promoting environmentally sustainable and equitable development.



4 Capacity-building

To strengthen local expertise and technical ability in planning and implementing sustainable natural resource management programmes for marine and terrestrial environments through capacity-building programmes that utilise local expertise whenever possible.



5 Environmental Education, Awareness, & Information Sharing

To strengthen environmental education, raise awareness and improve information sharing in support of conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.



6 Financial Sustainability

Develop local national and regional sources of funding to achieve the sustainable conservation and management of natural resources while securing long term support from multilateral and bilateral donors; and develop and advocate appropriate new funding mechanisms.



III AN ACTION STRATEGY FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

The Action Strategy

The *Action Strategy* for 1999–2002 provides “one voice” for nature conservation priorities in the Pacific islands. It aims to describe an ambitious but achievable work programme based on a widely consultative process, including input from local practitioners, country delegates, NGO representatives, regional organisations, donors and others.

The Process

The overall direction for the updated Strategy came from discussions at the *Sixth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas* conducted on the island of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia, 29 September–3 October, 1997 and the first *Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation* in Apia, Samoa on 24–26 February 1998. In addition, it draws extensively from the previous *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific Region, 1994–1998* and many other relevant and current planning documents, including the 13 completed National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS), 1997–2000 SPREP Action Plan; GEF International Waters Strategic Action Programme, and “From Tonga to FSM” Pohnpei conference paper. It was reviewed in draft form by more than 100 individuals, representing a broad cross-section of stakeholders in the region. Their input significantly strengthened and clarified the final draft, which was considered and endorsed by the Tenth SPREP Meeting in Apia, Samoa, September 1998. Figure 1 (page 40) summarises the process followed in developing the Action Strategy.

Who Will Use the Strategy?

The Strategy is intended to be implemented by the many organizations and individuals working for conservation and development throughout the region. Key players include the environmental, planning and development agencies in each country and territory; individual and community resource owners; regional and international organisations; private donors; bilateral and multilateral agencies; local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) including churches, women’s and youth groups; and formal or informal community leaders and groups. SPREP plays a dual role as facilitator of the processes for updating the Strategy and reporting on its progress, as well as implementing some of the key actions.

New Issues for the 1999–2002 Action Strategy

The Pohnpei conference called for the Strategy to maintain its strong emphasis on community-based conservation; conservation of marine systems; long-term funding mechanisms to support implementation; prevention of biodiversity loss; and monitoring and research as an integral part of all objectives and activities. In addition, it recognised four issues needing greater attention:

- * protecting intellectual property rights and ownership and access to genetic resources;
- * preventing and controlling invasive species (marine, freshwater and terrestrial) and genetically modified organisms;
- * capacity-building with measurable impacts; and
- * ratification of conventions that may facilitate or support conservation in the region.

These are all addressed in new or updated key actions in the 1999–2002 Action Strategy.

The Pohnpei conference also charged the drafters to thoroughly update the Action Strategy, especially the key actions to be accomplished in the next 4–5 years, and to correct two weaknesses identified in 1994 but not yet addressed:

- * identify how (or by whom) the actions will be implemented; and,
- * develop a way to regularly measure progress toward these objectives.

The Conference also re-titled the new *Action Strategy* to drop the word “South” to recognise that the islands of the North Pacific are active participants in all these conservation activities.

Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation

Since responsibility for the Action Strategy’s regional and international actions can and should be shared by the region’s conservation organisations, the Pohnpei conference also called upon SPREP to convene a meeting of all regional and international organisations with active programmes for nature conservation in the Pacific region to:

- * help update the regional and international key actions in the Strategy;
- * voluntarily lead or collaborate in implementing and monitoring key actions relevant to their priorities and work programmes; and
- * agree on mechanisms for measuring progress, identifying difficulties, and addressing actions needing special attention at least once a year.

The first *Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation*, held in Apia Samoa on the 24–26 February 1998, was attended by representatives from 15 major regional and international organisations. Working together, the Roundtable members updated the six objectives and the *Regional and International Key Actions* to describe how these organisations could assist Pacific island countries in achieving their desired twin goals of conservation and development. The group’s input significantly strengthened and clarified the Strategy, including calling for greater action in two major areas:

- 1 “mainstreaming” nature conservation into development policies, plans, legislation and budget processes at all levels; and
- 2 recognising that financial sustainability will require countries to look for ways to supplement international assistance with new national and local sources of support from both the private and public sectors.

Each of these is discussed in more detail later in this Strategy (see Objectives 2 and 6).

Recognising the need for the greater linkage between conservation and development efforts in the Pacific, this Strategy frequently calls for ‘sustainable’ development, natural resources management or resource use. In all cases, the intent is for these actions to be *ecologically* sustainable and economically equitable to the communities and countries where the resources exist.

The Roundtable also listed work currently underway or being planned by their organisations that would advance the regional and international key actions; these “implementing organisations” are listed in brackets after each action. The lists are incomplete, since they only reflect the work of the organisations attending the first Roundtable meeting and additional input from some reviewers. Nevertheless, some 290 activities were listed, representing significant effort for most of the 45 regional and international key actions. Of these, six key actions had little or no significant work planned, including actions to engage the business sector as an agent for conservation through incentives, investment policy, and conservation partnerships.

The Roundtable pledged to reconvene in September 1998 to focus on these and other critical gaps and to identify groups willing to work on them. At the same meeting, they plan to develop practical indicators to regularly measure progress towards the Strategy's objectives .

At the close of the first Roundtable meeting, the Director of SPREP noted that this was the first time in the history of the region that such a group of international partners had come together with a clear commitment to cooperate for conservation. The tremendous potential of this group will be focused on in advancing the priorities laid out in this Action Strategy.

IV HOW TO USE THIS ACTION STRATEGY

As a planning document, the *Action Strategy* seeks to be simple and brief to maintain focus on the most critically needed actions rather than being a shopping list of possible activities. Each objective has:

- * a brief description of the current situation;
- * key local and national actions to help guide national and site-specific planning; and
- * key regional and international actions to help guide priority-setting for assisting organisations.

The six objectives are mutually dependent and all are needed for long-term success. While biodiversity protection remains the overarching and paramount goal, the other five objectives are crucial to the overall strategy. Hence, setting priorities among the objectives depends on the current situation and trends in each country or site, and these priorities will change with time and progress. Organisational priorities will be determined, in large part, by each group's unique skills and mission. However, the Strategy provides a context for each group's work while encouraging them to seek partners capable of filling strategic gaps.

Corporate planners say that the "shelf-life" of a plan is 3–4 months. By this they mean that managers need to review their plans and progress at least every 3–4 months. If not, the plan will usually be forgotten, while the manager reacts to numerous daily demands. Typically, a long-term plan or strategy is kept "alive" by developing an annual work programme from it. Then the annual work programme is detailed further in specific tasks to be accomplished and reported on 2–4 times each year.

Building on this approach, people in the region should refer to the Strategy when developing priorities for annual work programmes and reviewing annual progress. Pacific island countries are encouraged to draw on this strategy when developing their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) required under the Convention for Biological Diversity or updating their NEMS. At a local level, the Strategy can be used as a guide when developing site-specific plans.

For regional and international groups, the Action Strategy is regularly consulted and cited in the development of major regional initiatives, such as the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme, the GEF International Waters Strategic Action Programme and others. In addition, the Strategy is considered an integral part of SPREP's Action Plan and work programme, and many of SPREP's outputs for biodiversity and natural resources conservation are included and further clarified here.

Most importantly the Strategy will be the working document for the Pacific Island Roundtable, whose members are implementing major portions of the Strategy through voluntary action. The Roundtable will be a forum to focus action and track progress against the Strategy's ambitious targets. It will also bring attention to areas and issues that are not being addressed and will strive to find capable organisations willing to volunteer to fill these critical gaps.

Ultimately, this Action Strategy exists to be used by the people and organisations committed to achieving the conservation and sustainable use of the rich natural resources found on Pacific islands and in their extensive seas. Your feedback will help inform the revision of this Strategy during the Seventh Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific islands to be held in the Solomon Islands in 2001. Please fill out the enclosed feedback form or send your comments to the address at the side.

Action Strategy for
Nature Conservation
1999–2002

South Pacific Regional
Environment Programme
PO Box 240
Apia, Samoa

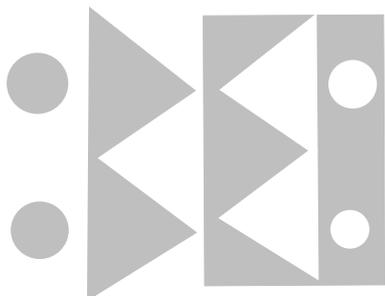


V ACTION STRATEGY OBJECTIVES & KEY ACTIONS

Biodiversity Protection

Objective

1



To address the most urgent threats to the region's biodiversity and conserve the region's plants, animals and ecosystems for present and future generations.

Current Situation

Despite our best efforts and some exciting new initiatives in the four years since the 1993 *Fifth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas* held in Nukualofa, Tonga, Pacific islands biological diversity is still amongst the most critically threatened in the world today. Habitat loss through deforestation, pollution, physical alteration and sedimentation, and species losses from overexploitation, losses through competition with or predation by introduced alien species, and the use of destructive harvesting methods, are at the heart of the continued decline in the region's biodiversity. New threats to the region include the expansion eastwards from South East Asia of the live reef food and aquarium fish trades which use cyanide and other destructive fishing methods to over-harvest target species, destroying delicate coral reef ecosystems at the same time.

In the face of these problems, the achievements of the last four years have been outstanding. There is a growing understanding amongst conservation practitioners of the tools and approaches that work and the conditions under which they work best. Much of this understanding has been acquired in the course of implementing site and community-based conservation projects in a number of countries including the work spearheaded by the SPREP/GEF/UNDP South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme and the USAID Biodiversity Conservation Network.

Other highly successful initiatives include SPREP's region-wide sea turtle conservation campaign and RARE's Center for Tropical Conservation's bird conservation programme involving several Pacific island nations. SPREP's regional turtle campaign illustrated the power of concerted and well coordinated regional action for addressing regionwide problems. RARE's programme demonstrated how national pride can be tapped to rally effective public and political support for the protection of endangered bird species.

The 1989, 1993 and 1997 Nature Conservation conferences recognised several key elements for future success:

- * the involvement and active support of local communities,
- * the need to integrate conservation and development through the sustainable use of resources,
- * the call to increase capacity and skills in sound resource management at all levels in both government and private sectors,
- * the essential role of partnerships with communities, the private sector, develop-

- * the requirement for effective monitoring systems; and
- * the need to share information and experiences widely to encourage better decision-making about the use of the region's resources.

In the four years leading up to the next conference, the challenges will be to find ways to maintain the momentum of the past four years and to address two of the major threats to biodiversity in the region. The greatest threat throughout the region is the rapid and often destructive over-harvesting of resources for short-term profits that benefit foreign companies more than local and national economies. The conservation community must work with government to change the policies and development plans that allow this abuse. They must also work with responsible businesses and government to develop sustainable, equitable and profitable ways to use the valuable natural resources of the region. A less visible threat to almost all islands is the invasion of natural systems by alien species. The extinction by the browntree snake (*Bolga irregularis*) of 9 of Guam's 13 native land birds species is a tragic example of what can happen. Early action to prevent invasions is the most cost-effective strategy although control may be the only option if the invasion has already occurred, and the Pacific island states need to move quickly to secure their borders.

Local & National Key Actions

1.1

Identify immediate, major threats to the endangered, threatened or vulnerable ecosystems and species in the country using all available approaches including:

- * monitoring harvest (at community and national levels) and export rates;
- * biological surveys of key species and ecosystems; and
- * periodic assessments of major changes and trends in the natural resource base—such as aerial photography, water assessments and marine stock assessments.

1.2

Identify terrestrial, freshwater and marine organisms and ecosystems that are rare, endangered, threatened or of special cultural, economic or ecological importance, and ensure that government agencies provide for their protection by ensuring that government policies do not lead to adverse impacts on biodiversity when designing and siting major development and infrastructure projects, especially roads and power plants.

1.3

Support and strengthen existing community-based conservation areas and other forms of conservation areas. Establish at least one additional model conservation area under community management to demonstrate biodiversity protection, sustainable use of natural resources and community economic development, preferably including adjoining terrestrial and marine resources. Jointly begin management and periodic monitoring.

1.4

Develop a prioritised list of threats to biodiversity including invasive plant and animal pests, and work with regional and international agencies to develop and implement effective programmes to deal with these threats. The list should include introduced or biologically-modified marine, freshwater and terrestrial organisms and micro-organisms.

1.5

Identify key ecological indicators including species (e.g. birds) and habitats (e.g. incidence of forest clearing/conversion and coral reef damage) to monitor trends and conditions of marine and terrestrial biota in at least one conservation area or area of high ecological value, and regularly assess the status of these indicators. Compare with suitable control sites outside the conservation area to assess the area's effectiveness.

1.6

Integrate population and conservation programmes to promote:

- * better understanding of population trends and resource needs;
- * land use planning at the local level for projected population growth; and
- * eventual reduced population growth and sustainable resource use.

Regional & International Key Actions¹

1.7

ment planners and policy makers;

Develop and implement sustainable approaches to activities that utilise major resources, including forestry, fisheries, agriculture, infrastructure development, mining and petroleum extraction, waste management, and tourism, taking into account lessons learned from 'best and worst practices' of sustainable resource utilisation. (BCN, EU, FSP-I, GBRMPA, IUCN, NZODA,

1.8

Building on the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme and other similar regional conservation programmes, work closely with countries to develop a series of community-based conservation areas that demonstrate conservation of biodiversity, ecologically sustainable use of natural resources, and community economic development. Include projects that address key threats to the region's biodiversity and offer sustainable alternatives, and incorporate the use of evaluation techniques such as social impact analysis and cost/benefit analyses. (AusAID, GEF, NZODA, IUCN, SPREP-SPBCP, TNC, UNESCO-WHC, USP, WI, WWF).

1.9

Work through international, regional and national agencies to implement effective biosecurity programmes to prevent the introduction of alien invasive species or assist with their control or eradication and to ad-

dress the transfer of genetically modified organisms. (EU, IUCN, NZODA, SPREP, TNC).

1.10

Provide technical assistance in planning and implementing surveys to assist with national planning and identification of priority areas for biodiversity conservation, natural resource inventories and baseline monitoring needs. (NZODA, SPREP-SPBCP, TNC, UNESCO-WHC, USP, WI, WWF).

1.11

Develop standard, repeatable formal/informal survey methods for monitoring terrestrial and marine resources of high ecological value; use or adapt existing criteria, indicators and standards wherever possible. Prepare a manual and conduct in-country training courses for local communities and resource managers. (BCN, IUCN, SPREP-SPBCP, TNC, UNESCO, USP).

1.12

Continue implementation of existing regional strategies for avifauna, marine mammals and turtles; review and evaluate progress and update strategies as necessary. Develop a regional strategy and national management plans for ecosystems including coral reefs, wetlands, and other threatened species and ecosystems. (NZODA, SPREP, WI, WWF).

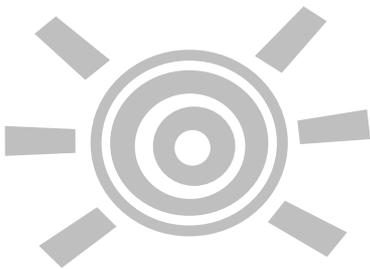
¹ The implementing organisations listed in brackets are only indicative; many others may become involved during the life of the Strategy.



Policy, Planning & Legal Frameworks

Objective 2

To integrate nature conservation and natural resources management into development policies, plans, legislation and budget processes at all levels.



Current Situation

Between 1993 and 1997, twelve Pacific island countries and territories throughout the region convened national teams and conducted a broad-based participatory planning process to develop their National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS) or an equivalent national conservation strategy document. This process was widely endorsed, and for many countries, the NEMS provided the foundation for coordinating conservation and development activities and planning to achieve sustainable development. Unfortunately, the NEMS process focused primarily on environmental priorities and failed to fully engage the finance and planning agencies, two key players. As a result, most of the NEMS teams became inactive due to limited funds or changing priorities. Recently, some countries have reconvened their NEMS teams and found they were able to quickly assist with new tasks.

The purpose of the NEMS remains relevant, but its scope needs to be broadened. One of the major continuing challenges facing Pacific Island countries is to incorporate conservation and natural resource management strategies into national development policies, planning, and public expenditure review. The broader national development framework and incentives affecting resource utilisation remain weak, and have in some cases constrained the progress in conservation achieved at the site level. There is an urgent need for policy makers to recognise that sustainable natural resources management is not a constraint, but a necessity and opportunity for the future development of Pacific island countries and territories.

Over the next four years, most countries and territories will need to update their national strategies to meet obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity or for their own purposes. These updates provide an invaluable opportunity to build upon the excellent foundation provided by the NEMS. However, this time it will be essential to recruit strong representatives from the national planning, finance and foreign investment agencies and to ask them to assist in developing profitable and sustainable development strategies for the future.

To be successful, reforms will be needed at several levels:

- * countries and territories need to review existing constraints to effective resource management, and develop enabling policies, market based incentives and legislation to support sustainable and equitable development;
- * Proper valuation of resources and incorporation into national accounts should be carried out in order to optimise policy and resource allocation decisions;

- * conservation strategies need to be seen not as isolated documents, but as effective planning tools involving all stakeholders, including businesses and key policy and decision makers;
- * community-based management structures need to be strengthened with national recognition and support; and
- * where communities are unable to control external threats, effective enforcement mechanisms need to be put in place.

Ratification and effective implementation of international conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the World Heritage Convention, CITES and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance should also be promoted as useful tools for advancing national conservation priorities. At the same time, international and regional action plans such as the Barbados Programme of Action and the GEF International Waters Strategic Action Programme should be considered with appropriate elements incorporated into national plans.

Local & National Key Actions

2.1

Develop or update the national conservation strategy, including full integration with development and structural adjustment plans and processes, and set up interagency task teams to develop, promote, coordinate, monitor and reassess priorities for these national plans and their implementation.

2.2

Review and modify, where appropriate, existing resource management laws, regulations and policies to:

- * adequately recognise customary and community-based authority;
- * define and enforce sustainable harvest rates;
- * set standards for minimising direct and indirect impacts;
- * provide support for on-site monitoring, on-site resource management and off-site conservation areas and feedback on enforcement of results of monitoring;
- * provide and regulate access to genetic resources while protecting the biological and cultural property rights of Pacific island communities;
- * eliminate negative incentives that hinder biological diversity conservation;
- * strengthen quarantine and biosecurity laws and services to control the importation or traffic in invasive species and disease organisms and vectors; and

- * provide for the establishment of a representative system or network of conservation areas to maintain the diversity of marine and terrestrial resources in the country.

2.3

Introduce and enforce social and environmental impact assessment (EIA) regulations to institutionalise these tools in the planning process.

2.4

Become active parties to international and regional conservation and resource management agreements and conventions in order to fully utilise the opportunities for support, and pursue cooperation between conventions and agreements where support may be complementary. Relevant conventions and agreements are:

- * Apia Convention
- * Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- * Convention on Drift Net Fishing
- * Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- * Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Flora and Fauna
- * Convention for the Regulation of Whaling
- * Framework Convention on Climate Change
- * International Tropical Timber Agreement

- * International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling
- * Ramsar Convention
- * SPREP Convention
- * UN Convention on the Law of the Sea
- * UNCLOS Agreement for the Convention and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks
- * Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer
- * Waigani Convention
- * World Heritage Convention

(See Annex 5 for the full titles and a brief description for each Convention and Agreement.)

Regional & International Key Actions²

2.5

Assist Pacific island countries and territories to develop appropriate policy frameworks to support natural resource management through advice, dialogue and technical assistance. Key areas needing attention include:

- * setting and enforcing sustainable harvest rates;
- * setting standards to minimise direct and indirect impacts;
- * supporting periodic resource monitoring;
- * eliminating negative incentives that hinder conservation; and
- * identifying underlying causes for biodiversity loss and innovative approaches for addressing these causes.

(NZODA, SPREP, TNC, UNDP, USP, WB, WWF)

2.6

Assist Pacific island countries and territories to integrate traditional rights and values with government policies and programmes. In particular, assist in strengthening community-based management structures in protected and conservation areas and species conservation projects. (NZODA, SPREP, TNC, WWF)

2.7

Assist Pacific island countries and territories to review, update and draft legislation required for effective conservation and natural resource management. (FFA, NZODA, SPREP, UNDP, UNESCO-WHC)

2.8

Provide technical assistance and support to Pacific island countries and territories to plan and implement national conservation strategies and sector strategies in areas such as forestry and fisheries including full integration with development and structural adjustment plans and processes. Assist with preparing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), with special emphasis on helping to integrate conservation and development in national consultations and planning processes. (EU, FSP-I, GBRMPA, IUCN, NZODA, SPREP, TNC, UNDP, UNEP, USP, WB, WWF)

2.9

Encourage and develop the use of market-based incentives and proper pricing, valuation, and accounting of natural resources.

2.10

Assist Pacific island countries and territories to strengthen compliance with laws and policies for nature conservation and natural resource management. (BCN, FFA, NZODA, SPC, SPREP, USP)

² The implementing organisations listed in brackets are only indicative; many others may become involved during the life of the Strategy.

2.11

Introduce environmental, social and cultural considerations in investment and development proposals and approval processes.

2.12

Implement a process of regional planning, coordination, monitoring and reporting among all regional and international organisations with active programmes for nature conservation or economic development in the Pacific islands. (SPREP, TNC).

2.13

Assist Pacific island countries to participate in and make effective use of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other related international and regional conventions by:

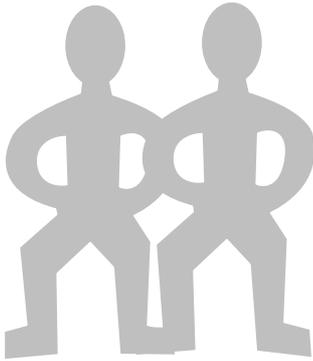
- * providing information on all conventions (including costs, benefits and process for becoming a Party);
- * developing a standard methodology and process for national reporting which integrates reporting for this Action Strategy with reporting requirements for the CBD and other related international and regional conventions;
- * providing opportunities for cooperation between convention secretariats for the benefit of nature conservation in the region; and
- * assisting with effective implementation of Party obligations.

(SPREP, UNDP, UNESCO-WHC, WI, WWF)



Local Communities & Custom

Objective 3



To involve and support communities, resource owners and resource users in cooperative and sustainable natural resource management that recognises and strengthens the rights and customs of local people as a basis for promoting environmentally sustainable and equitable development.

Current Situation

Since 1992, both government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have sought to work more closely with local communities in cooperative conservation programmes. This approach is yielding promising results and has directly led to the establishment of 34 community-based conservation areas in more than 15 countries and territories in the Pacific. In almost all of these areas, all groups within local communities play a central role in planning, managing and monitoring conservation activities.

The collective experience of nature conservation practitioners in the region was shared at the 1997 Pohnpei Conference and provided key lessons for understanding and working effectively with communities, including:

- * involvement of all community members and groups (including women and youth) in any project design and ensuring that they understand and are committed to the same environmental objectives;
- * respect, acknowledgement and support of traditional knowledge and its incorporation into modern conservation strategies;
- * the slow pace of change in communities and the risks of pushing for results too quickly;
- * ways to design and implement projects that are process-oriented to respond to opportunities and avoid possible obstacles identified during project phases;
- * the need for capacity-building in many areas, including skills in business and project management;
- * the need for benefit generating activities to supplement community incomes and reinforce conservation ideals; and
- * the need for easy access to external support and appropriate technical assistance for specialised activities, such as information gathering and resource surveys for baselines and planning purposes.

These lessons form the foundation of this Strategy.

Throughout the region, there is growing concern over the issue of protecting communities' intellectual, biological and cultural property rights. This complex issue needs good up-to-date information, properly orchestrated awareness campaigns, and possibly approaches at

both the national and regional levels. And while the long-term solution is in devising and enforcing appropriate legal instruments and effective licensing processes, vigilant monitoring against abuse and unauthorised bio-prospecting will offer some immediate protection.

On the wider development front, local communities need to be consulted and actively involved in decisions about development activities that impinge on areas under their control. Investors will often find that consultation early in the planning process will help them identify and address negative social impacts and critical habitat destruction before expensive commitments are made, often increasing the long-term success of their projects.

Local & National Key Actions

3.1

Involve and support local communities in all phases of natural resource and development planning and management by:

- * including community representatives (including women and youth) in all relevant committees and consultations;
- * ensuring, by legislation, the participation of all community groups including women and youth in environmental and social impact assessments of major resource development projects; and
- * fostering closer relations and regular dialogue with government agencies and NGOs.

3.2

Recognise community resource ownership and encourage communities to manage their own resources by:

- * assisting them in developing and implementing their own plans through community consultation processes;
- * empowering them through legislation and policy measures that legalise or recognise their ownership and control of their resources;
- * instituting proper licensing and control procedures for regulating unlawful access and illegal use of community resources;
- * controlling external developments outside their jurisdiction;
- * supporting or facilitating the development of biodiversity-based benefit generating activities as incentives for conservation, where appropriate;
- * devising and setting up community-based resource monitoring systems and assisting communities to use this information for decision-making; and
- * providing external support, where needed.

3.3

Adopt or strengthen appropriate policies and legal mechanisms that protect or enhance indigenous intellectual, biological and cultural property rights.

3.4

Support local communities in negotiations with donors and developers by providing:

- * access to sound and up-to-date technical and scientific advice and information;
- * independent legal advice, resource assessment, valuation and financial expertise; and,
- * assistance with identifying and addressing the social and cultural impacts of proposed projects.

3.5

Recognise and strengthen the special role of women, young people, traditional leaders, church groups and other interest groups in all aspects of resource management and conservation and ensure their proper participation in the formulation of nature conservation plans and in their subsequent implementation.

3.6

Ensure that all conservation activities (research, resource inventories, management, monitoring, etc.) undertaken by outside experts include:

- * active participation of local counterparts and a requirement for hands-on training;
- * integration of local knowledge into the results; and
- * presentation of findings and reports to the communities directly involved or affected.

3.7

Identify, document and promote the wider use of customary knowledge and environmentally sound customary practices, including the medicinal uses of fauna and flora. Integrate appropriate local knowledge and practices into resource management and conservation area planning.

Regional & International Key Actions³

3.8

Ensure full participation of communities, resource owners, and resource users in the design, implementation and monitoring of sustainable natural resource management activities as a requirement for external assistance. (BCN, FSP-I, GBRMPA, IUCN, NZODA, SPREP, TNC, UNESCO, WB, WWF)

3.9

Encourage and support efforts to promote greater gender sensitivity in resource use planning and implementation and strengthen gender-dependent resource management capacities. (NZODA)

3.10

Promote and support the maintenance, revival and application of traditional environmental knowledge to modern natural resource management in local communities. This should include:

- * recording and disseminating traditional knowledge with informed agreements before it is lost; and
- * giving appropriate recognition to persons noted for their wealth of traditional knowledge or involvement in traditional resource management.

(FSP-I, NZODA, SPREP, USP, TNC, WI, WWF)

3.11

Support the development of adequate and effective legal and other mechanisms for protecting intellectual, biological, and cultural property rights of local and indigenous communities, and traditional resource owners and users. This should include access to and ownership of genetic resources. (NZODA, SPREP, UNESCO, USP, WWF)

3.12

Strengthen national efforts to assist communities to manage their own resources through:

- * developing and implementing community-based gender sensitive planning, implementation and monitoring programmes;
- * building awareness of the scope and implications of national legislation and policy on community resource management;
- * developing supportive legislation and policy; and
- * providing appropriate technical and financial support.

(BCN, FSP-I, NZODA, SPREP, TNC, UNESCO, USP, WWF)

3.13

Develop and support programmes at the national level to assist community-based benefit generating activities that meet one or more of a broad range of criteria including the following:

- * promote sustainable natural resource-use practices;
- * promote the maintenance of existing traditional subsistence production systems;
- * provide economic incentives and benefits;
- * provide other non-income related benefits;
- * promote gender balance;
- * facilitate and help in the planning/ feasibility analysis of potential enterprises;
- * provide information on appropriate technology for processing and value-addition;

³ The implementing organisations listed in brackets are only indicative; many others may become involved during the life of the Strategy.

- * help in developing infrastructure for market access;
- * strengthen managerial, financial and technical capacity; and
- * facilitate access to credit and capital to set up community-based enterprises.

(AusAID, BCN, FSP-I, NZODA, SPREP, TNC, USP, WWF)

3.14

Support the special roles in natural resource management of traditional leaders, women, young people, church and other important groups within communities. (SPREP, UNDP, UNESCO)

3.15

Develop and support programmes that facilitate the exchange and sharing of lessons in community-based resource management and sustainable traditional practices within the region. (EU, FSP-I, NZODA, SPREP, TNC, UNESCO, USP, WWF).



Capacity-building

Objective 4



To strengthen local expertise and technical capacity in planning and implementing sustainable natural resource management programmes for marine and terrestrial environments through capacity-building programs that utilise local expertise whenever possible.

Current Situation

Pacific islands do not have sufficient capacity to implement sustainable management of natural resources. Most national environmental agencies have a skeletal staff of a few trained officers. NGOs operate on shoestring budgets with fewer and less trained staff. With continuing economic difficulties in many countries and territories, marked improvement is unlikely, and in some countries pressure on government spending could lead to further staff and funding reductions. While external aid funds for implementing projects may be available, they usually cannot be used to support staff positions.

The 1994–1998 Action Strategy called for the greater harnessing of “...communities’ traditional skills and capacity for conservation and sustainable development.” To some extent, the community-based conservation area programmes have made progress in this area. Traditional skills and practices are increasingly recognised and built into nature conservation activities and plans. New skills in resource monitoring, community-based planning methods, the management of benefit generating activities and others are increasingly being transferred. There is also a growing recognition of the different roles that gender groups play in resource use and decision-making and of the ensuing need for capacity-building to be gender sensitive in focus.

The need for capacity-building remains at all levels in government and non-government agencies and in communities participating in nature conservation programmes. It includes the greater transfer of relevant skills, additional trained people, information, funds, equipment and support infrastructure. In terms of skills, planning and management of nature conservation projects is an area of priority but a thorough needs assessment should provide the basis for properly targeted and gender sensitive training programmes. More effort should be made to record, use and share more widely traditional methods and skills that are relevant and useful.

Experience with local leadership in community-based conservation indicates clearly that sustainability depends on local residents having the necessary skills to lead and manage activities on their own. People like teachers, nurses and extension officers who work for the government in the community are a key source of technical assistance and would need to be trained and equipped to work with communities to promote the sustainable management and use of their resources.

Local & National Key Actions

4.1

Assess specific training needs of government agencies, NGOs and local communities responsible for managing and monitoring terrestrial and marine environments as a basis for formulating a prioritised training program. Give special attention to gender-based skills, in particular skills for women and youth in the needs assessment and the resulting training programme.

4.2

Using local experts as trainers and resource people whenever possible, conduct in-country training courses for government agencies, NGOs, community representatives and resource owners, to strengthen their skills in:

- * community-based resource planning, management and monitoring;
- * terrestrial and marine conservation operations and techniques;
- * proposal and report writing, using formats from major funding agencies; and
- * other skills identified by each country's training needs assessment.

4.3

Incorporate conservation and sustainable resource use concepts into local primary and secondary school science curricula.

4.4

Encourage and facilitate the participation of community representatives from different gender groups including women and youth, NGOs and resource owners in training programmes in-country and abroad, including programmes currently managed by or for government agencies.

4.5

Provide appropriate resources (staff, budgets, equipment, etc.) for environmental agencies, co operating organisations, and communities to implement the national conservation strategy.

4.6

Strengthen extension services in areas such as fisheries, agriculture, forestry and tourism to provide more technical support to communities.

Regional & International Key Actions⁴

4.7

Assist with strategic assessments of capacity-building needed for sustainable natural resource management, and provide financial and technical assistance to address the prioritised needs of target areas or groups. (BCN, EDI-WB, FORSEC, FSP-I, IUCN, NZODA, SPREP, TNC, UNESCO-WHC, WI, WWF)

4.8

Promote and support innovative approaches to needs assessment and capacity-building that are more relevant and effective given the cultural and economic realities of target groups (e.g. participatory approaches, community drama etc..).

4.9

Strengthen linkages and collaboration between agencies involved in capacity-building and target groups. (GBRMPA, IUCN, SPREP, WB, WWF)

4.10

Strengthen extension services responsible for natural resource management, human welfare, and economic development (e.g. forestry, fisheries, agriculture, environment, health) to provide effective conservation technical assistance to communities, especially in biologically significant areas. (BCN, FSP-I, NZODA, TNC, UNESCO, UNESCO-WHC, USP, WI, WWF)

4.11

Strengthen formal education for environmental conservation at all levels (primary, secondary and tertiary). (SPREP, UNESCO, UNESCO-WHC, USP)

4.12

Encourage and collaborate with appropriate educational institutions to focus current training in nature conservation to include skills relevant to community-based approaches now widely used in the region. (BCN, FSP-I, NZODA, SPREP, TNC, USP, WI)

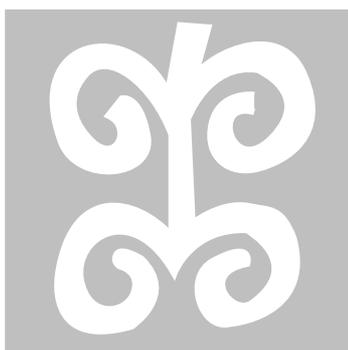
⁴ The implementing organisations listed in brackets are only indicative; many others may become involved during the life of the Strategy.

4.13

Develop a clearing house or register of qualified, experienced capacity building services (e.g. trainers, mentors, courses) that can serve as a referral service for groups or agencies in need of quality assistance in building stronger local skills in natural resource management, organisational development or other relevant fields. (NZODA, TNC).



Objective 5



Environmental Education, Awareness & Information Sharing

To strengthen environmental education, raise awareness and improve information sharing in support of conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

Current Situation

The vast distances across the Pacific Ocean, coupled with the diversity of its island cultures and languages, create special challenges for information sharing between countries and for regional approaches to conservation issues.

Innovative approaches have, however, brought significant successes in the past four years. The two regional conservation campaigns for marine turtles and coral reefs were highly visible, well supported and popular. Most importantly, the turtle campaign led to some countries taking legislative steps to protect turtles and reinforce traditional management practices. At a national level, the unique approach of RARE Center for Tropical Conservation to forest and bird conservation in FSM, Palau and Samoa produced commendable results. Other countries are now keen to have RARE work with them as well.

The strong workshop focus of the 1997 Conference on Nature Conservation in Pohnpei was a major contributor to the useful exchanges of information and experiences. Underpinning these specific efforts is the need to be assisting wherever possible with the fundamentally important task of strengthening environmental education efforts throughout the region. The 1998 *Pacific Regional Conference for Environmental Education and Training* recognises the importance of this task.

At a time when the world appears to be awash with electronic information, a key task in the Pacific is to carefully assess the information needs of each country, coupled with an analysis of their capacity to manage information flows. A closely related need is to better understand the role of information in environmental policy-making. The challenge is to develop effective and efficient information sharing mechanisms and networks that share the "right" information at the appropriate levels.

Yet it is clear that, in some form or other, computer-based information services are needed. The proposal for a Pacific Conservation Area Resources Centre, by WCMC, IUCN and SPREP, is an exciting concept that needs more analysis. The challenge is to use the rapid changes in computer and information technology to link the region in ways that benefit communities and countries while safeguarding their biological and cultural diversity.

Local & National Key Actions

5.1

Improve the transfer and sharing of environmental information through the use of the theatre, music, media and attractive visual and print materials. Materials should incorporate local customs in resource management and should use local language(s) as much as possible.

5.2

Involve government, NGOs, businesses, local communities, and technical resource people in planning, implementing and evaluating conservation activities and programmes.

5.3

Ensure easy public access to resource data and information necessary to design, implement, monitor and evaluate conservation programmes.

5.4

Develop the interpretative and repackaging skills of local agencies and organisations active in information dissemination to ensure the effective sharing and transfer of information.

5.5

Encourage local conservation areas to join in a regional network of protected areas and to use this for information sharing including discussion of successes and failures for key aspects of conservation and sustainable resource management.

5.6

Encourage and support the development of close working relationships between conservation areas and the private sector, including local financial institutions to support benefit generating activities of conservation area communities.

5.7

In collaboration with regional agencies, assess biodiversity information requirements for users at the national level.

5.8

Develop appropriate in-country resource databases to support conservation and sustainable development decision-making and implementation.

Regional & International Key Actions⁵

5.9

Following an information needs analysis, develop and maintain systems and services for collecting and sharing information needed by national policy makers, technical and research agencies, and communities for sustainable use and conservation of natural resources. (ADB, FFA, NZODA, SPC, SPREP, TNC, UNDP, USP)

5.10

Develop regionally integrated educational curricula (that can be adopted region-wide) supported by resource materials and teacher training on sustainable resource management and biodiversity conservation. (FSP-I, SPREP, USP, UNESCO, WI)

5.11

Encourage and develop innovative environmental awareness campaigns at regional, national and community levels, and share successful approaches within the region. (FSP-I, RARE, WWF, SPREP, TNC)

5.12

Establish a network of Pacific islands protected and conservation areas to share information and experiences and to collaborate, as necessary, on sub-regional or regional conservation action. (NZODA, SPREP, TNC, UNESCO, WWF)

5.13

Explore the feasibility of a South Pacific Protected Areas Resource Centre (SP-PARC) and if appropriate, support and assist its establishment. (NZODA, SPREP, WCMC/IUCN, USP)

5.14

Develop and adopt common protocols and standards for data collection and data management to ensure compatibility of data exchange at local, national and regional levels and with others outside the region. (SPREP, UNESCO, WCMC/IUCN)

⁵ The implementing organisations listed in brackets are only indicative; many others may become involved during the life of the Strategy.

5.15

Cooperate with international efforts to collect and share information for international conventions, such as the clearing house mechanism under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and initiatives such as the Biodiversity Conservation Information System, with a view of adapting international mechanisms to fit regional/national needs. (SPREP, UNDP, WHC-UNESCO, WWF)

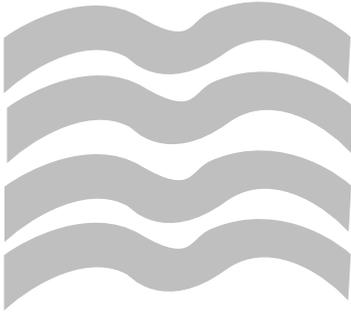
5.16

Provide support and technical assistance to promote greater coverage of Pacific island environmental issues by local, national, regional and international media. (FSP-I, NZODA, SPREP, UNESCO, WI)



Financial Sustainability

Objective 6



Develop local, national and regional sources of funding to achieve the sustainable conservation and management of natural resources while securing long-term support from multilateral and bilateral donors; and develop and advocate appropriate new funding mechanisms.

Current Situation

The declining volume of total official development assistance to the Pacific island region and the ever-expanding demand for public services on national budgets have significant implications for nature conservation. Conservation activities in the region are mainly financed by international donors on a project basis. The decline thus points to difficult times ahead given the unlikely event that national budgets will fill the gap when they face other pressing and politically sensitive needs and very limited resources. This situation is not likely to change soon.

The difficulty with funding for conservation activities is partly donor-based and partly inherent in the conservation process. Most donors are results-driven and are most comfortable with short-term projects that yield clearly predictable and visible outputs. Nature conservation projects take a long time to produce results, and community-based conservation approaches take even longer. Thus, while essential to sustainable development, community-based conservation's requirement for a long-term funding commitment is a difficult proposition for all donors. Some of these difficulties might be eased by clarifying donor roles and improving coordination among donors, so they can each invest long-term in areas and approaches that fit their organisation's priorities and comparative advantages.

Yet nature conservation needs secure funding. The issues and challenges of funding facing the region are stark and clear. All recipients of donor funds (countries, organisations etc.) need to convince donors to make long-term funding commitments to see nature conservation projects through. They also need to find ways to clearly demonstrate steady progress toward specific goals, so that donors can be confident in maintaining their long-term commitment. At the same time, regional organisations and national agencies should be devising new and innovative ways to provide long-term funding.

For donors, fundamental changes in some of their planning assumptions are called for. There is a need for them to recognise and accept that changes in communities attitudes and in achieving conservation at this level takes time. To force the pace of change is risky and is more likely to be counter-productive than useful. This reality should be factored into programme design and funding arrangements.

For national and regional organisations, developing new and innovative funding mechanisms and sources from within the region that will provide long-term financial sustainability

is imperative. Possibilities include trust funds, debt-for-nature-swaps, carbon offsetting schemes, special user fees, resource extraction taxes, partnerships with the private sector and others. These options should be thoroughly explored and advocated with donors, Pacific island governments and the private sector.

For conservation communities and field implementing agencies, individual programmes and projects should be designed and managed to generate revenues and be self-supporting as quickly as possible. This could include site-specific sources such as visitor and user fees, local business sponsorships, volunteer services by local residents and more.

Local & National Key Actions

6.1

Prepare a funding plan for the country/territory's top conservation priorities. This plan should identify opportunities for self-funding core costs from in-country sources and long-term international cost-sharing options.

6.2

Facilitate effective access to external sources of funding (bilateral, multilateral, international) for conservation and sustainable resource initiatives, including those in the NEMS and NBSAP. Work with national aid coordination ministries to include conservation projects in government aid requests.

6.3

Develop in-country and site-specific sources of funding and investment for conservation and sustainable resource use initiatives. Possible sources include:

- * Nature-based enterprises— e.g. handicrafts, food products, etc.;
- * Resource rentals and/or royalties— e.g. commercial fishing, logging, mining;
- * User fees for tourism activities— e.g. sport fishing, diving;
- * Environmental bonds to ensure responsible resource use by development and resource extraction projects;

* Special taxes for visitors and tourists— e.g. addition to airport tax, hotel room tax, aviation fuel tax; and

* Private sector support and donations from individuals, businesses and industry groups, including local co-management options, in-kind services, conservation memberships, and cause-related marketing.

6.4

Investigate the use of trust funds and develop them, as appropriate, to assist the long term viability of local and national conservation programmes.

6.5

Assist local communities and individuals with feasibility assessments, planning, and access to local financial agencies to aid the establishment of sustainable, nature-based enterprises.

6.6

Further develop in-country capacity (government and non-government) to identify financial needs, prepare proper funding proposals for donor financing, secure funding and manage budgets effectively to ensure accountability required by donors and the public.

Regional & International Key Actions⁶

6.7

Establish regional or national trust funds to provide long-term support for community-based approaches to conservation and sustainable resource management, with top priority to support conservation area identification, establishment and management. (NZODA, SPREP, TNC, UNDP)

6.8

Explore the possibility of debt-for-nature swaps or other financial incentives for conservation.

6.9

Provide technical and financial assistance to countries and territories to develop in-country, site-specific, and cause-specific sources

⁶ The implementing organisations listed in brackets are only indicative; many others may become involved during the life of the Strategy.

of funding and investment for conservation and sustainable resource use initiatives. (BCN, FSP-I, NZODA, SPREP, TNC)

6.10

Compile a database with information on existing international and regional funding organisations and their criteria for access by national, local, and community groups.

6.11

Increase and commit contributions from regional organisations and member countries to support conservation and sustainable resource initiatives, including the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands. (FSP-I, NZODA, SPREP, UNDP, WWF)

6.12

Encourage and develop partnerships with regional, national and local businesses to promote and support conservation activities, and share successful approaches within the region. (FSP-I)

6.13

Design and adapt external assistance programmes to be flexible in schedules and budgets, so they can respond to and build upon participatory planning processes, set realistic expectations, and clear, mutual goals.



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Annex 2 COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION AREAS⁷ ESTABLISHED OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS IN THE PACIFIC

No	Name	Description	Area (ha)
1	Arnavon Island Community Managed Marine Conservation Area (Solomon Islands)	Total area is about 8,270, with a core of about 3,100 ha. The land area (size of Arnavon Islands) is about 500 ha..	8,270
2	Bainings and Wide Bay Areas, East New Britain (PNG)*	Size of area not known	
3	Bismarck-Raru Intergrated Conservation and Development (ICAD) Area (PNG)*	Size of area not known	
4	Bouma Project, Taveuni (Fiji)*	Size of area not known	
5	Collingwood Bay Intergrated Conservation and Development (ICAD) Area (PNG)*	Size of area not known	
6	Crater Mts. Wildlife Management Area (PNG)*	Size of area not known	
7	Falealupo Forest Preserve, Falealupo (Samoa)	Size of area not known	
8	Funafuti Marine Conservation Area (Tuvalu)	Six small islets are included, covering 8 ha of land in total	3,300
9	Garu Wildlife Management Area, (PNG)*	Size of area not known	
10	Ha'apai Conservation Area (Kingdom of Tonga)	Ocean area is about 1,000,000 ha. 62 islands are included, with a total land area of about 12,100 ha. Islands range in size from less than 1 ha to 4,660 ha, with 4 exceeding 1000ha.	1,000,000
11	Huvalu Forest Conservation Area (Niue)	Approximately 6,029 ha. ⁸	6,029
12	Jaluit Atoll Conservation Area (Marshall Islands)	Lagoon area is 68,974 ha.. Land area is 1,134 ha., comprising 91 fringing islets. ⁹	70,100
13	Kiritimati Atoll Conservation Area (Kiribati)	Land and lagoon areas cover 36,370 ha. and 16,000 ha. respectively	52,370
14	Kikori Intergrated Conservation and Development Area (PNG)*	Size of area not known	

⁷ For the purposes of this Annex, Community-based Conservation Area is defined as any area, marine or terrestrial or both, wherein resources are either protected to some degree or managed for sustainable use, or both, with the active involvement and support of community resource users and owners.

⁸ Whistler, Art. et al (1997) *Botanical Survey of the Huvalu Forest Conservation Area, Niue*. Apia, Samoa [unpublished]. 76 p.

⁹ Environment Protection Authority (1997) *Concept Proposal for Jaluit Atoll Conservation Area*. Republic of the Marshall Islands [unpublished].

No	Name	Description	Area (ha)
15	Kimbe Bay Marine Protected Area (PNG)*	Size of area not known	
16	Komarindi Catchment Conservation Area (Solomon Islands)	Approximately 19,300 ha..	19,300
17	Koroyanitu Conservation Area (Fiji)	Core area is 2,984 ha. Inclusion of buffer and transition zones may extend area to 19,000 ha..	2,984
18	Lakekamu-Kunimaipa Basin (PNG)*	Size of area not known	
19	Lolihor Community Conservation and Development Area, North Ambrym (Vanuatu)*	Size of area not known	
20	Makira Community Forest Management Area (Solomon Islands)*	Size of area not known	
21	Marovo Lagoon (Solomon Islands)*	Size of area not known	
22	Narong Marine Reserve (Solomon Islands)*	Size of area not known	
23	Ngaremeduu Conservation Area (Palau)	CA contains 325 ha mangrove, 84 ha swamp forest, 75 ha freshwater marshes plus areas upland	484
24	North Tarawa Conservation Area (Kiribati)	Land area is about 1,270 ha (Approximately 2/3 of Tarawa)	1,270
25	Pohnpei Watershed Management and Environment Project (FSM, Pohnpei)	Mangrove forest accounts for 5,525 ha., and upland rainforest for 5,100 ha..	10,625
26	Ringe Te Suh, Maskelynes Islands (Vanuatu)*	Size of area not known	
27	Rock Island Conservation Area (Palau)	Total area is approximately 100,000 ha., including 424 limestone islands. ¹⁰	100,000
28	Saanapu/Sataoa Conservation Area (Samoa)	Approximately 75 ha. May be extended to cover 12,000 ha.	75
29	Simbo Island, Participatory Action Research Project, Solomon Islands	Size of area not known	

¹⁰ Palau Conservation Society (1997) *Rock Island Conservation Area, Republic of Palau* (Concept Proposal). SPREP, Apia, Samoa [unpublished]. 20 p.

No	Name	Description	Area (ha)
30	Takitumu Conservation Area (Cook Islands)	Avana valley covers 64.3 ha, Totokoitu covers 53.0 ha, and Turoa covers 37.6 ha.	155
31	Uafato Conservation Area (Samoa)	Land component covers 1,306 ha. Marine component is not known. ¹¹	1,306
32	Utwa-walung Marine Park (FSM, Kosrae)	Utwa-walung Channel extends for more than 8.1 km	N/A
33	Vatthe Conservation Area (Vanuatu)	Approximately 2,276 ha lowland forest	2,276
34	Verata Community Conservation Area, (Fiji)	CA contains 7 villages of Verata Tikina, an area of about 150 square kilometers	15,000

¹¹ Martel, François et al (1998) *Timber Inventory of the Ifilele Resource: Uafato Conservation Area Project*. SPREP, Apia, Samoa [unpublished]. 78 p.

* Information received from Pacific Islands Round Table delegates.

Annex 3 SUMMARY OF TERRESTRIAL CONSERVATION AREAS IN THE PACIFIC REGION

Pacific Islands States & Territories	No. of protected areas	Land Area (sq. km)	Protected Land Area (sq. km)	% Land Protected
American Samoa	10	197	48.0	24%
Cook Islands	5	233	3.6	2%
Easter Islands	1	68	67.0	99%
Fed. States of Micronesia	16	702	106.3	15%
Fiji	23	18,330	456.6	2%
French Polynesia	7	3,940	135.0	3%
Guam	10	450	85.0	19%
Kiribati	12	684	587.0	86%
Marshall Islands	1	181	11.3	6%
Nauru	0	21	0	0%
New Caledonia	45	19,105	7423.0	39%
Niue	1	259	60.3	23%
North Marianas	4	471	15.0	3%
Palau	4	365	23.6	6%
Papua New Guinea	45	462,840	15566.0	3%
Pitcairn Island	1	42	NA	NA
Solomon Island	12	29,790	199.0	1%
Tokelau	0	10	0	0%
Tonga	11	699	47.1	7%
Tuvalu	1	25	8.0	32%
U.S. Minor Island	4	658	542.0	82%
Vanuatu	8	14,765	34.7	0%
Wallis-Futuna Island	2	255	0	0%
Samoa	7	2840	114.8	4%
Other	2	NA	NA	0%
Total	233	556,930.00	25,533	4.5
Hawaii	105	16760	3095	18.47%

Annex 4 ESTABLISHED PROTECTED AREAS & COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION AREAS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Explanatory Note on Annex 4

Names of protected and conservation areas, number of protected areas, total land area, protected land area and percentage of land were updated from the 1994–1998 *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific Region*, with information from SPBCP, BCN, TNC, USP, WWF, UNESCO-WHC and NZODA representatives during the Pacific Islands Roundtable, February 1998. Additional information was received from regional and national reviewers during the Action Strategy Review process. The source for the 1994–1998 listing is Paine (1993). For many areas, the area cited is the best estimate. Comparative information for marine protected/conservation areas were not received in time to allow their inclusion in this Action Strategy.

Abbreviations Used

AR	Amenity Reserve
CA	Conservation Area
Cons	Conservation Reserve
Ecol	Ecological
FR	Forest Reserve
Is	Island(s)
MP	Marine Park
MR	Marine Reserve
NA	Natural Area
NHP	National Historic Park
NMS	National Marine Sanctuary
NNL	National Natural Landmark
NP	National Park
NR	Nature Reserve
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
Pk	Park
Prov	Provincial
Rec	Recreational
Res	Reserve Sanctuary
SBR	Special Botanical Reserve
SFFR	Special Fauna and Flora Reserve
SFR	Special Fauna Reserve
SMR	Special Marine Reserve
SNR	Strict Nature Reserve
Terr	Territorial
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WR	Wildlife Reserve
WS	Wildlife Sanctuary
WHS	World Heritage Site

American Samoa (10)

- 1 American Samoa NP
- 2 Rose Atoll NWR
- 3 Fagatele Bay NMS
- 4 Aunuu Island NNL
- 5 Cape Taputapu NNL
- 6 Fogama'a Crater NNL
- 7 Leala Shoreline NNL
- 8 Matafao Peak NNL
- 9 Rainmaker Mountain (Mt Pioa) NNL
- 10 Vaiava Strait

Cook Islands*(5)

- 11 Aitutaki Trochus Sanctuary
- 12 Manuae Lagoon Trochus Sanctuary
- 13 Palmerston Lagoon Trochus Sanctuary
- 14 Suwarrow Atoll NP
- 15 Takitimu Conservation Area*

Easter Island (1)

- 16 Rapa Nui NP

Federated States of Micronesia (16)

- 17 Trochus Sanctuaries - Pohnpei
- 18 Nan Madol - Pohnpei
- 19 Pohnpei Watershed Management Project*
- 20 Oroluk Sanctuary - Pohnpei
- 21 Kehpera (Black Coral) Sanctuary - Pohnpei
- 22 Enipein Marine Park - Pohnpei
- 23 Pwudoi Sanctuary - Pohnpei

- 24 Chuuk State Lagoon - Chuuk
- 25 Chuuk State Underwater Monument - Chuuk
- 26 Trochus Sanctuaries - Chuuk
- 27 Giant Clam Farms - Chuuk
- 28 Okat Trochus Sanctuary - Kosrae
- 29 Utwe and Walung Marine Park - Kosrae*
- 30 Ringe Te Suh, Maskelynes Islands*
- 31 Trochus Sanctuaries - Yap
- 32 Mile zone from Island Baseline - Yap

Fiji (23)

- 33 Bouma Project*
- 34 Buretolu FR
- 35 Colo-I-Suva Forest Park
- 36 Draunibota & Labiko Is NR
- 37 JH Garrick Memorial Reserve
- 38 Korotari FR
- 39 Koroyanitu Conservation Area*
- 40 Lololo Amenity Reserves (AR)
- 41 Lomolomo AR
- 42 Nadarivatu AR
- 43 Namenalala Island NR
- 44 Naqarabuluti NR
- 45 Nukulau Island and Reef AR
- 46 Ravilevu NR
- 47 Saweni Beach AR
- 48 Sigatoka Sand Dunes NP and Res
- 49 Tavakubu AR
- 50 Taveuni FR
- 51 Tomaniivi NR
- 52 Verata Community CA, East Viti Levu*
- 53 Vunimoli NR
- 54 Vuo Island NR
- 55 Yadua Tabu Island Crested Iguana Reserve

French Polynesia (7)

- 56 Atoll de Taiaro (W.A. Robinson) Biosphere and NR
- 57 Eiao Island Nature Reserve
- 58 Hatutu Island Nature Reserve
- 59 Mohotani
- 60 Sable Island (Motu One)
- 61 Scilly Atoll (Manuae) Reserve
- 62 Vallee de Faaiti Nature Reserve

Guam (10)

- 63 Anao Conservation Reserves
- 64 Bolanos (Chalan Palii CR) Cotal
- 65 Haputo Ecological Reserve Areas
- 66 Masso River Reservoir Area Natural Reserves
- 67 Orote Peninsula Ecological Reserve Areas
- 68 Pati Point Natural Areas
- 69 Guam Territorial Seashore Park
- 70 Schroeder
- 71 War in the Pacific
- 72 Y-Piga

Kiribati (12)

- 73 Birnie Island WS
- 74 Cook Islet Closed Area (Kiritimati WS)
- 75 Kiritimati Conservation Area Project*
- 76 Malden Island (Closed Area)
- 77 Motu tabu Islet Closed Area (Kiritimati WS)
- 78 Motu Upua Closed Area (Kiritimati WS)
- 79 McKean Island
- 80 Naa Islet CA - North Tarawa*
- 81 Ngaontetaake Islet Closed Area (Kiritimati WS)
- 82 Phoenix Island (Rawaki)
- 83 Starbuck (Closed Area)
- 84 Vostok Island

Marshall Islands (1)

- 85 Jaluit Atoll Conservation Area*

New Caledonia (45)

- 86 Amoa/Tchamba
- 87 Aoupinie SFR
- 88 Boulouparis - Bourail
- 89 Branch Nord Dumbea et Couvelee
- 90 Col d'Amenieu FR
- 91 Chutes de Madeleine SBR
- 92 Foret de Sailles SBR
- 93 Haute Doutio
- 94 Haute Yate SFR
- 95 Koumac
- 96 Kuebini FR
- 97 La Dieppoise SMR
- 98 Lagon Sud Terr Pk (5 units)
- 99 L'entange de Koumac SFR
- 100 L'île Pam SFR
- 101 L'îlot Lepredour SFR
- 102 L'îlot Maitre SFFR
- 103 "Michael Corbasson"
- 104 Mont Do SFFR
- 105 Mont Humboldt SBR
- 106 Mont Mou FR
- 107 Mont Panie SBR
- 108 Montagne des Sources NR
- 109 Nord Cote Est
- 110 Ora Peninsula
- 111 Ouenarou FR
- 112 Ouen-Toro Terr Pk
- 113 Parc Territorial du Lagon Sudi Amedee Islet
- 114 Paita-Dumbea-Mt Dore
- 115 Pic du Pin SBR
- 116 Ponerihouen
- 117 Pouembout
- 118 Povilla FR
- 119 Reserve de la passe Amedee
- 120 Reserve Speciale Tournante de Marine Faune

- 121 Riviere Bleue Terr Pk
- 122 Southern SBR (7 units)
- 123 Tangadiou FR
- 124 Tango FR
- 125 Tiponite FR
- 126 Tournante de Marine Faune SMR
- 127 Thy Terr Pk
- 128 "South" of New Caledonia FR
- 129 Yves Merlet SMR

Niue (1)

- 130 Huvalu Conservation Area*

Northern Marianas (4)

- 131 Asuncion Is Preserve
- 132 Guguan Is Preserve
- 133 Maug Is Preserve
- 134 Uracas Island Preserve (aka Farallon de Pajaros)

Palau (5)

- 135 Rock Island Conservation Area*
- 136 Ngerukewid Is
- 137 Ngerumekaol Grouper Spawning Area
- 138 Ngaremenduu Conservation Area*

Papua New Guinea (45)

- 139 Bagiai (I)* WMA
- 140 Baiyer River S
- 141 Balek (III) WMA
- 142 Baniara Island (II) WMA
- 143 Bainings and Wide Bay Areas, East New Britain*
- 144 Bismarck-Raru ICAD Area*
- 145 Cape Wom International Memorial Park*
- 146 Collinwood Bay ICAD Area*
- 147 Crater Mountain Wildlife Management Area*
- 148 Crown Island (III) WMA
- 149 East Hunstein Reserve*
- 150 Garu (I)* WMA
- 151 Horseshoe Reef MP
- 152 Iomare (I) WMA
- 153 Jimi Valley National Park
- 154 Kikori ICAD Area*
- 155 Kimbe Bay Marine Conservation Area*
- 156 Kokoda Trail NP
- 157 Lake Lavu (I) WMA
- 158 Lakekamu-Kunimaipa Basin*
- 159 Long Island (III)
- 160 McAdam NP
- 161 Maza (I)*
- 162 Mt Gahavisuka Park*
- 163 Mt Kaindi*
- 164 Mt Wilhelm NP
- 165 Moitaka WS
- 166 Mojirau (I)*

- 167 Namanatabu Historic Reserves
- 168 Nanuk Island Park*
- 169 Ndrolowa (I)*
- 170 Neiru (I)
- 171 Nuserang (I)*
- 172 Oia-Mada Wa'a (I)
- 173 Paga Hill ScR
- 174 Pirung (I)
- 175 Pokili (I)
- 176 Ranba (I)*
- 177 Sawataetae (I)*
- 178 Siwi Utame (I)
- 179 Talele Islands (Bismarck Archipelago) NR
- 180 Talele Islands Park*
- 181 Tonfa (I)*
- 182 Varirata
- 183 Zo-Oimaga (I)

Pitcairn Island (1)

- 184 Henderson Is WHS (not incl. In Paine 1993)

Samoa (8)

- 185 Le Pupu Pue NP
- 186 Tusitala Historic and NR (3 units)
- 187 Palolo Deep Res
- 188 Togitogiga Rec Res
- 189 Falealupo Forest Preserve*
- 190 Saanapu-Sataoa Conservation Area*
- 191 Uafato Conservation Area*
- 192 Tafua Rainforest Reserve

Solomon Islands (12)

- 193 Arnavaon Islands Marine Conservation Area *
- 194 East Renell Is*
- 195 Dalakalau
- 196 Dalakalonga
- 197 Kolombangara FR
- 198 Komarindi Catchment Conservation Area*
- 199 Marovo Lagoon *
- 200 Makira Community Forest Management Area*
- 201 Tulagi Bird Sanct
- 202 Mandoleana
- 203 Oema Is
- 204 Queen Elizabeth NP

Tonga (11)

- 205 Eua NP
- 206 Fanga'uta and Fanga Kakau Lagoons Marine Res
- 207 Haapai Is Conservation Area*
- 208 Haatafu Beach Res
- 209 Hakaumama'o Reef Res
- 210 Malinoa Is Res
- 211 Monuafu Is Res
- 212 Mui Hopo Hoponga Res
- 213 Pangaimotu Reef Res

- 214 Mounu Reef Sanct
- 215 Ha'amonga Trilithon Pk

Tuvalu (1)

- 216 Funafuti Atoll Marine Conservation Area*

US Minor Islands (4)

- 217 Baker Is NWR
- 218 Howland Is NWR
- 219 Jarvis Is NWR
- 220 Johnston Atoll NWR

Vanuatu (8)

- 221 Aore Rec Pk
- 222 Bucaro Aore Rec Pk
- 223 Lolihor Community Conservation and Development Area, North Ambrym*
- 224 Naomebaravu-Malo Res
- 225 Narong MR*
- 226 President Coolidge and Million Dollar Point Res
- 227 Vatthe Marine Conservation Area*
- 228 Whitesands Res

Wallis and Futuna (2)

- 229 Wallis Toafa FR
- 230 Lalolalo Vao Tapu (aka Forbidden Forest)

Others (2)

- 231 Lord Howe Is Group WHS (Australia)
- 232 Kermadec Is NR (New Zealand)

* Conservation and or protected areas reported to have been established between 1994 - 1998.

Annex 5 CONVENTIONS RELEVANT TO CONSERVATION IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

1 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1992 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

This Agreement was one of the concrete results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. It introduces a number of innovative measures, particularly in the area of environmental and resource protection obligating States to adopt a precautionary approach to fisheries exploitation and gives expanded powers to port States to enforce certain obligations to safeguard proper management of fisheries resources. Adopted by the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks on the 4 August 1995, signed by 59 States to date, and ratified or acceded to by 17. Entry into force of the Agreement requires 30 ratifications or accessions.

2 Convention on the Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific Region (Apia-1976)

Commonly referred to as the Apia Convention, this regional convention seeks to encourage the creation of protected areas. Opened for signature on 12 June 1976 and came into force on the 26 June 1990, after it was ratified by 4 countries.

3 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-1992)

International Convention to conserve biological diversity, the sustainable use of its component and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding. [Opened for signature on 5 June 1992, Rio de Janeiro. Entry into force on the 29 December 1993].

4 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CS-Bonn-1979)

Commonly referred to as the Bonn Convention this agreement was designed to ensure the conservation and effective management of migratory species of wild animals through the concerted action of all States within the national jurisdictional boundaries of which such species spend any part of their life cycle. [Adoption: Bonn, 23 June 1979; Entry into force: 1 January 1991].

5 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES-1973)

Convention for international cooperation in the protection of certain species of wild fauna and flora against over-exploitation through international trade. [Adoption: Washington, 3 March 1973; Entry into force: 1 July 1975].

6 Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar-1971)

Commonly referred to as the Ramsar Convention this agreement aims at stemming the progressive encroachment on and loss of wetlands now and in the future, because of their great economic, cultural, scientific and recreational value, and especially as a waterfowl habitat. [Adoption: Ramsar, 2 February 1971. Entry into force: 21 December 1975]

7 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985)

International convention aimed at protecting human health and the environment against the adverse effects resulting from the modifications of the ozone layer. [Adoption: Vienna, 22 March 1985. Entry into force: 22 September 1988].

8 International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling (1946)

This convention's aim is to protect all species of whales from overfishing and to safeguard for future generations the great natural resources represented by whale stocks. The Convention sets up a Whaling Commission to encourage research and investigation and

appraise and disseminate information concerning whaling and whale stocks, and to meet annually to adopt regulations for the conservation and utilisation of whale stocks. Adopted in Washington USA on 2 December 1946 and entered into force on the 11 October 1948.

9 Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matters (London Convention - 1972)

International convention requiring parties to control sources of pollution of the marine environment and to prevent pollution of the sea by the dumping of waste and other matters. The 1996 Protocol to this Convention, which is yet in force, bans incineration at sea and the dumping of all waste not listed in Annex I [Adoption: London, Mexico City, Moscow and Washington, 29 December 1972. Entry into force: 30 August 1975].

10 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC-1992)

International convention to protect the climate system for present and future generations from enhanced greenhouse effect resulting from the substantial increasing of atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases that is resulting in the additional warming of the Earth's surface and atmosphere. Adopted 9 May 1992 at the UN Headquarters New York. Entry into force 21 March 1994.

11 International Tropical Timber Agreement (1994)

This Agreement provides an effective framework for consultation, international cooperation and policy development among all members with regards to all relevant aspects of the world timber economy. Among other aims, it seeks to encourage all members to develop national policies aimed at sustainable utilization and conservation of timber-producing forests and their genetic resources and at maintaining the ecological balance in the regions concerned, in the context of tropical timber trade. Adopted in Geneva on the 26 January 1994 and entered into force 1 January 1997.

12 Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region and related Protocols (SPREP-1986)

Also known as the SPREP Convention, it provides a broad framework for cooperation in preventing pollution of the marine and coastal environments. Parties are called on to endeavour to conclude bilateral or multilateral agreements that protect, develop and manage the marine and coastal environments of the Convention Area. [Opened for signature: Noumea, 24 November 1986. Entry into force: 22 August 1990].

13 United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea , Chapter 1 & 12 (UNCLOS-1982)

This Convention lays down the basic legal regime for the conservation and utilisation of marine resources. It gives coastal States jurisdiction over all resources, including living resources, in an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) that can extend up to 200 nautical miles from their coasts. The Convention also contains built-in safeguards for the protection and preservation of living marine resources beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. [Adoption: Montego Bay, 10 December 1982. Entry into force: 16 November 1994]

14 Waigani Convention (Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Waste within the South Pacific Region (1995)

Regional convention signed by all Forum countries except Marshall Islands prohibiting the shipment of hazardous and radioactive wastes from outside Pacific islands into Pacific islands, and cooperation in the movement and management of hazardous waste. To date, it has been ratified by 3 countries but it would need 10 parties before it could enter into force.

15 World Heritage Convention (Convention for the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage)

International convention for the protection of the cultural and natural heritage sites that are of outstanding interest and universal value and therefore need to be preserved as part of the world heritage of mankind as a whole. [Adoption: Paris, 23 November 1972. Entry into force: 17 December 1975].

FIGURE 1 1999–2002 ACTION STRATEGY FORMULATION PROCESS

