

CONSERVATION SERVING COMMUNITIES in a rapidly changing world



8th Pacific Islands Conference on
Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

Alotau, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea

22-26 October 2007



Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
PO Box 240 | Apia, Samoa | T: (685) 21929 | F: (685) 20231



Biodiversity, the variety of life on earth, underpins Pacific livelihoods, culture and tradition. Pacific islanders depend on biodiversity for goods, shelter, coastal protection and medicinal purposes.

However, growing urban development, rising population levels, changing lifestyles, impacts of globalization and increasing dependence on cash economies are resulting in a significant loss of biodiversity across the region. Loss of, and damage to, natural ecosystems is threatening the Pacific way of life: our island life. Establishing and implementing effective conservation practices today, including appropriate traditional approaches, will ultimately define the future and identity of the Pacific islands.

Globally, there is a growing acknowledgement of the role of communities in driving conservation efforts. In the Pacific, there is a renewed understanding that successful conservation initiatives hinge on participation from communities. Successful conservation of biodiversity in the Pacific is ultimately about people.

“Conservation serving Communities”



The 8th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, will take place from 22-26 October 2007, in Alotau, Papua New Guinea.

The Conference is a key regional meeting of government agencies, NGOs, community based organisations, and donor bodies to discuss and develop a joint vision for conservation in the Pacific islands.

The theme of the Conference is ‘Conservation serving Communities in a rapidly changing world’ highlighting the inextricable link between Pacific islanders and the natural environment; people and the sustainable use of natural resources to conserve the unique Pacific environment.

Review of Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands (2003-2007)



The Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands (2003-2007) is the Pacific’s overarching framework for biodiversity conservation. The Action Strategy provides a broad framework for conservation in the Pacific involving partnerships between conservationists and governments, the private sector, and civil society. The Action Strategy was developed at the previous nature conservation conference held in the Cook Islands in 2002. The Alotau conference will review the outcomes of the Action Strategy, support the development of a regional framework for the next five years, mobilize resources and support for conservation activities and discuss gaps and opportunities for ongoing conservation work.

In the Pacific, people and the environment are interlinked.

Ten Years of the Roundtable for Nature Conservation

The Roundtable is the Pacific's largest cross-sectoral network for conservation comprised of governments, NGOs and donor organisations. One of the key roles of the Roundtable is to identify the critical gaps in the Action Strategy implementation and to develop new methods and activities to address the major regional conservation issues.

2007 marks a decade since the inception of the Roundtable for Nature Conservation. The Conference presents an opportunity to build on the achievements of the Roundtable and review its ongoing role in Pacific conservation efforts.

Conference Objectives

- Develop a shared understanding of the benefit of nature conservation to island communities and people, and secure significant commitments to action by Pacific island nations and partners.
- Review Action Strategy progress, identify constraints and priorities.
- Celebrate achievements and leadership at all levels.
- Exchange/share lessons and best practice.
- Facilitate networks and partnerships.
- Commit to action.

Venue

The conference will take place in Alotau, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea



Alotau is home to the famous Tapiok Dance and Milne Bay for the beautiful islands of Goodenough, Fergusson, Woodlark, Misima, Samarai and the Trobriands.

Alotau was also the venue for the Roundtable for Nature Conservation meeting in 2005. Participants at that meeting were inspired by Milne Bay Province, by the local people and by its natural beauty. Conference delegates can expect the same warm welcome and the opportunity to experience some of the magic and mystery of Papua New Guinea and its people as well as its environment and conservation activities.

Papua New Guinea



With more than 850 indigenous languages and diversity in ethnic groups, you will find PNG both challenging and exciting to visit. The main centres or towns of PNG outside of the capital, Port Moresby, are Lae, Goroka, Kokopo and Madang. The total population of PNG is more than 5.5 million people.

For more information contact:

www.sprep.org/roundtable

Artwork: © Nathalie Le Riche, www.picturetrail.com/leriche

Nearly 85 percent of the main island of New Guinea is covered with tropical rain forest, containing vegetation that is a combination of Asian and Australasian species. PNG has outstanding avifauna, including virtually all of the known species of birds of paradise, and more kinds of orchids than any other country. It is also home to the world's largest fruit bat, birdwing butterfly and the world's smallest parrot.

(Source: Conservation International, Melanesia).

As well as its rich biodiversity and diversity of language and culture, PNG faces many of the same issues and threats as other Pacific island countries and territories. This conference gives others the opportunity to work with PNG to determine how to address these pressing problems.

Security Issues

Living in cities outside of Port Moresby is just like any other Pacific island town. Alotau is trouble-free and highly recommended for tourist visits. It is one of the friendliest towns in PNG and you can walk around unguided as the people are friendly and most speak English.

Be prepared to share a joke or hear laughter as you walk along. Alotau is full of humour and most jokes in PNG originate from this town with the local dialect of English.

Side Events at the Conference



A number of side events will take place during the Conference and these will be confirmed closer to the date.

For more information on side events and scheduling, or to register your interest in coordinating a side event contact: Vainuupo Jungblut, SPREP | vainuupoj@sprep.org | T: (685) 21929

Accommodation

Information on accommodation options will be available by July 2007 at www.sprep.org/roundtable

Conference Coordinators

The Conference is organised by SPREP, the Government of Papua New Guinea, and the Roundtable for Nature Conservation.

Conference manager: Kate Brown-Vitolio, kateb@sprep.org

Conference coordinator: Ruth Touwa Pune, ruthtp@sprep.org

Conference communications: Tamara Logan, tamaral@sprep.org

Conference side events coordinator: Vainuupo Jungblut, vainuupoj@sprep.org

PNG Conference contact: Dr Chalapan Kaluwin, ckaluwin@upng.ac.pg

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REGISTRATION FORM

Limited funding will be available for participation and this will be coordinated by SPREP via SPREP Focal Points in each Pacific island country and territory. We would strongly encourage those people who would like to participate to source their own funding.

First name _____ Last name _____

Title _____

Department _____

Institution/Organization _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email (required) _____

A conference fee will be payable on registration.

Type of registration (tick as appropriate):	AMOUNT
<input type="checkbox"/> International participant (US\$200) - early bird (US\$100) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> National participant (Pacific island) (US\$100) - early bird (US\$50) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Local participant (PNG) No Fee _____	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Student No Fee _____	N/A

TOTAL AMOUNT: _____

SPREP will invoice you for the fee and this will include details of how to make payment. Your registration will become official once this payment has been received by SPREP.

Deadlines

Early bird registration and payment: 25 June 2007

Regular registration and payment: 14 September 2007

Please outline if you require space to exhibit information at the Conference (posters, brochures etc):

Please send/fax/email the completed form to the address below:

SPREP - 'Conservation serving Communities' Conference

PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa

T: (685) 21929

F: (685) 20231

Email: ruthtp@sprep.org

Website: www.sprep.org/roundtable

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