

REVIEW OF THE ACTION STRATEGY FOR NATURE CONSERVATION IN THE PACIFIC ISLAND REGION 2003-2007

**Reports of the Roundtable:
Prepared for the
8th Regional Conference on Protected
Areas and Nature Conservation**

REPORT 2: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING THE ACTION STRATEGY AND ENHANCING ITS IMPLEMENTATION



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CONTENTS

PREFACE	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
1 BACKGROUND	9
1.1 The Roundtable and the Action Strategy	9
1.2 Scope	9
1.3 Methodology	9
1.4 The structure and scope of the current Action Strategy	10
1.5 Conclusions arising from Report 1 and of relevance to this report	11
2 OWNERSHIP OF THE ACTION STRATEGY	12
3 THE VISION, MISSION AND GOALS	12
4 THE TARGETS	13
5 THE OBJECTIVES	13
5.1 Formulating the Objectives	13
5.2 Linkages with the “old” Objectives	14
5.3 Common themes arising from the NBSAPs and other documents	15
5.4 Proposed Objectives	18
5.4.1 Objective 1: Identify, safeguard and conserve priority sites, habitats and ecosystems	18
5.4.2 Objective 2: Safeguard and restore indigenous species of ecological or cultural significance, especially those at risk	18
5.4.3 Manage priority invasive species, prevent new invasions and regulate genetically modified organisms	19
6 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION STRATEGY AND MONITORING PLAN	20
6.1 Implementation at country level	20
6.2 Role of the Roundtable in implementation	21
6.3 The monitoring framework	22
6.4 Funding support	24
ANNEXES	
1 Resolution 7 – The Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation	
2 Review of available NBSAPs and other key documents in search of the themes, objectives or other targets that are common to all or most and which are relevant to the Mission of the Action Strategy	
o Cook Islands Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	
o Fiji Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	
o The Republic of the Marshall Islands Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	
o The Federated States of Micronesia NBSAP – National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	
o Republic of Palau National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	
o Niue National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	
o National Conservation Strategy, Republic of Vanuatu	
o Papua New Guinea National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	
o Samoa’s Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	

- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Tonga
- New Caledonia Biodiversity Conservation Plan
- The Island Biodiversity PoW
- The MDGs
- The Pacific Plan

3 Suggestions for drafting the new Action Strategy document

PREFACE

This report is one of two companion volumes produced by the Roundtable for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands for the 8th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas to be held in Papua New Guinea in October 2007. It reviews the progress that has been achieved with the implementation of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Island Region 2003-2007 over the past five years. The other volume, entitled "*Report 1: Progress Achieved Towards the Objectives of the Action Strategy During the Past Five Years*", comprises the Roundtable's recommendations to the Conference on ways of strengthening the Action Strategy and enhancing the chances of its successful implementation.

While each of the two reports can stand on its own, they are closely related and this close relationship is reflected in the Executive Summary which is common to both reports.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

The Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region for 2003-2007, arose out of the 7th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas which was held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, in July 2002. It was then endorsed by the member country representatives of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) at the September 2003 SPREP Meeting and it was meant to represent a consensus on the priority concerns for conservation and ways in which these can be addressed.

At the same Conference, the delegates officially resolved to confirm the Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation *“as a mechanism for promoting, facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Action Strategy.”* The delegates also confirmed that the Roundtable’s mandate for the next five years was to *“increase effective conservation action in the Pacific Islands”*. And the Roundtable was required to report to the 8th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas on the implementation of the Action Strategy (see Annex 1).

This is the Roundtable’s report to the Conference, contained in two volumes. The first volume is a report on progress towards the Action Strategy; the second volume comprises recommendations from the Roundtable to the Conference on strengthening the Action Strategy and enhancing the effectiveness of its implementation.

Progress towards the Action Strategy

The Strategy had 18 Objectives and progress has been somewhat varied. The assessment carried out by the Roundtable reflects the collective opinion of the members of Working Groups comprising representatives of PICTs, NGOs, donors and other experts. The Working Groups had been assigned specific Objectives and Targets to monitor and report on. All 18 Objectives except Objective 1.6 (climate change) were covered by a Working Group.

This is the first time that targets have been set in the Action Strategy in the expectation that they would apply right across the region. The Roundtable concludes that they did not work as well as expected. The implementation was likely hampered by the volume of targets identified and the very ambitious time line. In addition, some targets were not clearly formulated which left them open to interpretation. The Roundtable also found that it was difficult to apply each specific target equally to all PICTs.

The Objectives were also too numerous and some were overlapping. Like the Targets, their specificity made them difficult to apply equally to the variety of circumstances prevailing in the PICTs. This has influenced the extent of satisfactory progress possible and is reflected in the gradings determined by the Roundtable.

In addition, the system available for reporting progress was not strong or comprehensive enough and there is a need for contacts at the PICTs level. Furthermore, the information base may not be entirely reliable.

Of the 17 Objectives assessed, the Roundtable Working Groups reported that progress has been satisfactory or highly satisfactory for only three Objectives. Progress with eight Objectives was found to be marginally satisfactory and six were considered unsatisfactory.

The Roundtable concludes that the economic and social Goals have diluted the effort of PICTs towards the environment Goal and that it may be more effective for the Action Strategy to focus on the environment Goal in the future while acknowledging parallel initiatives in the region which focus more specifically on the economy and society.

Based on its assessment of progress towards the Objectives, the Roundtable concludes that progress towards the three 30-year Goals of the Action Strategy has been uneven and ranges from satisfactory to unsatisfactory.

Progress towards the Environment Goal, *The biodiversity and natural environment of the Pacific region are conserved*, has been satisfactory. This is not surprising, since it is based on the continuation, improvement and expansion of “core” conservation work.

Progress towards the Economy Goal, *Nature conservation and sustainable resource use are integral parts of all island economies* is probably only marginally satisfactory overall. Engaging the economic sector is a new challenge for the conservation community, and this suggests that it will require more investment and new skills in order to be successful.

Progress towards the Society Goal, *Pacific peoples, their governments, and institutions are leading activities for the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources in the Pacific region*, is deemed to have been unsatisfactory. This is surprising because in the Pacific context, nature conservation is inextricably linked with communities and society in general, and the Roundtable suspects that progress has indeed taken place but may not have fitted the descriptors established by the Objectives and Targets of the Action Strategy.

Strengthening the Action Strategy

A better sense of ownership and commitment are required among those that sign up for the Strategy and this would be helped if the Strategy had a clearer focus by reducing the number of hierarchical layers and Objectives. It needs to be formulated based on specific country/territory priorities but focused on the shared priorities where regional collaboration can make a difference. A stronger Action Strategy will be relevant to each PICT and owned by them, will be endorsed by all PICTs, donors, and NGOs and each must indicate how they expect to use it so it can remain alive after the conference.

The Roundtable recommends that the Action Strategy should reflect the goals and expectations of PICTs and what countries are actually doing. Governments goals should be reflected in the strategy such that this becomes their regional Strategy and the proposed links with the NBSAPs should help bring this about. In addition, the Roundtable can assure the Conference that it will strive to raise awareness of the Action Strategy, improve communication between the Roundtable and the country level, and provide assistance to Governments in implementing their priority actions (e.g. help with identifying technical assistance, funding sources, etc).

The Roundtable further recommends that donors use the Action Strategy to guide and support them when developing projects in the Pacific Region. New initiatives in the region must be seriously integrated with the Action Strategy.

Both the Vision and the Mission of the Strategy focus well on the protection and conservation of the natural heritage and the cultural heritage of the Pacific, and for the ultimate aim of *benefit of the people* and the Roundtable recommends that the Vision and Mission of the Action Strategy remain as they are. On the other hand, the Roundtable recommends that the wording of the Society Goal should be adjusted to link better with the Vision and Mission.

The Targets are too numerous and, like some of the Objectives, they are also too specific to be applicable across the region. The Roundtable feels that the Action Strategy document should do away with the Targets altogether. However, there should be a strong message to Governments, regional organizations, donors, NGOs and other users of the Action Strategy to set their own country-specific Targets through which they will meet the Objectives.

There are currently too many Objectives and some are too specific to be applicable across the entire region. The number of Objectives needs to be reduced, they need to be more generic and less specific so as to apply across the region. While they must be aligned to the Goals, the Objectives need not be linked to any specific Goal.

In selecting Themes to propose for formulating Objectives, the Roundtable was aware of the need to create linkages with the current Strategy and this was considered as a principle for Objective formulation. An effort has therefore been made to ensure that the sentiments, if not the scope, of all the past Objectives, have been carried forward in the new proposals. Some of these linkages are at the Theme level and have been reflected in one of the new Objectives. Some have been adopted as overarching principles for implementation. Others are among the support that will be available for the implementation of each new Objective.

Another formulation principle was the need to reflect the priority themes of NBSAPs and the Island Biodiversity PoW. The Roundtable has therefore reviewed the ten National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) which were available at the time of writing, as well as the New Caledonia Biodiversity Conservation Plan, and the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work of the CBD, as well as the Millennium Development Goals and the Pacific Plan. The Roundtable found 12 common themes, objectives or other targets that could be relevant to the Action Strategy.

In considering which of the 12 themes were to be developed as proposed Objectives, the Roundtable recalled the other two principles it had adopted namely, the need to give prominence to the Environment Goal and the need to keep the number of Objectives as small as possible. With this in mind, the Roundtable proposes the following three Objectives for consideration as potential new Objectives for the Action Strategy:

Objective 1: Identify, safeguard and conserve priority sites, habitats and ecosystems

Objective 2: Safeguard and restore indigenous species of ecological or cultural significance, especially those at risk

Objective 3: Manage priority invasive species, prevent new invasions, and regulate genetically modified organisms

Implementing the Action Strategy

All PICTs, participating NGOs, donor agencies, regional organizations and others with an interest in nature conservation in the Pacific, who have signed or endorsed the Action Strategy will set up Targets, relevant to their circumstances, arising from the Objectives of the Strategy. The Targets, with milestones for the next five years for each relevant Objective, should also cover CBD obligations especially the Island Biodiversity PoW.

Governments and communities must take the initiative to implement the Action Strategy, albeit aided by NGOs, regional organizations and donors.

Priority-setting, coordination and monitoring within a PICT, an NGO or a regional organization, is best entrusted to a Working Group headed by a Focal Point for the Strategy. The in-country Working Group for the implementation of the Action Strategy should ideally comprise the same membership as the NBSAP Steering Group, namely representatives of agencies whose activities benefit from, or have an impact on, the themes covered by the Action Strategy Objectives. These could include environment, fisheries, forests, agriculture and quarantine, water, tourism, economic development, etc. It would be effective to also invite participation from community representatives, relevant NGOs, and the private sector.

The Roundtable will establish a Working Group for each Objective to track and report on progress relying on reports from the country level. The Roundtable WGs will receive regular annual reports

from the Focal Points, augment the information received by their own assessments and report annually to the Roundtable Management Group. The Management Group will arrange for the WG reports to be collated and distributed to all PICTs, other signatories of the Action Strategy and Roundtable members as an annual assessment of overall progress towards the Action Strategy Objectives.

Through its partnership with the Pacific Biodiversity Information Forum (PBIF), the Roundtable will also produce other useful products illustrating the nature conservation situation in the Pacific region. These will include a web-based and up-to-date database of conservation projects and other initiatives in the region together with their status; the database on protected/conservation areas in the region; and, the data and information management functions of the Roundtable will also be able to serve as a means of communicating experiences and lessons learnt across the region.

In their reports on progress towards the Action Strategy Objectives, PICTs will be encouraged to recognize barriers that may have hindered progress and propose solutions. The solutions may identify resources required in addition to what the government can mobilize, and request the Roundtable members to assist with the identification of potential funding sources, expertise, and other resources. In performing this “clearing house” function, the Roundtable will capitalize on the comparative advantage it possesses through its span of membership.

Funding sources for the work under each Objective are varied and range from the allocation of government funds, to self-funding mechanisms for goods and services generated, to traditional sources of funding support, to more innovative sources of funding such as the private sector.

The Roundtable recommends that the Conference should actively seek endorsement of the Action Strategy from PICTs, donors, NGOs, foundations, and regional intergovernmental organizations. Donors, regional organizations and others should recognize the benefits that accrue from the comprehensive context created by the Action Strategy and should align their programmes to the Action Strategy. Statements of commitment along these lines will provide a clear signal to PICTs that support will be available for work under the Action Strategy, and will go a long way towards ensuring the viability of the Strategy. The Action Strategy then, would serve as the venue for bringing together all plans, programmes and activities for conservation under one cohesive regional framework.

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Roundtable and the Action Strategy

The Roundtable for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Island Region is a growing coalition of conservation organizations and donor agencies created to increase effective conservation action in the Pacific Island Region. It was formed in 1997 at the request of Pacific Island countries and territories to serve as a forum whereby organizations working on nature conservation in the Pacific could improve their collaboration and coordination and increase effective conservation action. In particular, the Roundtable serves as the coordination mechanism for the implementation of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Island Region. The Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region for 2003-2007, arose out of the 7th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas which was held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, in July 2002. It was then endorsed by the member country representatives of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) at the September 2003 SPREP Meeting and it is meant to represent a consensus on the priority concerns for conservation and ways in which these can be addressed.

At the same Conference, the delegates officially resolved to confirm the Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation “as a mechanism for promoting, facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Action Strategy.” The delegates also confirmed that the Roundtable’s mandate for the next five years was to “increase effective conservation action in the Pacific Islands”. And the Roundtable was required to report to the 8th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas on the implementation of the Action Strategy (see Annex 1).

This is the second of two reports by the Roundtable to the Conference.

1.2 Scope

The overall scope of work comprised a review of current monitoring and evaluation systems; a review of the Objectives and Targets of the Action Strategy and an evaluation of the corresponding achievements; proposals for adjustments to the Objectives, Targets and Indicators of the Strategy; and, the development of a sustainable monitoring and evaluation process/mechanism for long term monitoring of progress with the Strategy. The results of this work are carried in two reports. This report, which focuses on strengthening the Action Strategy, starts with a brief review of the background to the Action Strategy and this is followed by recommendations for strengthening the Action Strategy and for enhancing its implementation.

1.3 Methodology

The approach and methodology applied to this task have been inclusive and participatory, and electronic means of communication as well as face-to-face meetings have been employed. The electronic distribution of documents failed to result in the expected level of response. However, face-to-face meetings during country visits and Roundtable meetings made up for this deficiency.

The work commenced with desk reviews of various documents including website research. Country visits were undertaken to Samoa, Fiji, New Caledonia, Hawaii, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Meetings were also held in New Zealand. An emailed Questionnaire was sent out to over 200 recipients. The results of reviews and discussions and the questionnaire responses were used as the basis for various reports which were distributed widely with an invitation for further comments and reactions. Specific individuals such as key members of the Roundtable and the Chairs of Working Groups were approached specifically and invited to respond or react to questions or issues raised for discussion.

The final draft of this report was circulated widely throughout the region with an invitation for comments and these were taken into account fully when the final report was produced by the drafting group set up by the Roundtable.

1.4 The structure and scope of the current Action Strategy

The Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region is reviewed every five years at the Pacific Regional Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. The current Strategy for 2003-2007 arose out of the 7th Conference in 2002. The Strategy, which is considered as a Type II Partnership Initiative for mainstreaming conservation under the World Summit on Sustainable Development, was endorsed by all 25 member country representatives of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme at the 2003 SPREP Meeting. It represents a consensus of the priority concerns for conservation across the region and ways in which these can be addressed.

The **Vision** set by the Action Strategy for the Pacific is :

Our people proudly honour our natural heritage and cultural identity,
The waters of our streams, lagoons and ocean are bountiful and crystal clear,
Our mountains are wild, our forests pristine and our beaches unspoiled,
Our societies are vibrant and diverse,
We have equitable relationships with our global partners and our economies thrive,
Our cultures and traditions are widely appreciated, and
The products of our creativity and labour are especially prized.
Islands of Life ... Pure Pacific

The **Mission** is :

To protect and conserve the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Pacific Islands forever for the benefit of the people of the Pacific and the world

Both the Vision and the Mission focus well on the protection and conservation of the natural heritage and the cultural heritage of the Pacific, with the ultimate aim of *benefit of the people*.

The Strategy has three 30-year **Goals** based on the three accepted pillars for sustainable development. These are :

- The **Environment** goal -
The biodiversity and natural environment of the Pacific region are conserved
- The **Economy** goal -
Nature conservation and sustainable resource use are integral parts of all island economies
- The **Society** goal -
Pacific peoples, their governments, and institutions are leading activities for the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources in the Pacific region

The Goals expand somewhat on the scope established by the Vision and Mission by bringing in economic considerations as well as sustainable development. On the other hand, the protection and conservation of cultural heritage, which is equal to natural heritage in the Mission, is not mentioned in the Goals and benefits for the people are implied rather than explicit as in the Mission.

The three Goals give rise to 18 **Objectives** as follows:

Environment Objectives

- 1.1 Establish and strengthen conservation networks and partnerships
- 1.2 Increase the number of areas under effective conservation management
- 1.3 Bring each PICT's priority invasive species under effective control, and prevent new introductions of marine and terrestrial alien, invasive species and regulate genetically modified organisms
- 1.4 Safeguard and restore threatened species of ecological and cultural significance

- 1.5 Safeguard and restore threatened areas of ecological and cultural significance
- 1.6 Address the impacts of climate change on the natural environment and biodiversity
- 1.7 Improve knowledge and understanding of the state of the Pacific's natural environment and biodiversity

Economy Objectives

- 2.1 Develop multi sector partnerships for sustainable resource use and management
- 2.2 Develop and enforce integrated environmental, economic and social planning, policy and legal frameworks
- 2.3 Foster economic instruments that create incentives for conservation and remove those with negative impacts
- 2.4 Strengthen resource and environmental valuation for effective decision making
- 2.5 Engage business in environmentally sound practices and support for conservation
- 2.6 Create sustainable financial mechanisms
- 2.7 Promote sustainable livelihoods to eradicate poverty

Society Objectives

- 3.1 Empower local people, communities and institutions to effectively participate in decision making and action
- 3.2 Recognize and integrate customary structures and processes in natural resource and environmental governance systems
- 3.3 Safeguard and strengthen traditional knowledge and practices
- 3.4 Raise awareness and promote conservation values

The Objectives broaden further the scope of the Strategy, beyond the Vision and Mission and create a series of specific outputs. Each objective is further elaborated by a cluster of 5-year **Targets** making a total of 77 targets in all.

1.5 Conclusions arising from Report 1 and of relevance to this report

Report 1: Progress achieved towards the Objectives of the Action Strategy during the past five years, reviewed the Action Strategy and, in assessing progress, it also reached conclusions on weaknesses of the Action Strategy and potential remedies. In summary, the conclusions from Report 1, which are relevant to this Report, were the following:

- This is the first time that targets have been set in the Action Strategy in the expectation that they would apply right across the region. The Roundtable concludes that they did not work as well as expected. The implementation was likely hampered by the volume of targets identified and the very ambitious time line. In addition, some targets were not clearly formulated which left them open to interpretation. The Roundtable also found that it was difficult to apply each specific target equally to all PICTs.
- The Objectives were also too numerous and some were overlapping. Like the Targets, their specificity made them difficult to apply to the variety of circumstances prevailing in the PICTs. This has influenced the extent of satisfactory progress possible and is reflected in the gradings determined by the Roundtable.
- The system available for reporting progress was not strong or comprehensive enough and there is a need for contacts at the PICTs level; the information base may not be entirely reliable.
- The economic and social Goals have diluted the effort of PICTs towards the environment Goal and it may be more effective for the Action Strategy to focus on the environment Goal in the future.

Arising from its assessment of progress and its review of the Action Strategy in general, the Roundtable can report to the Conference that strengthening of the Action Strategy is possible in terms of its ownership, its scope and structure, and its implementation mechanisms. Each of these is addressed in this Report.

2 OWNERSHIP OF THE ACTION STRATEGY

The Roundtable found that ownership of the Action Strategy was a major problem - the Strategy is either unknown, or has been forgotten, by most in the region. It is often confused with the SPREP Action Plan, comparatively few in the region appear to know of its existence and fewer still are conversant with its commitments. Since the Strategy has to be implemented at country level, this lack of ownership is a serious problem.

A better sense of ownership and commitment are required among those that sign up for the Strategy and this would be helped if the Strategy had a clearer focus by reducing the number of hierarchical layers and Objectives. It needs to focus on specific country priorities but also reflect shared priorities where regional collaboration can make a difference.

Representations to the Roundtable noted that the Strategy must be linked much more closely with the NBSAPs since this would reflect more directly the scope and priorities of the PICTs and be more useful for Governments and their partners. Likewise, if it were to reflect recent regional and international initiatives such as the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work, the Action Strategy was more likely to be recognized by regional and international organizations. In order to assist this, the Roundtable also recommends that the new Action Strategy Objectives should be cross-referenced to similar objectives expressed in related strategies and other instruments.

The Roundtable recommends that the Action Strategy should reflect the goals and expectations of PICTs and what countries are actually doing. Governments should feel that this is their Strategy and the proposed links with the NBSAPs should help bring this about. In addition, the Roundtable can assure the Conference that it will strive to raise awareness of the Action Strategy, improve communication between the Roundtable and the country level, and provide assistance to Governments in implementing their priority actions (e.g. help with identifying technical assistance, funding sources, etc).

The Roundtable further recommends that donors should use the Action Strategy to guide and support them when developing projects in the Pacific Region. New initiatives in the region should be seriously integrated with the Action Strategy.

3 THE VISION, MISSION AND GOALS

Both the Vision and the Mission of the Strategy focus well on the protection and conservation of the natural heritage and the cultural heritage of the Pacific. Both focus strongly on people, with the Mission's ultimate aim being the *benefit of the people*.

The Roundtable recommends that the Vision and Mission of the Action Strategy remain as they are.

The three 30-year Goals, based on the three accepted pillars for sustainable development, expand somewhat on the scope established by the Vision and Mission by bringing in economic considerations. They also go beyond protection and conservation and bring in sustainable development. On the other hand, the protection and conservation of cultural heritage, which is equal to natural heritage in the Mission, is not mentioned in the Goals, and benefits for the people are implied rather than explicit as in the Mission. As discussed in the assessment of progress, the Roundtable found that the economic and social Goals have diluted the effort of PICTs towards the environment Goal and that it may be more effective for the Action Strategy to focus on the environment Goal in the future while acknowledging parallel initiatives in the region which focus more specifically on the economy and society. The goals could either be removed and incorporated into the Objectives, or their wording should be reviewed to better reflect the sentiments expressed by the Vision and Mission.

The Roundtable recommends that the Goals be retained, however, in an effort to reflect better the sentiments expressed in the Vision and Mission regarding natural heritage and benefit for the people, the Roundtable recommends that while the wording of the Environment and Economy Goals remain the same, the Society Goal be reworded along the following lines:

Table 1. Proposed changes to the Society Goal

	CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED NEW WORDING
Society Goal	Pacific peoples, their governments, and institutions are leading activities for the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources in the Pacific region	Pacific peoples are leading activities for the sustainable use of natural resources and the preservation of cultural heritage for the benefit of present and future generations

4 THE TARGETS

As noted above, progress towards the specific Objectives and Targets of the Action Strategy, as assessed by the Roundtable, has been uneven and there is a possibility that a degree of progress was not captured by the specificity of the Targets. The Roundtable notes that the Targets were too specific to apply across the region and some were quite unrealistic within the five-year timeframe. While the direction they set was the correct one, the specific targets that were set, especially the quantifiable ones, were not always achievable.

The Targets are too numerous and, like some of the Objectives, they are also too specific to be applicable across the region. The Roundtable feels that the Action Strategy document should do away with the Targets altogether since it would be more effective to focus on targets primarily at country level. Regional targets may also be set to advance shared strategic priorities and focus on issues in need of innovation.

The Roundtable recommends that PICTs, NGOs, donor agencies and other implementers of the Strategy should develop their own specific Targets reflecting the manner in which they propose to implement the Action Strategy and attain its Objectives. Setting of Targets must be seen as part of the Strategy implementation process.

5 THE OBJECTIVES

5.1 Formulating the Objectives

The current Objectives do reflect the Vision and Mission but they are too specific and ambitious and some could qualify as outputs. In an effort to make them more precise and accommodate a range of opinion, the Objectives had been split excessively leading to a higher number and creating a formidable array for PICTs to aim for. As a result, there are too many Objectives.

The Roundtable believes that in addition to reducing their number, there is a need for Objectives to encompass country priorities and recommends that the Objectives should be reviewed to better reflect NBSAPs and the Island Biodiversity PoW. While they must be allied to the Goals, the Objectives need not be linked to any specific Goal.

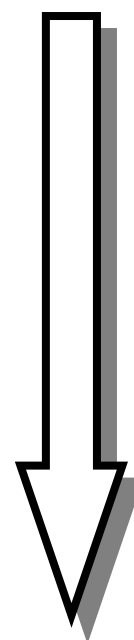
In developing its proposals for new Objectives for the Action Strategy, the Roundtable was guided by the following principles:

- There need to be linkages with the “old” Objectives to the extent possible
- The Environment Goal is to be pursued ahead of the Economy and the Society Goals
- The number of Objectives should be as small as possible without sacrificing the priority initiatives of the Environment Goal
- The Objectives should arise from the priority themes of the NBSAPs and the Island Biodiversity PoW

The result has been a focus on three themes namely, Habitats/Ecosystems, Species at Risk, and Invasive Species. These three themes gave rise to three proposed Objectives in turn. The flow path in the table below illustrates how the three proposed Objectives arose out of the three Themes. The formulation level is followed by the implementation level which shows the principles that will influence and inform the implementation process, together with the elements that will support implementation. Finally, the bottom level is the Targets layer which will comprise the specific Targets that will be developed and adopted by PICTs, NGOs, donors, regional organizations and others implementing the Action Strategy.

Table 2. Formulation of the proposed Objectives from the themes according to adopted formulation principles, together with the principles and support available for implementation

FORMULATION	THEMES	Theme 1: PROTECTED AREAS, CONSERVATION AREAS, HABITATS, AND ECOSYSTEMS	Theme 2: SPECIES CONSERVATION, ENDEMIC, AGROBIODIVERSITY	Theme 3: INVASIVE SPECIES AND GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS
	PRINCIPLES FOR FORMULATION	Linkages with the “old” Objectives to the extent possible Environment Goal is paramount The number of Objectives should be as small as possible Among priority themes of NBSAPs and the Island Biodiversity PoW		
	NEW OBJECTIVES	Objective 1: IDENTIFY, SAFEGUARD AND CONSERVE PRIORITY SITES, HABITATS AND ECOSYSTEMS	Objective 2: SAFEGUARD AND RESTORE INDIGENOUS SPECIES OF ECOLOGICAL OR CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, ESPECIALLY THOSE AT RISK	Objective 3: MANAGE PRIORITY INVASIVE SPECIES, PREVENT NEW INVASIONS, AND REGULATE GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS
IMPLEMENTATION	PRINCIPLES FOR IMPLEMENTATION	Traditional culture and community values/aspirations Indigenous property rights / community management CBNRM Sustainability of resource use Financial sustainability Local capacity building Good governance Resilience to climate change		
	IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT	Information management Outreach Communication and education Research		
	TARGETS AT COUNTRY LEVEL, BY NGOs, AND DONORS	Specific targets at project level aimed to achieve the Objective, according to the Implementation Principles, and with the Implementation Support		



5.2 Linkages with the “old” Objectives

In selecting Themes to propose for formulating Objectives, the Roundtable was aware of the need to create linkages with the current Strategy and this was considered as a principle for Objective formulation. An effort has therefore been made to ensure that at least the sentiments, if not the

scope, of all the past Objectives, have been carried forward in the new proposals. Some of these linkages are at the Theme level and have been reflected in one of the new Objectives. Some have been adopted as overarching principles for implementation. Others are among the support elements that will be available for the implementation of each new Objective. The table below provides a summary of the linkages.

Table 3. Linkages between the old Objectives and the new proposals

OLD OBJECTIVE	LINKAGES WITH NEW PROPOSALS
1.1 Establish and strengthen conservation networks and partnerships	New Objective 1
1.2 Increase the number of areas under effective conservation management	New Objective 1
1.3 Bring each PICT's priority invasive species under effective control, and prevent new introductions of marine and terrestrial alien, invasive species and regulate genetically modified organisms	New Objective 3
1.4 Safeguard and restore threatened species of ecological and cultural significance	New Objective 2
1.5 Safeguard and restore threatened areas of ecological and cultural significance	New Objective 1
1.6 Address the impacts of climate change on the natural environment and biodiversity	Resilience to climate change is a principle for implementation of each Objective
1.7 Improve knowledge and understanding of the state of the Pacific's natural environment and biodiversity	Research and information management are elements of implementation support
2.1 Develop multi sector partnerships for sustainable resource use and management	Sustainability of resource use is a principle for implementation of each Objective
2.2 Develop and enforce integrated environmental, economic and social planning, policy and legal frameworks	Good governance is a principle for the implementation of each of the Objectives
2.3 Foster economic instruments that create incentives for conservation and remove those with negative impacts	
2.4 Strengthen resource and environmental valuation for effective decision making	
2.5 Engage business in environmentally sound practices and support for conservation	Capacity building at all levels (including the private sector) is a principle for implementation of each Objective
2.6 Create sustainable financial mechanisms	Financial sustainability is a principle for implementation of each of the Objectives
2.7 Promote sustainable livelihoods to eradicate poverty	Sustainability of resource use and indigenous property rights are principles for implementation of each Objective
3.1 Empower local people, communities and institutions to effectively participate in decision making and action	Community management (CBNRM) is a principle of implementation for each Objective
3.2 Recognize and integrate customary structures and processes in natural resource and environmental governance systems	Traditional values and indigenous property rights are principles for implementation of each Objective
3.3 Safeguard and strengthen traditional knowledge and practices	
3.4 Raise awareness and promote conservation values	Outreach, communication and education are elements of implementation support

5.3 Common themes arising from the NBSAPs and other documents

Another formulation principle was the need to reflect the priority themes of NBSAPs and the Island Biodiversity PoW. The Roundtable has therefore reviewed the ten National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) which were available at the time of writing, as well as the New Caledonia Biodiversity Conservation Plan, and the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work of the CBD, as well as the Millennium Development Goals and the Pacific Plan, in search of common themes, objectives or other targets that might be relevant to the Action Strategy. The full results of the review can be found in Annex 2 while Table 4 below provides a summary of the findings.

Table 4. Summary of common themes, objectives and targets from available NBSAPs and other documents

THEMES, OBJECTIVES, TARGETS	NBSAPs											OTHERS			TOTALS
	COOK ISLANDS	F S MICRONESIA	FIJI	MARSHALL ISLANDS	NIUE	PALAU	VANUATU	SAMOA	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	TONGA	NEW CALEDONIA Biodiversity Conservation Plan	MDGs – GOAL 7	PACIFIC PLAN	ISLAND BIODIVERSITY PoW	
Community – empowerment, awareness, involvement, ownership and benefits		√	√	√		√		√	√	√				√	8
Traditional culture and practices; indigenous property rights	√	√	√	√				√	√	√				√	8
Improving knowledge, research, education, public awareness	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			√	12
Developing and managing protected areas, habitats	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	13
Species conservation – terrestrial, coastal and marine, and agrobiodiversity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	13
Management of invasive species and genetically modified organisms	√	√	√	√	√	√		√		√	√			√	10
Capacity building and training, Governance		√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√			√	10
Sustainable economic development, sustainable use of resources		√	√	√	√	√	√		√		√	√	√	√	11
Mainstreaming conservation	√	√				√		√		√		√			6
Financial resources, mechanisms	√	√	√		√			√		√			√	√	8
Waste management, pollution		√		√	√	√							√	√	6
Natural disasters														√	1
Energy													√		1
Climate change													√	√	2
Water management													√		1

As can be seen from the Table above, 12 themes emerge from the NBSAPs, the New Caledonia BCP, the Island Biodiversity PoW and other documents. These are:

- Community – empowerment, awareness, involvement, ownership and benefits
- Traditional culture and practices; indigenous property rights
- Improving knowledge, research, education, public awareness
- Developing and managing protected areas, habitats
- Species conservation – terrestrial, coastal and marine, and agrobiodiversity
- Management of invasive species and genetically modified organisms
- Capacity building and training, Governance
- Sustainable economic development, sustainable use of resources
- Mainstreaming conservation
- Financial resources, mechanisms
- Waste management
- Climate change

In considering which of the above themes were to be developed as proposed Objectives, the Roundtable recalled the other two principles it had adopted (see Table 2) namely, the need to give prominence to the Environment Goal and the need to keep the number of Objectives as small as possible.

Two of the three most mentioned themes, Protected Areas/Habitats and Species Conservation, focus well on nature conservation and have been adopted as two of the proposed new Objectives. The third most popular theme, Research/Information Management, is not considered an Objective, however, it is seen as an essential support element for implementation.

Of the next three most mentioned themes, the Roundtable believes that Management of Invasives is such a priority problem in the Pacific that it warrants being created as an Objective in its own right. On the other hand, Sustainable Development (economic or otherwise) is too broad to be an Objective under the Action Strategy and is more of an outcome. Likewise, Sustainable Resource Use, Good Governance and Capacity Building are not seen as Objectives – they are principles which need to be adhered to during implementation.

The table below provides a summary of how each of the various themes arising from the NBSAPs and other documents will be reflected and catered for in the new Action Strategy.

Table 5. Indication of how themes arising from the NBSAPs and elsewhere will be reflected in the proposed new Action Strategy

THEMES ARISING FROM NBSAPs and OTHER DOCUMENTS	REFLECTION IN NEW ACTION STRATEGY
Community – empowerment, awareness, involvement, ownership and benefits	Community participation, traditional values, and related elements are not seen as a simple Objective – they are considered as overarching principles for the implementation of all Objectives
Traditional culture and practices; indigenous property rights	
Improving knowledge, research, education, public awareness	Information and knowledge management is a fundamental requirement, but it is not seen as an objective in itself. Instead it is considered as part of the implementation support for all Objectives
Developing and managing protected areas, habitats	Reflected fully in the New Objective 1
Species conservation – terrestrial, coastal and marine, and agrobiodiversity	Reflected fully in the New Objective 2
Management of invasive species and genetically modified organisms	Reflected fully in the New Objective 3
Capacity building and training, Governance	This is a means to an end and it applies to all Objectives. It has therefore been adopted as one of the implementation principles for all Objectives
Sustainable economic development, sustainable use of resources	In focussing on the “Environment” pillar, the RT does not see this as an Objective for the Action Strategy. However, Sustainability of Resource Use is proposed as a principle for implementation
Mainstreaming conservation	While this may be a valid objective at country level, for the Action Strategy it is the sub-title, and serves as an overall outcome to be targeted by all themes and objectives
Financial resources, mechanisms	This is a means to an end and while it may not be an Objective, Financial Sustainability is an essential principle for implementation of all Objectives
Waste management	Four NBSAPs and the IBPoW address waste management and pollution but this theme is not being proposed for the Action Strategy.
Climate change	Climate change does not feature in NBSAPs (it is however, mentioned in the IBPoW and the Pacific Plan) because it is the subject of dedicated plans and strategies. However, the Roundtable is aware of the need to link climate change and conservation to the extent possible to reflect the consequences of one on the other – resilience to climate change is therefore proposed as a principle for implementation

5.4 Proposed Objectives

Starting with the current Objectives of the Action Strategy, aiming to reflect better the Vision and Mission, striving to encompass the themes and objectives of the NBSAPs as well as the Island Biodiversity PoW, and seeking a better focussed framework, the Roundtable recommends the following three Objectives for consideration as potential new Objectives for the Action Strategy.

5.4.1 Objective 1: Identify, safeguard and conserve priority sites, habitats and ecosystems

This Objective reflects the previous Obj.1.2 *Increase the number of areas under effective conservation management* and Obj.1.5 *Safeguard and restore threatened areas of ecological and cultural significance*. It also arises strongly from the NBSAPs review where it is found in all the NBSAPs, as well as in the New Caledonia BCP, the MDGs and the Island Biodiversity PoW.

The theme is focussed on areas of land, freshwater and sea that are important from a biodiversity point of view and from a cultural perspective, which are managed/protected/conserved to maintain or enhance their ecological quality as habitats and their value as providers of ecological goods and services. However, the Roundtable has had some difficulty determining what is accepted as a “protected” area, particularly in the Pacific context, and the Conference is invited to determine this definition.

Regardless of the legal status of the areas in question, activities under this theme will seek to provide effective protection so as to obtain improvements in environmental quality. However, the definition of “effective” is also in need of clarification and the Conference is asked for guidance on this as well.

The implementation of this objective will be at PICT level where well-managed protected and/or conservation areas contribute to the local and national economy. The management of areas of land and sea under this Objective will be carried out in a sustainable manner, providing sustainable economic activities consistent with the conservation of biodiversity.

Changes in climate are bound to have repercussions for all natural resources and it is essential to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems to climate change.

The goods and services available from well-managed terrestrial, freshwater and marine “protected” areas may generate an income or other benefits such as ecological services, thus contributing to sustainability goals.

Monitoring elements: Progress towards this Objective could be assessed by adopting the monitoring efforts and results obtained by specialized agencies, most probably through remote sensing. These efforts could focus on land use (change in forest cover), mangroves environmental quality, and/or condition of coral reefs. Alternatively, or in addition to this, monitoring could focus on effective management of Conservation Areas, starting with the adoption of a PICT list of conservation/protected areas, an assessment of management effectiveness (when this has been defined), and an identification of macro-trends in terms of habitat size and condition.

5.4.2 Objective 2: Safeguard and restore indigenous species of ecological or cultural significance, especially those at risk

This Objective carries forward previous Obj.1.4 *Safeguard and restore threatened species of ecological and cultural significance*. It also recognizes species with agrobiodiversity values and those of cultural importance which may also be at risk whether they are terrestrial, freshwater,

coastal or marine. It arises strongly from the NBSAPs reviewed, being found in each of the NBSAPs as well as the New Caledonia BCP. It is also featured in the Pacific Plan and the Island Biodiversity PoW. There is definitely an existing commitment to this theme at PICTs level.

Activities under this Objective will strive towards the protection of vulnerable species and the recovery of those at risk. It will be aligned closely with the previous Objective above which seeks to protect habitats.

Work on some species can be based at country level, especially *in situ* conservation work. However, collaboration on a regional basis is required for migratory species and is also likely to be mutually beneficial for some endemic species as well. Some species, such as crops and livestock as well as traditional foods, medicinal herbs, fibres, dyes, building materials, etc, have an economic value and work on these species with a commercial value should be self-funding. Work on species with a cultural or purely ecological value will rely on traditional funding support as well some innovative funding sources such as the private sector.

The resilience of species to changes in climate, must be maintained and enhanced. In particular, species at risk should not be subjected to any stresses in addition to those imposed by climate.

Monitoring elements: The vast scope of this Objective may lead to difficulties with monitoring. Many proposals have been made for the adoption of indicator species to be monitored, such as turtles, spawning aggregations, coastal fisheries, etc. The Roundtable Working group could select specific priority species and then monitor their state against targets set by lead PICTs or agencies. It may also be possible to monitor the IUCN Red Data List to note trends, and the percentage of species at risk and those of cultural significance that have management plans, but this last indicator may be somewhat superficial.

5.4.3 Objective 3: Manage priority invasive species, prevent new invasions, and regulate genetically modified organisms

This Objective is merely a rewording of previous *Obj.1.3 Bring each PICT's priority invasive species under effective control, and prevent new introductions of marine and terrestrial alien, invasive species and regulate genetically modified organisms.* It arises strongly from the NBSAPs review which indicates that PICTs are already committed to action on this issue. It is also one of the Goals in the Island Biodiversity PoW.

Under this Objective, activities are likely to concentrate on controlling if not eradicating invasive species and preventing the introduction of new ones. Invasive species activities must take place at both country and regional level. Combating the introduction of new species and controlling those that have already arrived, is a national activity. However, avoiding the spread of invasives, the operation of an early warning system, and similar initiatives are best coordinated from a regional perspective.

Invasive species pose an economic as well as an ecological threat and the economic implications of invasive species range from impact on food species (plants and animals agriculture), to human health pathogens, to changes in landscape, increased stress on endangered species, loss of biological diversity, impact on tourism. Invasive species are also a threat to sustainable development and any improvement in the situation will increase the chances of development being sustainable.

Changes in climate may remove one of the influences controlling the spread of some invasive species and as climate changes, relevant authorities need to remain vigilant to the possibility of invasions from species previously considered as under control.

The sharing of information on invasives is essential to control their spread within the region and globally. Effective communication is therefore absolutely critical and ideally it should be possible to reach all participating partners, in real time, to warn of an imminent threat.

Controlling invasives requires adequate resources. Because of the national economic implications of invasive species, their control is seen as a core activity of governments and funds should be made available from central government budgets, possibly supplemented by contributions from those sectors who have most to lose/gain such as agriculture, fisheries, tourism, health, etc. In addition, as a reflection of their regional and global significance, work on invasives needs to be supported also by multilateral and bilateral organizations with international donors giving priority to policy changes and programmes that prevent the spread of invasive species.

Monitoring elements: Information generated through the Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN) and the Pacific Invasives Initiative could be used to assess progress towards this Objective. In particular, the Network could advise the Roundtable Working Group on increases in invasive species, new infestations in PICTs, species that have been brought under control, etc.

6 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION STRATEGY AND MONITORING PLAN

The fine-tuned Action Strategy must have an equal emphasis on “Action” as well as on “Strategy” and implementation must be a commitment of all signatories. All PICTs, participating NGOs, donor agencies, regional organizations and others with an interest in nature conservation in the Pacific, who have signed or endorsed the Action Strategy will set up Targets, relevant to their circumstances, arising from the Objectives of the Strategy. The Targets, with milestones for the next five years for each relevant Objective, should also cover CBD obligations especially the Island Biodiversity PoW.

However, it is Governments and communities that must take the initiative to implement the Action Strategy, albeit aided by NGOs, regional organizations and donors. Implementation of the Action Strategy at country level is discussed in the following sub-section. This is followed by a discussion of implementation at the Roundtable level. Finally, a possible monitoring framework is explored and funding support is considered.

6.1 Implementation at country level

Implementation of the Action Strategy at country level can be considered in two parts. First, the priority-setting and coordination; and second, the implementation of projects, monitoring and other activities.

Priority-setting, coordination and monitoring within a PICT, an NGO or a regional organization, is best entrusted to a Working Group headed by a Focal Point for the Strategy. Ideally, this position is best held by the coordinator of the NBSAP implementation process.

The capacity of the Focal Point should be augmented by the establishment of an in-country Working Group for the implementation of the Action Strategy. The WG could comprise the same membership as the NBSAP Steering Group, namely representatives of agencies whose activities benefit from, or have an impact on, the themes covered by the Action Strategy Objectives. These could include environment, fisheries, forests, agriculture and quarantine, water, tourism, economic development, etc. It would be effective to also invite participation from community representatives, relevant NGOs, and the private sector.

The WG members will agree on priorities in-country or within the organization (for NGOs, donors and regional organizations) and these will lead to the adoption of a small portfolio of Targets for each Objective. The Targets, which will be at project level, need to be country-specific for PICTs. Multilateral donors and big NGOs can be expected to adopt regional Targets, however, these too should be aligned with PICT priority Targets.

Implementation of projects and other activities will be undertaken by Government organizations, civil society and NGOs through activities which contribute to the attaining of the Action Strategy Objectives. They will monitor and report through their representatives to the in-country Working Group on progress being made towards the adopted Targets and Objectives (using templates and other guidance provided by the Roundtable). The Focal Point will maintain an active communication link with the Roundtable Working Groups to report on progress and priorities at least once a year on behalf of the in-country WG and the Government or organization.

6.2 Role of the Roundtable in implementation

The Roundtable was assigned the responsibility for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Action Strategy by the 7th Conference (see Annex 1) and this role is expected to be reconfirmed as one of the functions of the Roundtable. While the prime responsibility for implementation of the Action Strategy and reporting on progress against targets will lie at the country level, the analysis of progress reports and the production of a regional overview will lie with the Roundtable.

In order to satisfy its monitoring and reporting responsibilities, the Roundtable will set up a Working Group for each of the adopted Objectives to track and report on progress relying on reports from the country level. The operational links between the Roundtable WGs and the Focal Points at PICT, NGO or regional organization level, are discussed in the following section on monitoring.

The Roundtable WGs will receive regular annual reports from the Focal Points, augment the information received by their own assessments and report annually to the Roundtable Management Group. The Management Group will arrange for the WG reports to be collated and distributed to all PICTs and Roundtable members as an annual assessment of overall progress towards the Action Strategy Objectives.

Through its partnership with the Pacific Biodiversity Information Forum (PBIF) and others, the Roundtable will also produce other useful products illustrating the nature conservation situation in the Pacific region. These will include a web-based and up-to-date database of conservation projects and other initiatives in the region together with their status; and the database on protected/conservation areas in the region. The PBIF will provide the data and information management functions of the Roundtable and will also be able to serve as a means of archiving experiences and lessons learnt across the region.

In their reports on progress towards the Action Strategy Objectives, PICTs will be encouraged to recognize barriers that may have hindered progress and propose solutions. The solutions may identify resources required in addition to what the government can mobilize, and request the Roundtable members to assist with the identification of potential funding sources, expertise, and other resources. In performing this “stock exchange” function, the Roundtable will capitalize on the comparative advantage it possesses through its span of membership.

6.3 The monitoring framework

When the Conference has adopted a set of new Objectives for the Action Strategy, a monitoring framework will be needed to provide a comprehensive picture of the outcomes and impacts being achieved region-wide and to measure progress towards the Objectives for the next five years. The monitoring framework will comprise elements at PICT level as well as at Roundtable level and the key steps for establishing the framework are the following:

- The Roundtable Management Group will establish a Working Group for each of the Objectives of the Action Strategy adopted by the Conference
- Roundtable WGs will assist the Focal Points at country/organization level to adopt and share their Targets for the next five years
- Each of the Roundtable WGs will determine whether the Objective they are responsible for can be monitored directly, how and by whom
- If direct monitoring is not feasible, the WGs will identify monitoring activities by others, most probably on a regional basis, which can be utilized by the Roundtable to assess progress towards the Action strategy Objectives
- They will also determine how the information arising from the monitored targets can be aggregated to indicate progress at Objective level
- The WGs will then set the baseline for their Objective, select indicators as necessary, and develop templates and other guidance for the in-country Focal Points to assess progress together with their respective country Working Groups

Once the monitoring framework is established and it becomes operational, the key linkages will be as follows:

- Members of the in-country Working Groups, led by the Focal Point, will report on progress according to the templates, indicators and guidance provided by the Roundtable WGs
- The in-country Working Groups will collate their results to provide a Country/Territory Report on progress with each of the Objectives. A similar exercise can be undertaken by NGOs, regional organizations and donors.
- Focal Points convey their Country/Territory Report to the respective Roundtable WGs once a year
- The Roundtable WGs will supplement the reports received from PICTs and elsewhere with their own research and assessments and produce a regional report on progress for their respective Objective
- The Roundtable Management Group will collate the reports on specific Objectives to produce a regional overview report on progress towards the Action Strategy as a whole
- At the end of the five year period, the Roundtable will formally present its report on progress to the Conference

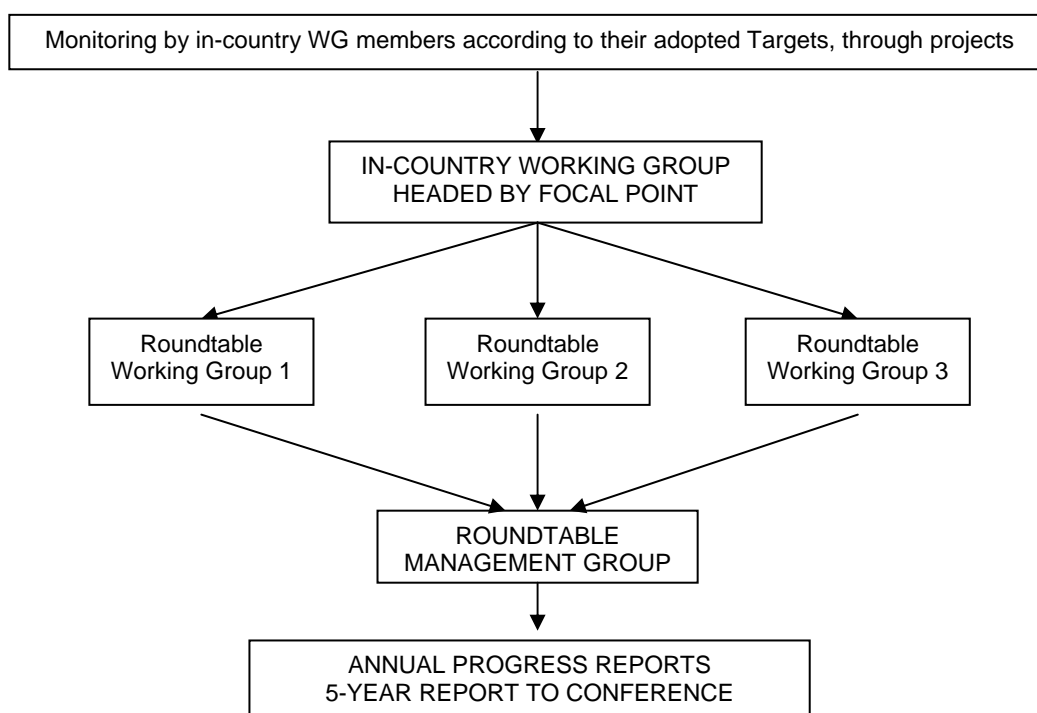
Potential monitoring activities are discussed in Section 5.4 above under each Objective and they are repeated below in Table 6 which also shows the link with the Island Biodiversity PoW, thus indicating the broader application of the monitoring results.

The flow diagram which follows Table 6 is a graphic illustration of the flow of information within the monitoring framework. Although the diagram refers only to in-country monitoring of Targets, an identical set-up is expected to be established by NGOs and possibly donors and regional organizations.

Table 6. Proposed Objectives, link with IBPoW and potential monitoring mechanisms

OBJECTIVE	LINK WITH IBPoW	POTENTIAL MONITORING MECHANISMS
1 Conservation areas, habitats and ecosystems	Focal Area 1 – Goal 1; Focal Area 3 – Goal 5	Progress towards this Objective could be assessed by adopting the monitoring efforts and results obtained by specialized agencies, most probably through remote sensing. These efforts could focus on land use (change in forest cover), mangroves environmental quality, condition of coral reefs. Alternatively, or in addition to this, monitoring could focus on effective management of Conservation Areas, starting with the adoption of a PICT list of conservation/protected areas, an assessment of management effectiveness (when this has been defined), and an identification of macro-trends in terms of habitat size and condition. The Roundtable has explored potential indicators for monitoring this Objective.
2 Indigenous species, especially those at risk	Focal Area 1 – Goals 2 and 3; Focal Area 2 – Goal 4, Target 4.3	The vast scope of this Objective may lead to difficulties with monitoring. Many proposals have been made for the adoption of indicator species to be monitored, such as turtles, spawning aggregations, coastal fisheries, etc. The Roundtable Working group could select specific priority species and then monitor their state against targets set by lead PICTs or agencies. It may also be possible to monitor the IUCN Red Data List to note trends, and the percentage of species at risk and those of cultural significance that have management plans, but this last indicator may be somewhat superficial. The Roundtable has explored potential indicators for monitoring this Objective.
3 Invasive species and genetically modified organisms	Focal Area 3 – Goal 6	Information generated through the Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN) could be used to assess progress towards this Objective. In particular, the Network could advise the Roundtable Working Group on increases in invasive species, new infestations in PICTs, species that have been brought under control, etc. The Roundtable has explored potential indicators for monitoring this Objective.

Flow of information within the monitoring framework



The above monitoring framework will take some time to become fully functional at all levels and across the region. Until such time as the framework is developed and is reliable, the Roundtable will avail itself of monitoring activity that exists at regional level. In future, the monitoring of Outcomes arising from Action Strategy projects will be developed to complement these existing regional initiatives.

6.4 Funding support for implementation

Funding sources for the work under each Objective are varied and range from the allocation of government funds, to self-funding mechanisms for goods and services generated, to traditional sources of funding support, to more innovative sources of funding such as the private sector.

The Roundtable recommends that the Conference should actively seek endorsement of the Action Strategy from PICTs, donors, NGOs, foundations, and regional intergovernmental organizations. Donors, regional organizations and others should recognize the benefits that accrue from the comprehensive context created by the Action Strategy and should align their programmes to the Action Strategy. Statements of commitment along these lines will provide a clear signal to PICTs that support will be available for work under the Action Strategy, and will go a long way towards ensuring the viability of the Strategy. The Action Strategy would then serve as the venue for bringing together all plans, programmes, and activities for conservation under one cohesive regional framework.

Members of the Roundtable represent various organizations that may be able to either provide support themselves or identify a source of financial support from a third party, for projects and activities initiated by PICTs in pursuit of the Objectives of the Action Strategy.

ANNEX 1: Resolution 7 of the 7th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas – The Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation

The 7th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

Recognising that the Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation is a coalition of conservation organizations and donor agencies launched at the 6th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in Pohnpei in 1997;

Noting that the Roundtable has played a valuable role in promoting and implementing the Action Strategy and increasing collaboration for nature conservation over the last five years;

Noting further that the Roundtable has developed useful tools for coordination of conservation activities in the region, including the Inventory, Monitoring Matrix, and 12 Working Groups;

Recognising that Roundtable members represent international and regional organizations that implement or fund Action Strategy activities toward more than one goal or in two or more countries;

Further recognising that the voluntary membership of the Roundtable is a great strength that should continue;

Commending the commitment of the Roundtable members to provide a more inclusive approach to their work.

Now therefore resolve as follows:

- The Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation is maintained as a mechanism for promoting, facilitating and monitoring the implementation of Action Strategy.
- The Roundtable adopts mechanisms for making its membership more inclusive for meaningful participation of regional and national bodies.
- The Roundtable's mandate for the next five years is to increase effective conservation action in the Pacific islands by:
 - Fostering greater coordination and collaboration among national, regional and international organizations;
 - Identifying critical gaps in the Action Strategy and developing new conservation activities in the region;
 - Communicating and linking with countries through NBSAPs or alternative processes to promote implementation and monitoring of the Action Strategy;
 - Strengthening linkages with CROP agencies to promote multi-sectoral mainstreaming at the regional level;
 - Strengthening linkages with regional and national NGOs for more effective coordination.

The Roundtable reports to the 8th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas on the implementation of the Action Strategy

ANNEX 2: Review of available NBSAPs and other key documents in search of the themes, objectives or other targets that are common to all or most and which are relevant to the Mission of the Action Strategy

As far as could be ascertained, the status of NBSAPs in the Pacific region, as in February 2007, was as follows:

Status of NBSAPs as in February 2007

COUNTRY/TERRITORY	STATUS AS IN FEBRUARY 2007	REVIEWED BY ROUNDTABLE
Cook Islands	Completed	Yes
Fiji	Completed	Yes
Tuvalu	Not completed	Not available
Marshall Islands	Completed	Yes
Federated States of Micronesia	Completed	Yes
Tonga	Completed	Yes
Papua New Guinea	Final draft	Yes
Solomon Islands	Not completed	Not available
Kiribati	Final draft	Not available
Nauru	Not completed	Not available
Niue	Completed	Yes
Palau	Completed	Yes
Samoa	Completed	Yes
Vanuatu	Completed	Yes
New Caledonia	Under development	Yes

Cook Islands Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The Cook Islands NBSAP was finalized and adopted in 2002. It establishes the following eight Themes and distinguishes strategic goals and actions:

- Theme A: Endangered Species Management
Sustainable use, including agricultural
- Theme B: Invasive Species Management
Reduce impact on indigenous and agricultural species
- Theme C: Ecosystem Management
Protected areas, including community-based
- Theme D: Equitable Sharing of Benefits and Access to Biodiversity
- Theme E: Management of knowledge Related to Biodiversity
Scientific and traditional knowledge; property rights, indigenous and traditional
- Theme F: Biodiversity Awareness and Education
Information more readily available
- Theme G: Mainstreaming of Biodiversity
Integrate biodiversity into legislation, policies, plans and programmes
- Theme H: Financial Resources and Mechanisms for Biodiversity
Financial sustainability, Trust Fund

Fiji Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The Fiji NBSAP was adopted in 1999 and it comprises six Focus Areas, namely:

- 1 Community support – awareness, involvement and ownership

- 2 Improving our knowledge
- 3 Developing protected areas
- 4 Species conservation
- 5 Management of invasive species
- 6 Capacity Building and Strengthening

Each of the Focus Areas is further elaborated by a number of Objectives, 27 in all, and these range from some very broad ones to a few specific ones. All were taken into account when determining the scope that should be reflected in the Action Strategy Objectives.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The Marshall Islands NBSAP comprised four main Strategic Themes and two further Themes, which arose out of consultation workshops, and these are:

- Strategic Theme A – Conservation of Biodiversity and Biological Resources
- Strategic Theme B – Protection of the Marine Biodiversity
- Strategic Theme C – Traditional Culture and Practices
- Strategic Theme D – People and Biodiversity
- Strategic Theme E – Biotechnology and Biodiversity
- Strategic Theme F – Biosafety and Biodiversity

The NBSAP identified a variable number of Goals under each of the four main Themes as well as the lesser ones, making 16 Goals in all. Each of the Goals was then further elaborated into Key Actions. All these were taken into account as indicators of the scope that should be reflected in the proposed new Objectives for the Action Strategy.

The Federated States of Micronesia NBSAP – National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

There are 11 Themes in the Federated States of Micronesia NBSAP, as follows:

- Theme 1. Ecosystem management
- Theme 2. Species management
- Theme 3. Genetic resource use
- Theme 4. Agrobiodiversity
- Theme 5: ecological sustainable industry development
- Theme 6. Biosecurity
- Theme 7: waste management
- Theme 8. Human resources & institutional development
- Theme 9. Resource owners
- Theme 10. Mainstreaming biodiversity
- Theme 11: Financial resources

Each of the Themes is further elaborated into a Strategy Goal and a number of Objectives under which Actions are identified in turn. There is a total of 34 Objectives.

It is interesting to note that the individual states have also adopted their own NBSAP. The State of Yap NBSAP has the following seven Action Areas

1. Institutional Arrangements (“Getting our act together”)
2. Secure and enhance traditional knowledge (Secure and build on what we already know)
3. Inventory and Monitoring (“Counting our blessings and identifying problems”)
4. Biosecurity (Addressing invasive species, wildfires and climate change)
5. Addressing Pollution (Earthmoving activities, solid waste and hazardous materials)
6. Environmental awareness, research and capacity building
7. Developing stewardship programs and ecologically sustainable industries (making a living without killing Yap)

Republic of Palau National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The NBSAP for Palau, which was prepared in 2005, has eight Strategic Themes -

1. Protected/Managed Areas
2. Species Protection
3. Biosecurity – Invasive Species and Biosafety
4. Sharing Benefits of Genetic Resources
5. Sustainable Economic Development
6. Prevent or Minimize Waste
7. Agricultural Biodiversity
8. Mainstreaming of Biodiversity Conservation

Each Strategic Theme has a Vision and a Goal and each goal will be achieved through the fulfilment of Objectives, which have been identified as priority areas that must be addressed to enable the sustainable use and management of biodiversity.

Niue National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The Niue NBSAP has seven Themes and each has a variable number of Objectives making 20 Objectives in all. The Themes are the following:

- Theme 1 – Conservation and Sustainable Management of Terrestrial Habitats
- Theme 2 – Conservation of Terrestrial Species
- Theme 3 – Coastal, Inshore and Marine Biodiversity
- Theme 4 – Governance
- Theme 5 – Waste Management and Water Resources
- Theme 6 – Alien and Invasive Species
- Theme 7 – Education and Public Awareness

The Themes, together with the 20 Objectives (some of which are very narrow and specific) were taken into account when determining the new Objectives for the Action Strategy.

National Conservation Strategy, Republic of Vanuatu

The Vanuatu NBSAP identifies ten national conservation goals ranging from awareness raising and understanding, to sustainable use, improved management and fulfilling international obligations. It then focuses on five priorities for action, develops strategies for each, and recommends initiatives for specific government and civil organizations and private individuals. The five priorities are:

- Education and awareness
- Environmental legislation
- Institutional strengthening
- Preservation of natural resources and tabu places
- Promote sustainable and efficient use of resources

The above five priority areas are taken into account in developing the new Objectives for the strengthened Action Strategy.

Papua New Guinea National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The PNG NBSAP established six goals -

Goal 1 To conserve, sustainably use, and manage the country's biological diversity

- Goal 2 To strengthen and promote institutional and human capacity building for biodiversity conservation, management and sustainable use
- Goal 3 To strengthen partnership and promote coordination for conserving biodiversity
- Goal 4 To strengthen existing protected areas and ensure that protected areas for terrestrial species and marine species are increased to 10% by 2010 and 2012;
- Goal 5 Ensure a fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of genetic and ecosystem resources
- Goal 6 Promote and strengthen research of the country's biological diversity and the sustainable development of the country's biological resources

These six Goals are to be achieved through nine broad programmes over the next five years and the programmes have been prioritized into four different categories as follows:

- Priority 1 programmes are: Policy and Legislation; Financial and Technical Resources; and Human Capacities
- Priority 2 programme is: Access and Benefit Sharing
- Priority 3 programmes are: Research and Information on Biodiversity; and *in situ* and *ex situ* Biodiversity Conservation
- Priority 4 programmes are: Measures of Sustainability of Biodiversity Use; and Education and Public Awareness

Programme nine: Monitoring and Evaluation, applies equally across the breadth of the four different priority areas.

Samoa's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The Samoa Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan establishes the following nine Goals:

- Goal 1 Policies and legislation
- Goal 2 Community involvement
- Goal 3 Cooperation and coordination
- Goal 4 Public awareness
- Goal 5 Capacity building
- Goal 6 Protection of genetic resources
- Goal 7 Prevention, control and eradication
- Goal 8 Social and economic development
- Goal 9 Education

It then adopts a number of objectives and actions under each of the following eight themes:

- 1 Mainstreaming Biodiversity
- 2 Ecosystem Management
- 3 Species Management
- 4 Community
- 5 Access and Benefit Sharing from Use of Genetic Resources
- 6 Biosecurity
- 7 Agrobiodiversity
- 8 Financing Resources & Mechanisms

Finally, the Samoa NBSAP recognizes four short-term priorities (3-5 years):

- Preparing Policies & Review of Regulations
- Education: Formal and Information Courses
- Ratifying other relevant international and regional biological treaties & conventions
- Economic Valuation of Natural Resources & Having it part of the country's GDP:

and five long-term priorities (10-15 years):

- Conservation Fund/Trust Fund for the Environment
- Conservation & Sustainable Use of Upland/Mountain Ecosystems

- Conservation & Sustainable Use of Volcanic & Lava Areas
- Conservation & Sustainable Use of Wetland Resources (lakes, marshes, and mangroves)
- Further strategic studies of Samoa's biodiversity

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Tonga

The Tongan National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan establishes eight strategic goals and each is considered as a theme under each of which there is a number of objectives, strategies and actions. These are:

- 1 Forest Ecosystems
- 2 Marine Ecosystems
- 3 Species Conservation
- 4 Agrobiodiversity
- 5 Local communities and civil society
- 6 Access and Benefit Sharing from the use of Genetic resources and traditional ecological knowledge
- 7 Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation
- 8 Financial Resources and Mechanisms

New Caledonia Biodiversity Conservation Plan

The New Caledonia Biodiversity Conservation Plan is being developed within the framework of France's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. It has two overarching goals and these are:

- To update environmental laws and regulations in order to better integrate sustainable development (environment, economy, social) to future development plans;
- To be part of a Regional (Southwest) Strategy on Biodiversity (through SPREP's network) and therefore be acknowledged (on the international scene) for biodiversity conservation.

Under these two goals, there are five objectives as follows:

1. To maintain a good ecological quality at the national level
2. To develop an integrated program on conservation of marine and terrestrial ecosystems
3. To improve our knowledge on Biodiversity to better manage and preserve it
4. To acknowledge the economic value of Biodiversity
5. To improve the integration of Biodiversity by decision-makers, civil society and customary communities

The Island Biodiversity PoW

The Island Biodiversity Programme of Work is a set of priority and supporting actions to implement the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in islands. It was adopted at the Eighth Conference of the Parties (COP8) to the CBD in Brazil, March 2006. The Programme of Work recognizes that all islands, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in particular, rely on biodiversity for sustainable development, have close links between culture and environment, have special concerns and particular vulnerabilities, have limited land area, have high levels of endemism and extensive coastal and marine biodiversity.

The PoW has seven main focal areas, eleven goals (NOTE: "focal areas" are unique to the Island POW; goals are common to other CBD Programmes of work) and 22 targets together with priority actions and supporting actions. The following are the Focal Areas and Goals:

FOCAL AREA 1: PROTECT THE COMPONENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

GOAL 1: Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of island ecosystems, habitats and biomes

GOAL 2: Promote the conservation of island species diversity

GOAL 3: Promote the conservation of island genetic diversity

FOCAL AREA 2: PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE

GOAL 4: Promote sustainable use and consumption

FOCAL AREA 3: ADDRESS THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY

GOAL 5: Pressures from habitat loss, land-use change and degradation, and sustainable water use, reduced on islands

GOAL 6: Control threats to island biological diversity from invasive alien species

GOAL 7: Address challenges to island biodiversity from climate change, and pollution

FOCAL AREA 4: MAINTAIN GOODS AND SERVICES FROM BIODIVERSITY TO SUPPORT HUMAN WELL-BEING

GOAL 8: Maintain capacity of island ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods

FOCAL AREA 5: PROTECT TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES

GOAL 9: Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities on islands

FOCAL AREA 6: ENSURE THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS ARISING OUT OF THE USE OF GENETIC RESOURCES

GOAL 10: Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of island genetic resources

FOCAL AREA 7: ENSURE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE RESOURCES

GOAL 11: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention

All the Focal Areas and Goals of the PoW are more or less common themes found in most NBSAPs and together they constitute relevant “themes” that could be used in objective-setting for the Action Strategy.

The MDGs

The protection and sustainable management of biodiversity, including genetic resources, species and ecosystem services that support human development, is central to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Although one of the MDGs (MDG 7, on ensuring environmental sustainability) deals most explicitly with biodiversity, wise use of biological resources is important for the full range of development priorities encompassed by all eight MDGs.

For example, eradicating hunger (MDG 1) depends on sustainable and productive agriculture, which in turn relies on conserving and maintaining agricultural soils, water, genetic resources and ecological processes. The capacity of fisheries to supply hundreds of millions of the world's people with the bulk of their animal protein intake depends on the maintenance of ecosystems (such as mangroves and coral reefs) that provide fish with habitat and sustenance.

For the purposes of the Action Strategy, *Goal 7: Ensuring Environmental Sustainability* provides a clear focus on environmental sustainability, while *Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources* aims for mainstreaming and, once again, the sustainability of resources. Two of the indicators set up by the MDGs are also of interest to the Action Strategy. These are:

Indicator 25. Proportion of land area covered by forest

Indicator 26. Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area

The Pacific Plan

Management of the natural environment, biodiversity conservation and protection of the environment is not the central theme of the Pacific Plan. There is, however, an overt reference to the environment in the form of *Strategic Objective 5: Improved Natural Resource and Environmental Management*, with initiatives for the first three years in:

sustainable development

fisheries

waste management

energy
water management
climate change
financing for sustainable development, biodiversity, climate change, etc

Of the success indicators set up for Strategic Objective 5, the following are deemed to be of relevance to the Action Strategy:

18. No decrease in area covered in mangroves
19. No decrease in proportion of land area covered by native forests
20. Percentage increase in area of ecosystems under conservation management
21. Tuna resources harvested within agreed sustainable biological reference points
22. No decrease in proportion of coral reef area in Exclusive Economic Zone under stress

It is interesting to note that Indicator 20 is acknowledged as included in the Action Strategy and that the Pacific Plan will be looking to the Action Strategy as a means of verification.

ANNEX 3 SUGGESTIONS FOR THE DRAFTING OF THE NEW ACTION STRATEGY DOCUMENT

Updating the Strategy

According to the current Action Strategy ... *The Action Strategy can be used in a variety of ways and provides:*

- a) *A regional consensus on priorities for actions to promote the mainstreaming of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.*
- b) *Guidance to international, regional, national and local communities, organizations and governments in development, review and implementation of their individual plans and programmes.*
- c) *A framework for regional and national coordination of action.*
- d) *A framework for regional and international institutions to use in integrating their work.*
- e) *Guidance to donor communities when allocating resources (financial and capacity).*
- f) *Guidance to communities seeking resources on priorities for funding.*

The above are still relevant today, however, since the drafting of the current Strategy in 2002, the majority of PICTs have finalized and adopted their NBSAPs and the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work has also been adopted. The Roundtable therefore recommends that these documents be recognized through the amendment of item (c) above which will now read :

- c) *A framework for regional and national coordination for the implementation of the NBSAPs and the Island Biodiversity PoW.*

It is also recommended that in the text of the new Action Strategy, a new section should be inserted which lists (and maybe discusses) the values and benefits of a regional document such as the Action Strategy. Among the values and benefits of the Action Strategy are the following:

- Provides a framework to guide PICTs, donors, NGOs and regional organizations in their work on nature conservation in the Pacific
- Creates a regional context into which PICTs can report regularly and gauge where they stand in relation to the rest of the region
- Provides an additional lever to get resources for nature conservation work
- Provides a mechanism for PICTs to collaborate on achieving nature conservation goals