

Draft draft draft
Output Statement
Side meeting on marine managed areas
18 October 2007,
Alotau, PNG
Towards developing networks of MPA/MMA.

Acknowledging the CBD/WSSD global targets to halt biodiversity loss by 2010 and establish representative networks of MPA by 2012

Commending the significant commitments made by Oceania towards achieving the targets for protected areas with 25% of MPA in Oceania

Noting the 2006 Pacific Islands Forum decision to endorse the Micronesia Challenge, Fiji and Kiribati commitments, recognize use of MPA as an important part of sustainable development under the Pacific Plan and encourage Members to consider similar, substantial and specific commitments to the conservation and sustainable management of marine and terrestrial resources.

Further noting the 2002 The Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Policy as a framework for conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources

The participants reported on progress to date (Attachment)

The participants identified the following challenges to progress the establishment of networks of MMA/MPAs:

- Lack of understanding and recognition by government and community of the contribution of marine conservation and MMA/MPA networks to national and local well being and economy
- Limited support for MMAs as a tool for effective conservation and sustainable use of marine resources with fisheries managers
- Lack of an agreed definition of MPA/MMA in policy and legislation
- Limited legislative base for MMA/MPA, including targets for inshore and offshore MMA/MPA which recognize customary marine tenure, ownership of marine resources and community based management
- Lack of integration and cross sectoral/whole of government approaches and weak community-government partnerships for MMA/MPA and more broadly marine resources management
- Limited access to information and design tools to develop effective networks of MMA/MPAs
- Limited understanding of value of traditional knowledge and practices to support MMA development and implementation
- Lack of technical, human and financial capacity for identification, designation and management of comprehensive and representative networks of MMA/MPAs.

To overcome those challenges, participants have identified the need for:

- Continued strong leadership and commitment for Oceania marine conservation and MMA/MPAs at all levels
- Economic valuation and communication tools to demonstrate the value of marine conservation and ecosystem services to the Pacific Island well being and economies
- Integration of MMA/MPA networks into whole island and ocean management
- Recognition of Oceania's contribution to global marine biodiversity to leverage resources, through partnerships.
- Primary legislation (environment/fisheries) which incorporate MMA/MPA as a tool for marine resource management, clarify community ownership of marine resources (in particular offshore resources) and benefits deriving from their use, and provide for community standing in the issuing of licensing and access rights to marine resources (eg mineral exploration)
- An agreed definition of MMA/MPA and MMA/MPA targets which include social and economic benefits in national policies (eg NBSAPs, NSDSs) and measures of success in terms of poverty alleviation and economic benefits
- governance mechanisms to facilitate integrated cross sectoral approaches to marine conservation and sustainable use and MMA/MPA development, such as Ridge to Reef and whole of island/ocean management
- Access to information, design and decision making tools to support the establishment of MMA/MPA networks
- Greater recognition of the role of traditional knowledge and practices for sustainable community based marine managed areas
- Strengthened local and national capacity for management of MMA/MPA (eg enforcement and good partnerships with neighboring countries (EEZ)
- A multi-sectoral forum for dialogue and partnerships development to support the development of MMA/MPAs.

5 year priority actions

- Encourage the setting of national targets for MMA/MPAs
- Strengthen/establish cross sectoral dialogue and initiatives between fisheries, environmental, tourism agencies on MMA/MPAs at national and regional level
- Report Annually to SPREP, Forum and relevant fora on regional progress on PA and MMA/MPA targets and implementation
- Promote and celebrate PICT's efforts and success in MMA/MPA establishment at national, regional and international levels
- Promote the use of MMA/MPAs as a tool within a whole of ocean/Island management
- Development and implement, in partnership with countries, regional and international partners, a programme of work for enhancing and establishing networks of MMA/MPAs nationally and regionally to:

- Document and disseminate lessons learnt and MMA/MPA models
- Identify capacity needs at the national level
- develop guidelines, design tools and training (eg classification, protection standard) for developing a networks of MMA/MPA and based on an ecosystem approach (integrated planning model) for national implementation
- Provide access to existing information (including traditional knowledge and practices) in a suitable form for identification and designation
- Develop baseline information and monitor progress in MMA/MPA establishment within a whole of island/ocean management
- Undertake economic evaluation, communication and education to raise awareness of and commitment to the MMA/MPA networks
- Develop and initiate national and community sustainable financing mechanisms