



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Twenty-Second SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa
13 – 15 September 2011



Information Paper 1:

Update on key CBD Programmes of Work and related initiatives

Purpose

1. To update members on the status of key CBD Programmes of Work including related initiatives that are relevant to the Pacific

Background

Island Biodiversity Programme of Work

2. In decision IX/21 (see <http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-09/cop-09-dec-21-en.pdf>), the Conference of the Parties to the CBD requested that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) undertake an in-depth review of the programme of Works on island biodiversity at one of its meetings after the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Nagoya, Japan, October 2010), for final consideration by COP 11 in 2012. The COP reiterated this decision at its tenth meeting, indicating that the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties would take place in 2012 and address, *inter alia*, the in-depth review of the programme of Works on island biodiversity (X/9).
3. The review will measure progress in the implementation of the programme of Works on island biodiversity (annex to decision VIII/1) and will focus on (i) the extent of implementation; (ii) status and trends of island biodiversity and drivers of change; (iii) constraints to implementation; (iv) activities and views of relevant organizations; and (v) key responses and suggestions to maximize the contribution of the programme of Works to the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention and its goals and targets.
4. At the Pacific regional post-COP10 meeting held in May 2011, an ad hoc voluntary group was formed to lead the coordination of input to the in-depth review of the Island Biodiversity Programme of Works. The group consists of CROP agencies, NGOs and representatives from each of the three Pacific sub-regions.
5. The Island Biodiversity Programme of Works is relevant and important to the Pacific because it is the only CBD Programme of Works which has a specific focus on island biodiversity issues. It has generated increased global attention on the specific challenges and circumstances faced by Small Islands Developing States (SIDS). It has been an excellent platform to showcase, and raise awareness of, the successes achieved, by Island Parties, such as the Micronesian Challenge, the Coral Triangle Initiative, the Locally Management Marine Areas and the Phoenix Island Protected Area.

6. The Island Biodiversity Programme of Works is closely linked to other CBD Programmes of Works, including other biodiversity related MEAs and key international processes. As such, the Island Biodiversity Programme of Works should not be seen as a standalone programme of Works but rather as one that encompasses all other relevant biodiversity related programmes and initiatives and that cuts across other key environmental thematic areas, such as climate change, waste management and pollution, sustainable land management, financing, capacity development and others.

7. Some benefits of engaging in the in-depth review may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Mobilizing global commitment to provide innovative, practical and sustainable solutions that address island biodiversity challenges and threats ;
- Participating in the processes for setting new directions for the CBD Secretariat, GEF and other relevant funding bodies, to support national and regional implementation of the Island Biodiversity Programme of Works ;
- Forging new partnerships with relevant organizations and donors that capitalize on opportunities for collaborative initiatives for islands ;
- Solidifying the “One Pacific Voice” as a platform for highlighting priority issues and actions for the Pacific ;
- Strengthening linkages between island biodiversity and other key processes, such as the Rio+20 and key regional and national processes ;
- Drawing attention to new emerging issues pertinent to islands, particularly those that may have potential impacts on island biodiversity ;
- Increasing visibility and awareness of the conservation successes and achievements by islands.

More information is available on the CBD Website <http://www.cbd.int/island/>

NBSAP Capacity Building Workshop

8. SPREP is liaising with the CBD Secretariat to organize and deliver the NBSAP Capacity Building Workshop for the Pacific region. The workshop is part of a series of workshops conducted by the CBD Secretariat that assist parties with meeting established national targets, within the framework of the Aichi biodiversity targets, and to revise and update the NBSAPs in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020. The workshop is planned for the 3 – 7 October, 2011 and all Pacific Island parties, territories and partners are encouraged to attend. CBD Parties are eligible for funding (under the GEF5 Set Aside funds for enabling activities) to review NBSAPs, prepare national reports and strengthen National Clearing House Mechanisms. SPREP stands ready to support the review of the NBSAPs.

Programme of Work on Protected Areas

9. SPREP, in collaborations with the CBD Secretariat, will conduct a regional workshop to support the preparation of Protected Area Action Plans by Pacific Island parties. The workshop will be held in parallel with the NBSAP workshop from the 3rd to the 7th of October, 2011. This approach will help to ensure synergies between these two important planning processes.

10. Both the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets set important goals for biodiversity conservation. In particular, Target 11 of the Aichi Targets requires the following: *By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.*

11. SPREP is the Focal Point for the CBD/Programme of Works on Protected Areas and will play a significant supporting role in the foreseeable future. This collaboration will focus on providing support to member countries as they work towards formulating their NBSAP reviews and PoWPA Action Plans. Areas of attention will include: (i) targeted capacity building and technical training on key PoWPA thematic areas (namely climate change, governance, and integration of protected areas into wider land and seascapes, and valuing protected area costs and benefits) with a focus on marine protected areas (MPAs), (ii) enabling sub-regional technical support networks, and (iii) creating awareness about funding opportunities and capacity for timely and focused submissions of project proposals under GEF 5, and other funding opportunities.

Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA)

12. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its tenth meeting, requested the Executive Secretary to work (along with parties, other governments, competent organizations and regional initiatives, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), regional seas conventions and action plans, and regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), where appropriate) to organize, including the setting of terms of references and subject to the availability of financial resources, a series of regional workshops to be held before a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and prior to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. The primary objective of these workshops is to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, through application of the scientific criteria in annex I of decision IX/20, as well as other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed upon scientific criteria and the scientific guidance on the identification of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, which meet the scientific criteria in annex I to decision IX/20.

13. SPREP is liaising closely with the CBD Secretary to conduct an EBSA workshop for the Pacific which is tentatively scheduled for November 2011. More information on this workshop will be disseminated as soon as arrangements are confirmed.

SBSTTA 15 and 16 and COP11

14. SBSTTA 15 will take place from 7-11 November 2011 in Montreal, Canada. It is important that the One Pacific Voice approach is maintained and continued at the SBSTTA 15 and 16 meetings and other CBD technical meetings. The in-depth review of the Island Biodiversity will be one of the key agenda items to be discussed at SBSTTA 16 in 2012 and, since this is an important programme of Works to the Pacific, it is crucial that the Pacific is well represented at SBSTTA 16. SPREP and partners are encouraged to provide their usual support to the Pacific Island delegates to ensure that

Pacific priorities and issues are reflected and well represented in the CBD negotiations. The SBSTTA meetings are important events in the lead up to COP meetings; however, the Pacific is often under represented at SBSTTA meetings. Consistency in attendance at SBSTTA and COP meetings is also crucial for Pacific preparations and engagement in negotiations. More information on SBSTTA 15 and 16 is available on the CBD website: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=SBSTTA-15>

Eleventh Conference of the Parties to the CBD

15. The eleventh Conference of the Parties to the CBD 11 will take place in Hyderabad, India during 8 – 19 October 2012. The High Level Segment will be held during 17 -- 19 October 2012. The meeting will be hosted by the Government of India and information, including the draft Provisional Agenda, have been sent by the CBD Secretariat to all CBD National Focal Points, including collaborating partners. It is important that the Pacific plans ahead for COP11. This includes attendance at SBSTTA meetings and national and regional preparatory meetings. Key items on the COP11 agenda include the following:

- Status of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their utilization;
- Implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011 – 2020 and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
- Financial resources and financial mechanisms;
- Cooperation, outreach and the UN Decade on Biodiversity;
- Article 8(j);
- In-depth review of the programme on island biodiversity;
- Ways and means to support ecosystem restoration;
- Marine and coastal biodiversity;
- Biodiversity and climate change issues and related issues ;
- Other substantive issues arising from the decisions of the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

16. SPREP will coordinate and undertake a regional preparatory meeting for the Pacific at least two months prior to the COP meeting. Lessons from COP10 will be adopted to strengthen regional preparations including support to national preparations as appropriate.

UN Decade on Biodiversity

17. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the period 2011 – 2020 as the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity. It coincides with the duration of the Strategic Plan 2011 – 2020, which was adopted at the tenth meeting of the Parties to the CBD held in Nagoya Japan in October 2010. The Decade will be a vehicle for promoting the implementation of the Strategic Plan and its 20 Targets with the focus on mainstreaming biodiversity into all broader development planning processes, policies and economic activities. It will build on the successes and achievements of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYOB).

18. For the Pacific, SPREP will explore innovative and cost effective ways to celebrate the Decade on Biodiversity by building on existing initiatives in close collaborations with members and key partners. The scope, coverage and duration of the Pacific IYOB Strategy will be revised and amended to incorporate the objectives of the UN Decade on Biodiversity.