



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Twenty-Second SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa

13 – 15 September 2011



Information Paper 10:

**Update on the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,
Nagoya, Japan 18 – 29 October****Purpose**

1. To inform members of the outcomes of the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including an update on post COP10 follow up activities

Background***Pacific Voyage and the One Pacific Voice Approach***

2. At the 22 SPREP Meeting in Madang, Papua New Guinea, Pacific Ministers noted the importance of demonstrating a *One Pacific Voice* at the 10th Conference of the Parties to the CBD, which was held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010. In response to this, SPREP, together with the Pacific Islands Countries and in close collaborations with CROP agencies and NGOs in the region, coordinated and delivered a successful “*One Pacific Voice*” at COP10. The *One Pacific Voice* approach consisted of three main components: (i) the Pacific Voyage, which comprised all the media advocacy, communication products and side events; (ii) the promotion of a coordinated approach to address priority issues for the Pacific, which were facilitated through Pacific group daily meetings, participation in the Asia Pacific Group meetings and information sharing with other SIDS; and (iii) Pacific coordinated Statements on key priority issues, delivered at the Opening of the COP meeting, during plenary and also at the closing of the meeting. All these contributed to a very successful outcome for the Pacific, despite working within the constraints of small delegations (i.e. in terms of numbers of delegates attending), limited financial resources and technical capacity. SPREP prepared a Report on the COP10 outcomes and key achievements for the Pacific. The SPREP Report was widely circulated to members and partners and a soft copy is available on http://www.sprep.org/att/IRC/eCOPIES/Pacific_Region/676.pdf

Pacific COP10 priority issues

3. The Pacific delivered statements on the following priorities:
 - *Coastal and Marine Biodiversity*: Reaffirmed the importance of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas to the Pacific Communities, including their livelihood. Acknowledged the significant contribution by the Pacific towards coastal and marine biodiversity and conservation and congratulated Kiribati on the Phoenix Island Protected Area, which has been inscribed on the World Heritage List. Noted the adverse impacts of climate change on coastal and marine biodiversity and cautioned on the potential impacts of ocean fertilization and acidification and called for urgent attention to address these issues.

- *Invasive Alien Species*: Acknowledged considerable progress made by the Pacific Island Countries, including partners, in addressing invasive alien species at island and community levels. However, given the serious threats invasive alien species continue to pose on island biodiversity, which is exacerbated by climate change, the Pacific urged governments and partners to give due consideration to invasive alien species as a key driver for biodiversity loss. In this context, the Pacific called for increased financial and technical assistance to advance on-going work on invasive alien species.
- *Climate change and biodiversity*: Acknowledged actions taken by Pacific Island Countries to respond to impacts of climate change through ecosystem based adaptation and called on partners to provide financial and technical support to continue these efforts. Recognized the need for capacity building support to identify, assess and monitor the impacts of climate change on island biodiversity. On the issue on ocean fertilization and other forms of geo-engineering, the Pacific called for a precautionary approach given that such technology has neither been tested nor proven yet and, as such, may have potential negative impacts on marine biodiversity. The Pacific acknowledged and fully supported the importance of maintaining traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, including land tenure and land ownership, in reference to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.
- *Protected Areas*: Recognized the fundamental importance of protected areas in conserving biodiversity and their role in reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Reiterated the importance of oceans and the varied terrestrial ecosystems of the islands as the foundation of Pacific livelihoods. Further recognized the significant roles of indigenous and local communities in protected areas management and monitoring and emphasized the need to build capacity to ensure equitable sharing of benefits and livelihoods with the people. Invited other governments and financial institutions to provide adequate, predictable and timely financial support for protected areas and supported the adoption of ecosystem based management for the dual purposes of biodiversity protection and climate change adaptation.
- *Agriculture biodiversity*: Reaffirmed that agriculture biodiversity is essential to food and nutritional security in the Pacific. Noted the apparent importance of agriculture biodiversity in adapting to impacts of climate change. Emphasized the need to consider the challenges faced by the region, in particular that of ensuring food security within a changing and unpredictable climate.
- *Biofuels*: Noted ethanol production from sugar cane and coconuts having significant potential for revenue for some Pacific Island Countries. However, caution must be taken with other biofuels that might have serious impacts on biodiversity. In this regard, the Pacific requested that the CBD disseminate information on biofuels and biodiversity for voluntary use and proposed the adoption of precautionary principles, as opposed to a precautionary approach, for consistency purposes.

COP 10 Key Outcomes

4. The 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, the equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization, the Strategic Plan 2011 – 2020 and the Strategy for Resource Mobilization. A total of 47 decisions were also adopted at COP10. Key actions expected of the Parties include that they:

- (i) Review and align NBSAPs with the Strategic Plan 2011-2020, which includes setting national and regional targets ;
- (ii) Develop and formulate National Strategies for Resource Mobilization and nominate focal points to be responsible for these;
- (iii) Initiate key processes and requirements for signing the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and the equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.

Pacific post COP10 Meeting

5. The Secretariat conducted a post-COP10 meeting to reflect on key lessons learnt from COP10 and to review, and plan for, the implementation of the Nagoya Outcomes. The meeting was attended by 11 Pacific Island Parties, regional organizations and NGOs. A number of key lessons were identified, including actions to strengthen preparations and engagement in future COP meetings. Key actions were also identified to assist with the implementation of the Nagoya Outcomes. These will include workshops and events that are being organized by the CBD Secretariat for the Pacific region. The NBSAP Capacity Building Workshop will be held on the 3 – 7 October, 2011. During the same week, the Programme of Work on Protected Area workshop will be held parallel to the NBAP workshop, with joint sessions to allow participants of the two meetings to come together and discuss common issues. The post-COP10 Meeting Report, prepared by the Secretariat, has been circulated to all SPREP members and partners. The report is available on the SPREP website: http://www.sprep.org/publication/pub_detail.asp?id=1059

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