



Status of Biodiversity MEAs in Pacific ACP Countries

Thematic Session Questions

Is the biodiversity agenda a priority for the region and why?

1. Biodiversity is still a priority for the Pacific region as articulated in the following approved regional policy frameworks:
 - A strategic priority for UN Environment in the Pacific as endorsed by 2016 SPREP Meeting
 - SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026 – improving national capacity for good environmental governance supported by technical assistance for the development of policy and legislation and in support of the implementation of Members international and regional commitments
 - Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Island region 2014-2020 – contains a set of principles for conservation, objectives are aligned to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and promotes coordination and collaboration for the achievement of biodiversity targets in the Pacific region
 - The Pacific Oceanscape Framework – fosters stewardship at local, national, regional and international levels to ensure the health and wellbeing of the ocean and people
 - Noumea convention – for the protection of natural resources and environment of the Pacific
 - Good engagement by Pacific states with biodiversity MEAs
 - Strong NGO, Private Sector and Community engagement

2. Biodiversity is still a priority for the Pacific as demonstrated through high level commitment expressed through national policy frameworks such as the NBSAPs, NEMS, NSDPs including actions taken to address biodiversity issues at local, national and sub-national levels.

For example:

 - Micronesian Challenge, a commitment by the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to preserve the natural resources that are crucial to the survival of Pacific traditions, cultures and livelihoods
 - Shark sanctuaries declared and established in a number of Pacific island countries
 - Large MPAs declared and established for example the Phoenix Island Protected Area (PIPA), and the Cook Islands Marae Moana.

3. SPREP's strategic priorities and work programme focusing on:
 - Integrated ocean management for food security and sustainable development
 - Effective management, conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity
 - Implementation of key biodiversity MEAs – CBD, CITES, and CMS
 - Preventing the extinction of threatened species and support measures to sustain their conservation status
 - Reducing the ecological and socio-economic impacts of invasive species

Should the project continue to focus on this thematic area? Yes

What has happened in that field of work that could be attributable to the ACP-MEAs programme?

- Increased awareness of biodiversity MEAs
- Effective engagement at biodiversity MEA negotiations
- National environment legislation review and identification of gaps
- Mainstreaming of environment into national policies and plans through NEMS
- Strengthening of EIA process and capacity
- Strengthened reporting - Regional SOE reporting template and approach
- New GEF Funding “Building National and Regional Capacity to Implement Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA) by Strengthening Planning and State of Environment Assessment and Reporting in the Pacific”
- Building up critical mass of national demand for action and environmental indicators, monitoring and reporting
- Increased understanding of the importance of having access to reliable and credible data to monitor and report on the state of the environment and the opportunity for using the SOE reports to meet reporting requirements to the biodiversity conventions
- Facilitating south-south cooperation across Pacific island countries and building networks of practitioners and peer to peer exchanges

How could impacts of the programme be built on and clearly profit beneficiary countries?

- Some of the capacity building activities need to be done on on-going basis and we could work with training institutions to see if they can integrate and run in long term
- Need to strengthen enforcement – police, prosecution, judges etc
- Look at how we can work with industry/sector groups to promote environmental safeguards as way to protect biodiversity including codes of practice and standards
- Explore feasibility sustainable financing approaches that could be adopted
- Institutionalizing assessment, monitoring, reporting, planning and mainstreaming tools, methodologies, systems and best practices
- Establishment of active network of practitioners and experts within countries to support MEA implementation
- Effective communication and outreach activities to raise awareness of targeted stakeholder groups

How could the activities be re-designed to deliver the foreseen support for ACP Member States?

- Focus on national activities that will have strategic impacts including those that can be replicated and scaled up
- Include hands on practical activities as integral components of project activities
- Have incentive once pilots completed to encourage those who want to replicate
- Establish long term technical support in key areas such as legal drafting, environmental economics and monitoring
- More activities that promote and support coordination and integration of biodiversity at all levels targeting local communities, NGOS, business sector and key development sectors such as tourism
- Include sustainable financing capacity building activities

- Strengthen partnership with relevant organizations and existing coordination mechanisms such as the Round Table for Nature Conservation

Biodiversity MEAs implementation in the ACP region: Trends and status.

Engagement of PICs in key biodiversity MEAs – CBD (including the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on ABS), CITES, CMS and Ramsar

	CI	FJ	FSM	KIR	NAU	NIU	PAL	PNG	RMI	SAM	SOL	TON	TUV	VAN	
CBD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	14
CP		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			10
NP		✓	✓						✓	✓				✓	5
CITES		✓					✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	7
CMS	✓	✓					✓			✓					4
Ramsar		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓					6
	2	6	2	3	2	2	5	4	4	6	3	3	1	3	

Status of NBSAPs in the Pacific

	Country	1 Getting organized	2 Engaging Stakeholders	3 Gathering information	4 Developing strategies & actions	5 Developing implementation plans	6 Awaiting Cabinet endorsement	7. Printing	8 Official launch and submitted to CBD Sec.	9. Developing a detailed resource mobilization plan
1	Cook Islands		x							
2	FSM	x								
3	Fiji				x					
4	Kiribati			x						
5	Marshall Islands	x								
6	Nauru	x								
7	Niue							x		
8	Palau			x						
9	Papua New Guinea	x								
10	Samoa							x		
11	Solomon Islands							x		
12	Tonga					x				
13	Tuvalu			x						
14	Vanuatu			x						
	PICs NBSAP review status	4	1	4	1	1	1	2	2	0

(Status as of December, 2016)

Support to biodiversity conservation through existing networks and mechanisms such as through the:

- Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation, a coordination mechanism established in 1997 in response to a request from PICs to improve the delivery of conservation actions in a more coordinated manner
- Pacific Islands Invasive Network of invasive species practitioners in the Pacific sharing lessons learnt, experiences and best practices

State of Conservation in Oceania Report

Commissioned in 2013 by SPREP and implemented by IUCN to understand the status of conservation in the region and to measure progress in conserving and managing biodiversity in the region and to assess progress against the Aichi Targets.

Proposed areas for continued support under the ACP MEA project

- Strengthening capacities at SPREP and in countries in the review and development of national legislations and its enforcement
- Strengthening synergies across the Biodiversity MEAs and integration with the SDGs, S.A.M.O.A pathway and other related international processes
- Strengthening the mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into policy and legislative frameworks of key development sectors such as the tourism sector and the agricultural sector building on work already undertaken on mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Improve and strengthen data collection and management to support monitoring of the state of biodiversity to support policy, planning and decision making
- Build capacity on the application of strategic environmental assessment methodologies and tools to support mainstreaming of biodiversity at the national and sectoral levels
- Support the implementation of revised NBSAPs through targeted technical and capacity building interventions
- Strengthening SPREP's engagement with SDG reporting, monitoring and governance
- Support country engagement in COP and related processes including capacity to assess implications of key decisions arising from COP meetings