

REPORT

Pacific Environment Forum 2011

*Rio+20 and Beyond: Building resilience
for a sustainable future*

12 September 2011 Tanoa Tusitala Hotel Apia Samoa



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Overall Objectives

In past SPREP Meetings, members have requested for a forum where they could substantively engage in discussions on specific environmental topics particularly those that are of significant importance to the region. In response to this request for a forum and to assist members in their preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) or Rio+20 which will be held in Rio de Janeiro Brazil in 2012, the Secretariat is organizing a one day Forum for members and partners to engage in discussions on the following selected topics:

- Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;
- Environmental governance which is a broad topic that includes institutional frameworks for sustainable development;
- Adapting to climate change which continues to be one of the top priority issues for the Pacific

The Forum will feature key speakers who will present different perspectives on the above selected topics. Panel and break-out group discussions will be conducted to further articulate the main messages and issues that will arise out of the main discussions. These key messages will form the basis for an Outcome Statement to be presented to the 22nd SPREP meeting for consideration as input to the Rio+20 preparations and other regional and international processes.

The agenda is given in Annex 1 and registered participant list in Annex 2. Meeting documents from the Forum can be found on the SPREP website at <http://www.sprep.org/PacificEnvironmentForum/index.htm> and photos at

<https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sredir?uname=110597273873468652558&target=ALBUM&id=5657894395591916961&authkey=Gv1sRgCK75hlmzw-SQHg&feat=email> and

https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sredir?uname=110597273873468652558&target=ALBUM&id=5657908346939604209&authkey=Gv1sRgCI73_fbynMb3NA&feat=email



Opening

Prayer delivered by Mr Vaitoti Tupa of the Cook Islands

Welcome remarks by Mr David Sheppard, SPREP; see Annex 3.

- The forum is a new initiative with a more technical focus than SPREP meeting, providing space for discussion of the technical issues which affect our region. We hope it will become regular feature of future SPREP meetings.
- The aim for the forum was to make it relevant, interesting and interactive.
- There will be three panels, on the green economy, adaptation to climate change and environmental governance.
- Outcome of the PEF will provide input to Rio+20, to complement and build on major meeting held earlier in the year in Apia.
- Rio+20 is 20 years after the Earth Summit in 1992. It was a successful meeting instrumental in establishing key conventions which provide the framework for SPREPs work today.
- There has been major progress in the Pacific in fields such as mainstreaming, green economy
- In Samoa, the environment department 20 years ago was small, under resourced, now has strong leadership and is a well resourced organisation
- Note major challenges in the region, climate change was highlighted in last weeks Pacific Forum Leaders meeting as the key overarching challenge for the region.
- In the PEF we will hear about this and also positive examples such as Oceanscape, an initiative led by the President of Kiribati

Keynote address by Mr Alphonse Kambu, UNEP; see Annex 4.

- Apologies are given on behalf of Mr Steiner and Mr Kante of UNEP, for not being able to attend
- I am honored to be here in this beautiful country and participate in the first Forum which it would be good to see continue, to discuss issues of importance in the region
- From an ecological and social point of view, the sustainability crisis hits hardest the people who live in specific geographical regions and ecosystems such as the small islands developing states (SIDS).
- Climate change alone is recognized as one of the one major contributor to this sustainability crisis. Political recognition of impact of climate change is low, but it is acknowledged as obstacle for sustainable development and achievement of MDGs
- The Pacific is some of first ones experiencing impact of sea level rise and problems associated with this.
- The second working group of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC WG2) show that approximately 90% of the changes to the physical and biological systems of our globe are a consequence of global warming, and found to be primarily caused by human activities.
- The Millennium Assessment revealed that over the past 50 years, humans have changed ecosystems more rapidly and extensively than in any comparable period of time in human history
- Our institutions, policies and strategies must be framed toward addressing the linkage between climate change and environmental sustainability to ensure a balance among them
- UNEP encourages governments to seek synergies between and among the major MEAs, UNEP is supporting the modalities for joint reporting by the parties to the three Rio conventions. In

addition, the ACP project which is jointly implemented by UNEP and SPREP for the Pacific is intended to achieve a synergistic approach to implementing the MEAs better

- Complexity of issues can be a challenge to countries. Problem of lack of capacity is permanent and must be addressed constantly.
- In coping with the sustainability crisis, it is crucial to make effective use of scientific knowledge and information by bringing together advanced technologies, indigenous knowledge and traditional methods. This will also involve North-South and South-South cooperation by sharing expertise, in particular, the experiences of developed countries to address this crisis.
- Partnerships between governments, international organisations and civil society are needed.
- The UNEP led Green Economy Initiative is aimed at analyzing and providing policy support for investment in green sectors and in greening environmental unfriendly sectors.
- It is also important to promote mainstreaming gender, youth and local communities into sustainable resources management
- It has become evident that some of the global environmental problems we are facing today can be linked to governance challenges, which need to be strengthened. UNEP has put in place a process for reform of the international environmental governance which will be part of the Rio+20 discussions next year in addition to the Green Economy
- The discussions for the Forum today are relevant and will address some of these challenges and approaches to improving the sustainability crises in the Pacific
- UNEP is still committed to working with the Pacific Islands countries, SPREP and other partners in addressing these environmental problems
- I sincerely wish for us a fruitful outcome of the Forum.

Opening remarks by Hon Fa'amoetaulua Dr Fa'ale Tumaalii, MNRE; see Annex 5.

- It is a pleasure to deliver remarks at the first Forum. Previous speakers have clearly shown the broad scope of challenges facing both the Pacific and the world generally.
- We are also faced with newly emerging challenges. The Forum is an opportunity to share views, ideas and experiences, and also to explore and define practical ways and solutions to address in integrated a holistic manner appropriate to pacific context.
- The outcome will provide input to the regional and international processes which we are party to.
- In July 2011 I hosted a meeting which formed the basis of an outcome document from pacific SIDS for Rio+20. The Outcomes document is one of key documents for this Forum, I urge you to consider it and the issues raised, to assist countries to formulate their national submissions to Rio+20 process.
- Pacific wants green economy in a blue world. the Pacific SIDS delegation in NYC have succeeded in getting blue economy on the Rio Agenda and we need to ensure it is given the focus and status it deserves, develop an inclusive and practical way of promoting the right kind of growth, particularly climate change and waste management.
- Sustainable practices have long been done by PICs, linked to the biodiversity and natural recourses of islands
- The Pacific Ocean covers 25% of the globe and is a global asset and is under threat. We have done much under national and regional level to protect and preserve, the international community also needs to take immediate steps for the green economy. PSIDS need to get a fair share of benefits and be rewarded and compensated for the sacrifices they make to do sustainable management.

- PSIDS are not responsible for climate change but are threatened by this. We have little control over carbon emissions, but are deeply concerned that the current level of economy is causing temperature rise which will kill the reefs and threaten the livelihoods and even very existence of some countries.
- The 5 year review of the Mauritius Strategy notes that the special vulnerabilities of PSIDS remain, and in some cases have increased. PSIDs reaffirm the need to maintain special consideration at Rio+20.
- The capacity constraint of PSIDS affects their ability to access international funds. There is also a high reporting burden on small island administrations.
- Customary ownership underlines need for community involvement. Marine protected areas at village and district level are good examples of this- by in from the community is a pre-requisite for success.
- At the national level we have developed legislation and policies through consultation where everyone involved in national priority setting.
- Unique situation and challenges- need to not lose focus of traditional practices and work towards the best of tradition and modern governance systems in combination.
- Climate change remains fundamental threat to survival of Pacific islands, especially the low lying atoll countries.
- Gratifying to note that activities of the PACC project are progressing well. Prioritisation is a must, with community inputs as well as expert advice. The PIFACC provides the vision and calls for adaptation and other interventions. Emphasis to be placed on on-the-ground capacity, use tools developed under the PACC project.
- Important projects in Mangrove replanting and coral rehabilitation actively enhance protection from impacts of climate change and the success of these projects to date underscores the need to implement these in effective policy frameworks.
- All participants of forum are encouraged to give their contributions in the Panels to harness the opportunities presented at this Forum.
- With these words I now officially open the first Pacific Environment forum.



*Hon. Fa'amoetaulua Dr. Fa'ale Tumalii
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa*



*Mr. Alphonse Kambu
Programme Officer - UNEP*

Panel I. Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

The objective of the session is to gain an understanding of the green economy concept and implications on greening Pacific economies. It will take into account the developments at the international level and recent regional Rio+20 preparations as well as exploring key issues such as oceans management and conservation, renewable energy and sustainable management of resources.

Chair: *Mr. David Sheppard – Director of SPREP*

This will complement and build on the ministerial meeting in Apia earlier in the year.

UNEP Green economy - global perspective, *Dr. Greg Sherley*

- Speaking on behalf of Mr Bakary Kante.
- The sustainability crisis was noted at opening. Causes are closely linked to economic activities. We need to reassess the way we have been consuming resources and conducting business, to see where we have been wrong and put it in order.
- UNEP has launched its GE initiative, to assist countries to move into more environmental friendly ways. Purpose is to provide analysis and policy support for countries. Need to maintain both direct and indirect benefits.
- The Green Economy is more than just green growth, is all encompassing.
- The Green Economy Report has relevance to SIDS.
- Three sectors have been analysed: marine fishing, energy and tourism, which 5% of worlds GDB, but contributes 6 – 7% to employment.
- Making Green Economy work involves many stakeholders, including private sector, need the right kind of policy and institutional frameworks. UNEP through the Green Economy Initiative has expertise to offer support.

Greening the economy: Australia's experience, *Mr. Stephen Powell*

- Noted that the July meeting for Rio+20 offered an opportunity to develop a clear statement for the Pacific in the Process, and this presentation updates delegates on progress made by Australia towards:
 - Update on Australia's Progress to a Clean Energy Future
 - Issue of Green Economy in a Blue World
- Australia's preparation for Rio is underway and has been for some time. Navigating the process is complex.
- Thousands will be competing for attention to get their voices heard at Rio- 193 nations all submitting proposals in addition to presentations from other groups.
- Challenge in making our view heard- therefore a collective voice is vital
- Rio+20 major events of 2012, most important post Johannesburg Meeting for the sustainable development Community.
- Australia is interested in extent to which the conference produces practical outcomes for sustainable development. The fact that one voice among many presents a special challenge
- What does Australia have in common with the Pacific? Some differences: congested cities, industry, scale of responses and different responsibilities for different environments
- Impact examples: droughts have a big impact on industry, cyclones raise banana prices
- Coastal communities are dependent on marine environment

- Recent initiatives: sustainable populations plan and clean energy plan.
- Population growth plan: to be a nation of sustainable communities, amenity, affordable housing: focus is on improving well-being- a more holistic approach than GNP
- Developing a detailed plan on clean energy future: planning progress towards green economy- vehicle for achieving clean energy future. Growth through innovation.
- Clean energy future: case for Australia changing its economic framework: top 20 countries, 1.5% global GHG emissions per capita is the highest in the developed world
- Pathway to a low future carbon price (60% of emissions come from top 500 companies), to be reduced from efficiency and changes in land use
- Blue economy- Pacific concept emphasises dependence on marine resources and ecosystems
- Improved efforts towards marine protected areas and management
- Strong message is very important- difficult to ignore.
- Australia- identify key features, regional priorities with long term security in mind. Example - Coral Triangle: holistic well being: where green economy fits very well
- Still need to make this message as clear as possible. World needs to value stewardship- more international support and goals from marine protected areas

Implications of the green/blue economy on Small Islands Developing States - Cook Islands' experience, Mr. Vaitoti Tupa

- National assessment report is being finalised, to assist Cook Islands preparations for Rio+20. Identifies national level incentives, barriers and opportunities for the implementation of greening the economies.
- Greening of the economy is not a new approach for the PICs. Draws on strengths – creativity, resourcefulness and innovation.
- Priority for government is to protect the foundation for the green economy which is dependant on the environment and the solidarity between the various participants in society.
- Cook Islands government is pursuing various opportunities.
- A movie clip was shown. Key messages:
 - Environment is livelihood, culture and traditions, the basis and backbone of the economy
 - Depends on:
 - Good waste practices.
 - Good land practices, the land and lagoon are connected.
 - Appropriate infrastructure
 - Intact and healthy ecosystems
 - Some species are only found in the Cook Islands, these are our gifts to the world
 - Economy can only thrive if the foundation is strong; the environment is a priceless gift.

Outcomes of the Pacific Rio+20 Preparatory Meeting, Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra

- PP Meeting in July hosted and chaired by Government Samoa
- Led by ESCAP since under the mandate of inputs from regions in the Rio+20
- Forum in two sections:
 - Open forum where government representatives/NGOs discussed informally the themes of Rio+20

- More formal, environment and finance; in margins of FEMM meeting to enable dialogue; also with fisheries
- Instead of the discussion surrounding the definitions of green economy the rather focused on 5 pathways to Green Economy
 - Investment in natural capital
 - Sustainable production and consumption
 - Sustainable infrastructure
 - Greening business and markets
 - Green taxes and budget reforms
- Major focus on further defining blue economy together with issues of ocean governance, equitable split of resources
- National assessments. ESCAP assisting in submitting national positions to Rio+20. Framework needed to be inclusive; fiscal and budgetary reforms; regional green growth roadmap
- Also framework for institutional development for sustainable development. Focus of all development activities in the region, NSDS still provide the best platform. Promotion of Cairns compact- aid and donor coordination needs to be enhanced.
- Promoting Partnerships- Private sector, churches etc
- Climate change financing offers benefits for other activities
- Recommendations on two themes for Rio, there are 4 overarching points 'call from the pacific'
- Pacific SIDS brought this onto agenda, but would require support in bringing this forward
- Pacific ocean is global resource- many initiatives- Oceanscape, Nauru Agreement, Phoenix Protected Area, need support from the global system
- High seas areas- review of UNCLOS to integrate sustainable development
- Call to developed countries to meet their commitments under the conventions- need to ensure that developed countries meet conditions. Pacific SIDS have difficulty accessing financing
- Other forums for discussion of Rio+20 were the Nature Conservation Roundtable meeting and the UNCCD preCOP meeting. Note the need for coordination between the Rio conventions, and importance of alignment at all levels.
- Rio+20 Outcomes document was input to SIDS meeting in NYC

Discussion

- Mike Donaghue, Samoa - noted that the CI PM formally announced that the Cook Islands is working on creating a 1m sqkm marine park in southern cook is. Congratulate PM and his government. Also noted the Pacific Oceanscape initiative in which the CROP Marine Sector Working Group was involved, and can provide more information
- Sauni Tongatule, Niue - noted sustainable development, emphasis on poverty eradication. However, the recent Global Environmental Outlook report noted that biodiversity and land degradation targets are slipping, especially in the pacific region. In the Pacific communities focus more on survival, environmental degradation continues. Not sure if we are in a position to come out of survival mode to address the Green Economy.
- Stuart Home, NZHC, Samoa - noted the Waiheke declaration, joint communiqué between the UN secretary general and PIC leaders. Read key outcomes of priorities.
- Final comments from panelists:
 - Vaitoti – The Cook Islands have 2m sq km of ocean. A question which can be asked is why not look at creating a reserve in the whole 2m sqkm? The government is looking at smaller area first, will consult the other outer islands and take it step by step

- Greg - there are existing opportunities, such as Oceanscape. Use them. There is a lot of overlap between work going on in the region to meet regions needs. Capitalise on recent successes and learn from these.
- Stephen – one clear point is how much biodiversity and health of ecosystems is at the heart of well being for people, more obvious in pacific islands but is global issue. Need to emphasis this connection of biodiversity and sustainable development.
- Sefa – how apply sustainable dev will depend on context. Process is probably more important than actual definition. Agree that need clear and succinct interventions in Rio+20. A lot of good stories out there, need to pull them together.
- Chairs final comments - Noted Tonga's road energy map as a model. A key message for Rio+20 must be the global significance of the region. Environmental ministers shouldn't work in isolation need to link to finance ministries.



L-R: David Sheppard, Vaitoti Tupa, Greg Sherley, Stephen Powell and Sefanaia Nawadra

Panel II Environmental Governance in the Pacific

The panel discussion will highlight key aspects of environmental governance in the Pacific. The speakers will share their experiences and perspectives on the topic including forward looking recommendations on areas to strengthen environmental governance including institutional frameworks in the context of sustainable development in the Pacific.

Chair: –Mr. Alphonse Kambu – Programme Officer, UNEP

- Note the degradation of mangroves -these challenges demonstrate the need for strong governance frameworks.
- Accessibility of funds for SIDS is a governance issue, there are 100s of different funds with different mechanisms. GEF voting weighted in favour of developed countries so this isn't good for SIDS
- Pacific voice- 58 permanent members within UNEP and it is unrepresentative. Some of the countries in the Pacific miss out. In the UN general assembly there are so many issues growing in number, and the environmental issues get subdued.
- MEAs proliferation and corresponding lack of capacity for attending meetings plus reporting constraints place heavy burdens on SIDS.
- The costs involved in implementing the existing agreements is vast: \$80m for 12 MEAS
- More funding for ILO, UNFAO than UNEP so this is also a challenge.

The role of local village governance systems in environmental management: Tokelau's experience, Ms. Lisa Lister-Lui

- Tokelau consists of 3 coral atolls. Non-self governing territory of NZ. Government structure outlined. Integrate traditional decision making process with modern approaches.
- The Tokelau Dream. The vision for the 2010 – 2015 National Strategic Plan is “Healthy and Active Communities with Opportunities for All”
- Four policy outcome areas – good governance, infrastructure development, human development and sustainability.
- Accomplishments: Renewable Energy Programme, Village Waste Management Initiative, Marine Resource Conservation Areas, Coastal Area Management, and Organic Farming
- Environmental governance challenges: lack of information and awareness, links between national and local, lack of financial and human resources, competing priorities, need robust infrastructure support, isolation, need improved local standards and capacity, and changing roles of government.
- Opportunities – national support, renew and update existing policies, collaboration, regional initiatives eg PACC
- Need to strengthen the roles of the Taupulega, collaboration at regional level, environmental strategies and policies on sustainable development.

Empowering young people to be leaders in environmental management: youth perspective, Ms. Brianna Fruean

- I am 13 years old and a youth ambassador for Samoa

- Age and ignorance is too often as an excuse for not understanding the key issues surrounding the environment, with the attitude that it's a matter for the scientist. Key message of empowering youth, regardless of age or gender, to lead by doing.
- Social networking is a powerful way of influencing and getting the attention of young people
- Powerful force of change, focusing on the solution to the problem, rather than the problem itself.
- The Pacific is united as a family in their islands, and should collectively fight for the solutions.
- Overall, I am not 'depressed' by the science of climate change, but focus my attention more on the solutions to the problem.
- A short video clip was shown, illustrating the work I am involved in:
 - Cleaning up in front of Government Building- 2005 'Keeping Samoa Clean'
 - Car Pooling
 - Recycling is cool
 - Composition Natural Waste
 - Using compost for veggie garden
 - Organic tomatoes
 - Influence friends/ whole school- getting other peoples' attention
 - Politics
 - Get celebrities to spread your message, such as Manu Samoa

Discussion

- David Sheppard, SPREP - question to Brianna – do you have any suggestions on how to get Pacific message across at Rio+20?
 - Brianna - Talk to youth in language we understand. Social network sites. Feel involved if you invite youth in.
- Sauni Tongatule, Niue – noted the question raised above, need to look at inventive ways to present our case. Invite our younger generation to share their vision, converse in a way appropriate for youth.
- Taulealeausamai L. Malua, Samoa – recall earlier message on institutional and policy arrangements needed, in some PICs these are already in place, but awareness is not good. Notes can be conflicts between laws and culture and customs. Role of youth and communities in support of governance is very important.
- Rence Sore, Solomon Islands – comment that the forecast in 1992 was the future, Brianna was born and is living in that future. Do we need to do more?
 - Brianna – youth can help towards Rio+20 by actions, we can do a lot, even by small things like picking up rubbish.
- Seema Deo, SPREP. Question to Brianna – what would you like adults to do for youth? In 1992 leaders made promises to protect the environment. Do you think we've done a good job? What can we do now?
 - Brianna – youth is the future. Are limited by their age, need adult support, to help do these projects such as driving. Age – we have ideas but sometimes can't pursue them without the help of adults. You have led us to awareness, now we take action and need your help.
- Donna Kwan, CMS. We are inspired by your enthusiasm. Is it a good idea for you to go to Rio+20, and if so what messages would you give?

- Brianna – good idea to go, youth needs to be heard. I will tell everyone there that the Pacific youth are doing something, and need support from other countries.
- Chairs final comments: environmental governance is crucial in addressing problems, we see efforts by youth. At national level heard from Lisa on some of challenges on capacity which needs to be strengthened. Strengthen environmental governance at all 3 levels. Gov contributes to other global environmental challenges.



L-R: Brianna Fruean, Lisa Lister-Lui and Alphonse Kambu

Panel III Adapting to Climate Change

The main objective of this panel discussion is to highlight climate change adaptation results, discuss key adaptation challenges in the Pacific region and identify opportunities to upscale adaptation initiatives at all levels in society including key development sectors. The speakers will share their experiences and perspectives based on key adaptation actions that are being implemented in the context of small island developing states in the Pacific.

Chair: *Mr. Taule'ale'ausumai L. Malua – Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa*

Building community resilience to the impacts of climate change: Kiribati's experience, Mr. Farran Redfern

- Building community resilience to climate change.
- National Policy Frameworks in Kiribati take place in the Kiribati Development plan. This identifies six key policy areas, and climate change is one of these issues. The Adaptation Policy Statement and Strategy 2005 introduced a common strategy on climate change adaptation.
- External financing has been a challenge in terms of it being difficult due to lack of capacity.
- NAPA II 2006 identified two national priorities on climate change- water and coastlines.
- Includes disaster risk-reduction and management on communities modeled on the Samoan coastal development infrastructure plan with the aim of improving resilience at village level by identifying vulnerable areas
- Locally managed solutions within National Strategy
- NAPA II focuses on national priorities which were identified as agriculture, fisheries and food security.
- Water and sanitation projects under the GEF project have achieved great successes in their respective areas. Further progress has been made in Italian Government funded projects on renewables on the outer islands.
- Mangrove planting initiatives have also been successful.
- Phoenix Islands Protected Area 2006 established to protect coral reefs around Kiribati to provide island protection.
- UN Secretary General's visit also highlighted and raised awareness of the ecosystem based approaches to adaptation
- Challenges include:
 - Lack of core technical capacity continues to be a difficulty, particularly in the context of NAP's which require the production of new information.
 - There is a lack of reliable climate data and information
 - Coordination of national activities is being addressed, but has to be done on a continual, systematic basis.
 - Awareness to village communities, it is difficult to communicate the often complicated ideas involved with a number of environmental issues.
 - Leadership across all sectors, both in government and elsewhere is important.
- Opportunities include:
 - National / Regional initiatives including the Centre of Excellence for Atoll Agriculture Research and Development in the Pacific

- Learning lessons, from projects in country and elsewhere in the region is important, particularly with a view to scaling up the successful ones. Development Partners can be particularly important in this process.

Overview of the Pacific Island Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Climate Change Adaptation Project, Mr. Mike Donoghue

- This project is a joint endeavor with SPREP, funded by AusAid, looking at ecosystem based adaptation (EbA), defined as integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into overall strategies to help people adapt to climate change
- Key EbA relationships. Two questions:
 - What do we need to know about adaptation options for species and ecosystems particularly vulnerable to climate change? Island systems are particularly vulnerable as they have no where else to go.
 - How can EbA assist in climate proofing human development?
 - Also to identify key information gaps
- Three phases: desktop study, needs analysis and then results workshop in Fiji in 2011
- Products:
 - Synthesis report, including country level examples. A lot of potential to do a lot more.
 - Toolbox, in the CD.
- Main barrier to unlocking potential is the lack of baseline data. Even where we have it, it is often incompatible. This makes it hard to compare risks and prioritise actions.
- Key recommendations:
 - Build knowledge base, eg data collection and analysis, test and refine the toolbox
 - Take action on existing knowledge, eg capacity building pool, community based coastal zone programme, establish an EbA based assessment programmed.
- Actions are happening already, partnership is working on a project in Lami, Fiji.

Adaptation to Climate Change: Solomon Islands PACC Project results, challenges and opportunities, Mr. Casper Supa

- Issues regarding project implementation are interlinked, as a consequence the programmes must build capacity to cope with change.
- Project must be part of long term approach to implementation because of the implications of scope and scale of many projects situated in remote islands.
- Building capacity to manage change at the local level is key. Ontong Java Atoll, 90- languages and 122 islands presents good example of this. It is only reachable by boat, lacks electricity and has a population of over 1700 people in two main villages.
- These areas have traditionally had good food security as the marine resources provide food for its population. However, the area is exposed to extreme weather events such as king tides and to future rises in sea level.
- Management of marine resources, governance and aspects of mitigation and relocation are key contemporary issues.
- Assisted by the national disaster risk management office, exposure to extreme events king tides is beginning to be mitigated. This is part of a package of training, awareness raising, adaptation planning and National Policy Development.
- A further key challenge is in politics, getting local communities to cooperate.

- Linkages between local and national policy is seen as an opportunity, with the attendant benefits of sharing lessons learnt.
- V&A Assessments and actions cannot stand alone, the projects must develop capacity in a synergistic fashion, linking local with national.
- Planning stage to carry out a national Workshop to finalise the policy

Discussion

- Sue Taei, Conservation International. Comment to urge caution. Presenters give the impression that we can all happily adapt, but I don't agree. This region has not started to grapple with issues of acidification. Coral reefs will stop growing if levels continue to rise. Have no idea on impacts. Urge forum to pursue adaptation options but with balanced approach, options don't exist for all. Loss and damage type approach is needed. Congratulate Kiribati government on the Phoenix Islands initiative, these provide baselines sites.
 - Mike – key point is that Pacific is recipient of actions in industrialized world. Many of these activities have been set in train, is lag in responses even if we change things today. Small islands rate of impacts are great than in continents. One good outcome from Rio+20 would be reduction of emissions on the part of industrialized nations. In the absence of this we need to take what actions we can to adapt, such as large protected areas of the ocean. Pacific is seen as global leader, especially for ocean management, will take this to Rio+20 meeting. Best chance we've had to influence global process.
- Greg Sherley, UNEP. Talk a lot about information and technical knowledge. Question – how much more information do we need to take good corrective actions, and how should we gather future information for adaptive actions?
 - Farran – Kiribati Adaptation Project, first phase focused on research, second on implementation. Public asked if third phase was going to do more research? Perception influenced design.
 - Caspar – we implement and we act. Information is needed to identify issues, real things affecting the community.
 - Helen Jacot Des Combes, USP. Comment to link this with previous panel. Important to transfer information from one community to another and also to students, at school and university, so is not lost between generations and that what is working is disseminated.
- Netatua Pelesitoki, SPREP. Noted that we need to incorporate biodiversity into climate change policy. In region we need an integrated action plan for a country which covers all issues. We need to understand more about ocean acidification, a lot of research has been done overseas, such as Japan.
- Panel final comments:
 - Mike – clear linkages between atmospheric carbon dioxide and acidification. Affects shell fish, coral and other marine organisms such as squid, a keystone species. Big unknown impacts.
 - Farran – Kiribati will need more assistance to guide them.
 - Caspar – need to take all other sectors into consideration as well.
- Chairs final comments – key messages for the break-out groups are the role of partnerships, importance of info and baseline, focus on natural adaptive capacity, integration, be mindful of other pressures, and resources.



Taule'ale'ausumai Laavasa Malua



L-R: Casper Supa, Michael Donoghue and Farran Redfern

Forum Outcome Statement

Three breakout groups were formed to review key outcomes statements from the Rio+20 preparatory meeting, including key issues raised from the Forum panel discussions. The main task of the breakout groups was to review and articulate further on the Rio+20 outcomes and prepare 3 key messages which will form part of the outcomes of the Forum.

All participants were invited to be part of the drafting session, chaired by Mr Vaitoti Tupa, Director, Cook Islands National Environment Services. An Outcomes Statement was formally noted by the SPREP Meeting 13 – 15 September 2011; see Annex 6.

Closing remarks

Closing remarks were given by Mr David Sheppard, CEO SPREP.

- Thanks to working group chairs.
- This Forum has reinforced the many challenges we face in the region. Rio+20 provides an opportunity for us to raise these issues, noting the key role of sustainable environmental management in sustainable development. Take clear messages to Rio+20, need to focus on solutions and actions.
- Key messages:
 - Emphasise uniqueness and vulnerability of Pacific. The blue economy relates firmly to this. It was placed on agenda by PICs, especially the NY ambassadors. We commend initiatives such as Oceanscape and the Cook Islands marine reserve, and look forward to working with donors and partners.
 - Note the importance of adapting to climate change, key message, integrate to all sectors, multi-dimensional, land and sea, especially coral bleaching and acidification.
 - Biodiversity is recognised as a key climate change adaptation tool, emphasized by all groups today.
 - Green economy often seems like nailing jelly fish to wall, hard to grab, key messages at last week and here too include the importance of environmentally sustainable tourism as a driver for green growth, and the need to continue shifts to renewable energy
- We welcome all ideas to move forward

- The Outcomes Document will be finalized working through working group leaders, consultation, and then bringing it back under agenda Item 8.26 Rio+20.
- Thanks to all presenters
- This session is hereby closed.



Kosi Latu – Master of Ceremony

Annex 1 Agenda

PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM

Theme: Rio+20 and Beyond: Building resilience for a sustainable future

12th September, 2011 at the Tanoa Tusitala Hotel, Apia, Samoa

Annotated Agenda

Overall Objectives of the Pacific Environment Forum 2011

In past SPREP Meetings, members have requested for a forum where they could substantively engage in discussions on specific environmental topics particularly those that are of significant importance to the region. In response to this request for a forum and to assist members in their preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) or Rio+20 which will be held in Rio de Janeiro Brazil in 2012, the Secretariat is organizing a one day Forum for members and partners to engage in discussions on the following selected topics:

- Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;
- Environmental governance which is a broad topic that includes institutional frameworks for sustainable development;
- Adapting to climate change which continues to be one of the top priority issues for the Pacific

The Forum will feature key speakers who will present different perspectives on the above selected topics. Panel and break-out group discussions will be conducted to further articulate the main messages and issues that will arise out of the main discussions. These key messages will form the basis for an Outcome Statement to be presented to the 22nd SPREP meeting for consideration as input to the Rio+20 preparations and other regional and international processes.

8:30am – 9:00am *Registration*

9:00am - 10:00am Opening (Master of Ceremony – Kosi Latu)

- i. Prayer
 - ii. Welcome Remarks by Mr. David Sheppard, Director of SPREP
 - iii. Keynote Address by – Mr. Alphonse Kambu, Programme Manager, Division for Environmental Law and Governance, UNEP
 - iv. Opening Remarks by Hon. Fa'amoetaulua Dr. Fa'ale Tumaalii, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa
- Group Photo before morning tea*

10:00am - 10:30am MORNING TEA

10:30am - 11:40am Panel I: Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication (70 mins)

The objective of the session is to gain an understanding of the green economy concept and implications on greening Pacific economies. It will take into account the developments at the international level and recent regional Rio+20 preparations as well as exploring key issues such as oceans management and conservation, renewable energy and sustainable management of resources.

Chair: *Mr. David Sheppard – Director of SPREP (5 mins opening 5 mins closing)*

Speakers

- *Mr. Greg Sherley – UNEP Green economy - global perspective (10 mins)*
- *Mr. Stephen Powell - Greening the economy: Australia's experience (10 mins)*
- *Mr. Vaitoti Tupa - Implications of the green/blue economy on Small Islands Developing States - Cook Islands' experience: (10 mins)*
- *Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra – Outcomes of the Pacific Rio+20 Preparatory Meeting (10 mins)*

Questions and Answers (20 mins)

11:40am -12:40pm Panel II: Environmental Governance in the Pacific (60 mins)

The panel discussion will highlight key aspects of environmental governance in the Pacific. The speakers will share their experiences and perspectives on the topic including forward looking recommendations on areas to strengthen environmental governance including institutional frameworks in the context of sustainable development in the Pacific.

Chair: *–Mr. Alphonse Kambu – Programme Manager, UNEP (5 mins opening and 5 mins closing)*

Speakers:

- *Ms. Liza Lister-Lui - The role of local village governance systems in environmental management: Tokelau's experience (10 mins)*
- *Ms. Brianna Fruean - Empowering young people to be leaders in environmental management: youth perspective (10 mins)*

Questions and Answers (20 mins)

12:40pm – 1:40pm Panel III: Adapting to climate change (60 mins)

The main objective of this panel discussion is to highlight climate change adaptation results, discuss key adaptation challenges in the Pacific region and identify opportunities to upscale adaptation initiatives at all levels in society including key development sectors. The speakers will share their experiences and perspectives based on key adaptation actions that are being implemented in the context of small island developing states in the Pacific.

Chair: Mr. Taulealeausumai L. Malua – Chief Executive Office, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa (5 mins opening 5 mins closing)

Speakers:

- Mr. Farran Redfern - Building community resilience to the impacts of climate change: Kiribati's experience (10 mins)
- Mr. Mike Donoghue - The role of ecosystems in adaptation (10 mins)
- Mr. Casper Supa - Adaptation to Climate Change: Solomon Islands PACC Project results, challenges and opportunities - (10 mins)

Questions and Answers (20 mins)

1:40pm – 2:40pm LUNCH [available at the Side Events]

2:40pm – 4:10pm Break Out groups

There will be three breakout groups. The breakout groups will review key outcomes statements from the Rio+20 preparatory meeting including key issues raised from the Forum panel discussions. The main task of the breakout groups is to review and articulate further on the Rio+20 outcomes and prepare 3 key messages which will form part of the outcomes of the Forum.

4:10pm – 4:50pm Plenary

Chair: Mr. Vaitoti Tupa, Director, Cook Islands National Environment Services.

4:50pm – 5:00 pm Wrap-up and Closing

- Closing Remarks by the Director of SPREP – Mr. David Sheppard (10 mins)

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Annex 3. Opening Remarks by Mr David Sheppard, SPREP

Hon. Minister for Natural Resources and Environment, Hon Ministers and delegates to the SPREP Meeting, Representative of the Executive Director of UNEP, members of the Diplomatic Corps of Samoa, Partners, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Morning and Talofa.

Welcome to the first SPREP Environment Forum – we hope you have had a good trip here, that you are refreshed and ready for a busy week. We can guarantee it will be busy.

The Pacific Environment Forum is a new initiative.

Our aim is to provide an increased focus within the SPREP meeting for discussion of key technical issues which affect our region. Suggestion from last year's SPREP meeting, where Ministerial Forum was very successful, we hope the Forum will become a regular feature of future SPREP meetings.

We have had a team working tirelessly on planning for this Forum and I would like to particularly thank Andrew Kennedy and Easter Galuvao for their efforts.

My broad instructions to the organising team were to make it relevant, make it interesting and fun and ensure the Forum is as interactive as possible. I'm sure all of these aims will be met. Whether the Forum is interactive will rest with you – the audience – and I urge you all to be involved, today.

The Forum is structured around three panels in the morning and break out groups in the afternoon – there will be many opportunities for you to be involved. The panels will cover three key areas:

- The Green Economy
- Environmental Governance and
- Adapting to Climate Change

We hope this Forum will provide a useful input to the Rio+20 Meeting next year. Also that it will complement and build on a major meeting of Environment and Finance Ministers held in Apia in July this year – which helped develop a Pacific position for Rio+20.

Next years' meeting covers 20 years after the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. I worked at SPREP at that time and can attest to the focus and energy of Pacific Countries, supported by SPREP at this landmark conference. SPREP in fact had a 2 person team, led by Gerald Miles.

The original Rio Conference was a landmark event which developed a number of key conventions including the biodiversity and climate conventions and set ambitious targets for managing and protecting the environment.

20 years down the track we can see there has been major progress in the Pacific on areas such as mainstreaming environmental issues into development sectors and on the Green Economy, Samoa MNRE for example. However, major challenges remain.

The loss of biodiversity globally, and in our region, countries at alarming rates.

Climate Change has been identified by Pacific leaders as the biggest challenge facing our region and requires urgent action. We will hear more about these threats and challenges today. We will also hear about positive examples.

The Pacific Oceanscape, for example, provides an innovative example of oceans management in this region, and for the world.

Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, the aim of today's forum is to have an interactive session. So please get involved and share your experience.

I wish you an enjoyable and productive forum.

Thank you, Fa'a fetai.

Annex 4. Keynote Address by Mr Bakary Kante, UNEP

Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, UNEP on the occasion of the Pacific Environment Forum 2011.

Delivered by

Mr. Alphonse Kambu Programme Officer, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, UNEP

Your Excellency Honourable Fa' amoetaulua Dr. Taito Fa' ale, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa, Excellencies from the Pacific, Mr. David Sheppard, Director, SPREP, Distinguished delegates, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me start by offering apologies from my bosses, Mr. Achim Steiner and Mr. Bakary Kante for not being here with you in person. Mr. Steiner has to be in New York to chair another meeting this week. And Mr. Kante was off-loaded at the airport due to complications with a transit visa to Australia. Allow me to read a statement that Mr. Kante was supposed to deliver to you today. Before, I start let me express that it is a great honor for me to be here in the beautiful Pacific Island nation of Samoa and to participate in the first Pacific Environment Forum. Let me commend SPREP for initiating this forum and thank you for inviting UNEP to participate.

Let me start with highlighting the sustainability crises that the world is facing today, including food shortages, scarcity of fresh water resources and the decline of biodiversity and ecosystem services at the global and regional levels. It is clear that, from an ecological and social point of view, the sustainability crisis hits hardest the people who live in specific geographical regions and ecosystems such as the small islands developing states (SIDS) and islands ecosystems, including the very poor and the very marginalized where poverty and hunger still afflict a billion or more people on a daily basis.

Addressing global sustainability issues such as, climate change, food security, water shortage and ecosystem services loss is an urgent challenge for the international community. Climate change alone can be considered as one major contributor to this sustainability crisis as it has negative impacts on food production, potable water and other essential needs that support livelihood. Although the political recognition of the impacts of climate change and its contribution to food crisis has been low, it has been acknowledged as a challenge for sustainable development and major obstacle to the achievements of the environmental sustainability and poverty alleviation objectives of the Millennium Development Goals.

I am aware that you in the Pacific are some of the first ones to experience the real impacts of climate change, sea level rise and the problems associated with it and perhaps more than any other region of the world. You know your problems more than some of us and I would not be doing justice by speaking about these problems you are grappling with on a daily basis.

However, to bring into perspective some of these sustainability crises, you may recall that the findings of the second working group of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC WG2) show that approximately 90 per cent of the changes to the physical and biological systems of our globe are a consequence of global warming. The fourth assessment report of the IPCC further reinforced that the causes of global warming are caused by human activities.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), concluded in 2005, presents a similar message stating that climate change among other factors is a new and major driver of change to ecosystems and their

services. The MA revealed that over the past 50 years, humans have changed ecosystems more rapidly and extensively than in any comparable period of time in human history, primarily to meet the demands for food, fiber, timber, freshwater and fuel. This has caused large and irreversible loss to biodiversity.

Climate change, biodiversity, environmental sustainability and the MDGs as we know are intertwined. The linkages make it even more challenging. Our institutions, policies and strategies must be framed toward addressing this linkage to ensure a balance among them. A number of response options to reverse the impact of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services are available to us. UNEP has worked with partners and governments to address some of these sustainability challenges. The UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are among the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) that are in place to respond to the challenges. As the linkages become clearer such MEAs need to build synergies and work together to deliver better results. UNEP encourages governments to seek synergies between and among the major MEAs, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is crucial to improve the scientific, technical cooperation and information exchange among the three Rio conventions (CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD), especially their scientific subsidiary bodies. One such opportunity that UNEP is supporting is the modalities for joint reporting by the parties to the three Rio conventions. In addition, the ACP project which is jointly implemented by UNEP and SPREP for the Pacific is intended to achieve a synergistic approach to implementing the MEAs better.

In this perspective, countries are called upon to integrate these strategies in implementing the MEAs. However, the complexity of the issues can be a challenge for them given their limited capacity in terms of administrative, technical and financial shortcomings. The problem of the lack of capacity of countries is permanent and must be addressed constantly. We also know that the need and challenge is far greater for the small islands developing states.

The need to build and strengthen the capacities of the disadvantaged countries to address the impact of climate change on biodiversity, whether it is through the implementation of MEAs or through adaptation and mitigation initiatives, is a crucial mission for us. In light of the capacity building needs for countries, the UNEP Governing Council has adopted a decision on technology transfer and capacity building for developing countries in Bali, Indonesia in 2005. UNEP has been mandated by its Governing Council to implement the Bali Strategic Plan and has been carrying it out in various aspects to address some of the sustainability challenges.

In coping with the sustainability crisis, it is crucial to make effective use of scientific knowledge and information by bringing together advanced technologies, indigenous knowledge and traditional methods. This will also involve North-South and South-South cooperation by sharing expertise, in particular, the experiences of developed countries to address this crisis. There is an urgent need for significant initiative that combines traditional methods of conservation and cost-effective technologies adapted to specific local conditions in order to tackle sustainability crisis. Information exchange and sharing of best practices are crucial for developing countries.

Environmental, economic and social crises the world is experiencing today demand governments, international development agencies, and civil society groups to form partnerships and explore innovative and integrated solutions aimed at greening the world economy. These solutions will require investment in clean technologies and building the green economy which creates jobs and opportunities.

As you are probably aware, the UNEP led Green Economy Initiative is aimed at analyzing and providing policy support for investment in green sectors and in greening environmental unfriendly sectors. It is important for the sustenance of direct and indirect benefits yielded, which needs to be maintained by environmentally-friendly approaches, partly through provision of advisory services to governments and research by agencies through the UN. The Green Economy Report has contributed to the analysis of implications of green investment in SIDS, in industries such as the tourism and fisheries, which contribute significantly to the countries' economies.

Sustainable management of terrestrial and marine ecosystems also contributes positively to fundamental ecosystem services such as regulating water cycles, sequestering carbon, and helping to preserve biodiversity. However, sustainable management of ecosystems is a global challenge that requires solutions that cut across policy, socio-economic and environmental sectors at all levels.

It is also important to promote mainstreaming gender, youth and local communities into sustainable resources management. Addressing the sustainability crises will require tackling gender, youth and local community concerns and building their capacity and integrating them in policy and decision-making processes that impact their lives.

Furthermore, we need to strengthen the links between environment and development in order to alleviate poverty and create better employment opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed in developing countries. It is important that governments invest more resources than in the past to enhance sustainable natural resources management in order to generate more global benefits in the light of challenges the world is experiencing today.

It has become evident that some of the global environmental problems we are facing today like climate change, habitat loss, land degradation and water shortage can be linked to governance challenges. Our existing institutional, legal and policy frameworks have not responded adequately to the sustainability crises. Institutions are weaker in that they do not possess adequate support structures to address the environmental sustainability crises. Existing laws and policies lack effective enforcement and implementation.

If we want to influence real changes and reverse the sustainability crises we need to strengthen our governance, institutional, legal and policy frameworks. In this regard, UNEP has put in place a process for reform of the international environmental governance which will be part of the Rio+20 discussions next year in addition to the Green Economy.

I am sure you will agree that stronger governance frameworks are crucial to tackle problems like climate change and its impacts such as sea level rise and ecosystem degradation and loss affecting not only the Pacific Islands countries but the whole world. Furthermore, stronger governance frameworks are needed to allow for approaches such as the Green Economy to function well in order to benefit the global community and especially the poor and underprivileged members of our community.

The discussions for the Forum today are relevant and will address some of these challenges and approaches to improving the sustainability crises in the Pacific. UNEP as the lead UN Agency mandated to work with the member states of the United Nations system on global environmental issues has been just doing this in various areas with partners to alleviate the sustainability crises.

Finally, UNEP is still committed to working with the Pacific Islands countries, SPREP and other partners in addressing the problems of climate change, biodiversity loss and other challenges through some of its

programmes and initiatives, such as the Green Economy Initiative or the International Environmental Governance Reform. I sincerely wish for us a fruitful outcome of the forum.

Thank You

Annex 5. Opening Remarks by Hon. Fa'amoetaulua Lealaiauloto Taito Ulaitino Dr F. Tumaali'i, *Minister of Natural Resources and Environment*

- Hon. Ministers of Environment from French Polynesia, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu
- Director of SPREP
- Director of the Division of Environmental Law and Governance, UNEP
- Country delegates
- Members of the Diplomatic Corp
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to deliver the Opening Remarks at the First Pacific Environment Forum. The Forum Agenda Topics clearly reflect the broad scope and the magnitude of the issues that are critical and pertinent to us in the Pacific. There can be no doubt, that as we work towards addressing some of our pressing environment and development management issues, we are also being faced with – newly emerging challenges.

The Forum today provides us with an opportunity to share our views, ideas and experiences on some of these issues. It is also an opportunity for us to explore and define practical ways and solutions - to address these issues in an integrated and holistic manner that is relevant and appropriate to our own Pacific context – and provide input to the different international and regional processes that we are party to.

Specifically on the emphasis of this Forum, may I share with you my views and perspectives on the main discussion topics;

In July this year (2011), I had the pleasure of hosting and chairing a regional gathering of my ministerial colleagues from environment, Finance and Fisheries as well as other distinguished participants at the Rio+20 Pacific Preparatory Meeting. The outcomes from that meeting form the basis of the Outcomes Document from PSIDS that carry forward to national, regional and global preparatory conferences toward Rio+20.

I am informed that this Outcomes Document is one of the key documents for this forum and I urge that you consider it and further develop the issues raised – in order to continue to assist countries to formulate their national submissions to the Rio+20 process by the fast approaching 1st November 2011 deadline.

For me the key messages we want to convey are:

The Pacific wants a “Green Economy in a Blue World”. We applaud the efforts of our missions in New York in successfully getting the “Blue Economy” onto the Rio+20 Agenda and we should all be supporting them to ensure it is given the focus and status it deserves.

We in the Pacific are reviewing our own commitment for sustainable development by adopting a “Green Economy in a Blue World” approach – as an inclusive and practical way of promoting the right kind of growth, meeting our key challenges – in particular, climate change and waste management. Valuable lessons can also be learnt from the sustainable lifestyles that have long been practiced by our people

and communities, whose wellbeing and cultures are intrinsically linked to the natural resources and biodiversity of their islands.

Occupying one third of the earth's surface, the Pacific Ocean is not only a Pacific but a global asset. This global resource is under threat and while we have done much at the national and regional levels to sustainably develop, manage and conserve – the Pacific Ocean and its resources; The international community also needs to take immediate steps to strengthen the governance of oceans so that the global community can sustainably manage this global resource. Pacific SIDS need to get a fair share of the benefits derived from the utilization of these resources. They should also be rewarded and compensated for the revenues they have foregone in order to protect and preserve ocean resources by declaring large marine protected areas for conservation and for nurseries for sustaining essential fish stocks such as tuna.

PSIDS are also acutely aware that although they are not responsible for climate change and the financial, fuel and food crises facing the world, these have the impact of delaying or even jeopardizing their development gains while also threatening the survival of many island nations and communities. They recognize that they have little control over the carbon emissions and excessive resource use that result from unsustainable production and consumption patterns in industrialized countries. They are deeply concerned that current levels of economic activity will cause a temperature rise of greater than 1.5 degrees which will not only destroy coral reefs and ecosystems, and undermine resources of livelihood for Pacific peoples – but will also threaten the very existence of some of the Pacific countries. The international community must accept that it bears the moral responsibility and in turn the financial burden for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The special consideration given to SIDS has been a prominent feature of both the United Nations Conferences on Environment and Development and the World Summit for Sustainable Development. The Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy have provided a framework by which SIDS have taken significant steps to address their sustainable development challenges. However as evidenced by the recent Pacific regional report for the 5 year review of the Mauritius Strategy, the special vulnerabilities of Pacific SIDS remain and in some cases have increased as a result of climate change impact, natural disasters and the recent financial food and fuel crises. Pacific SIDS therefore reaffirms the need to maintain a special consideration of SIDS at Rio+20.

While there has been a considerable development of global financing mechanisms, by and large, developed nations have not met their commitments to funding sustainable development or climate change mitigation and adaptation. IN addition, funds that have been channeled through global funding architecture have not been designed to accommodate the capacity constraints of SIDS. As a result, SIDS have not been able to access these funds effectively. Pacific SIDS therefore seeks agreement by the international community to improve access to funds for the transformation of their economies; and to ease the reporting burden faced by small island administrations.

Environmental Governance in the Pacific

We in the Pacific are fortunate that we still maintain to a large extent our traditions and practices that govern the way we manage and use our natural resources. We have also developed modern and contemporary systems. Community ownership and leadership is at the core of environmental governance particularly because most of our lands are customary owned. Many of our national policies and strategies are meaningless if our communities are not part of. In Samoa, the village councils play a key role in natural resource management and we have had some good successes particularly with the

establishment of marine protected areas at the village and district levels. This is just one example to illustrate how village governing systems can be effective in managing our natural resources. We have also developed Village By-Laws to manage our fishery resources which is an example of how village governing systems can be integrated with modern legal systems. Within our communities, women, men, youths and other groups play key roles as part of the village governance systems. We must always consider the views of the different groups that make up our communities and societies. At the national level, many of our countries in the Pacific have developed a number of national environmental legislations and policies. These have been developed through intensive consultations with communities and key stakeholders. This reiterates the importance of involving everyone in setting national priorities as these are the same people who are expected to implement these policies.

At the regional level, we have developed, adopted and are implementing regional environmental policies and plans that fosters collaboration and cooperation among countries with a shared vision and desire to achieve collective common goods for the betterment of our Pacific countries and people.

Similarly at the international level, our countries and our region are engaged in various dialogues and forums voicing our issues and informing the countries of the world of our own unique situations including our challenges.

As we embrace new knowledge and ways of doing things, it is important that we should not lose focus of our own traditional practices but work towards finding innovative ways that integrates the best of both traditional and modern governance systems.

Adapting to climate change

Climate change remains a fundamental threat to the survival of Pacific Islands Countries and communities, and impacts are being documented throughout the region. For the lower lying atoll countries it is a threat to their very existence, while countries like Samoa with the majority of our economic activities in the coastal areas face severe threats as well. Relocation of entire government offices, utilities, businesses and other infrastructure would be immensely costly and quite impossible in some cases. We therefore have to consider adaptation options that would protect what we have for the near and medium term. IN this regard Samoa has undertaken an in-depth consultative process that resulted in each of the communities of our country establishing Coastal Infrastructure Plans. These plans are community driven and detail options for adaptation and protection of these communities are given. Several of these have been included for financing under the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change project, while others will be covered by other funding opportunities such as the World Bank Pilot Project for Climate Resilience.

Similar approaches have been taken by other Pacific Island Countries and it is gratifying to learn that the PACC activities around the region are progressing well. But we all know that these activities are just the tip of the iceberg, while at the same time we acknowledge that our capacity constraints will not allow us to carry out all activities needed at the same time. Prioritization is a must, and needs to have community inputs as well as expert advice.

Given the current rates of greenhouse gas emissions, climate change will be affecting us now and into the future. It is therefore important that we have in place national and regional structures to assist the Pacific Island Countries.

In this regard the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC) provides the vision and goals for adaptation as well as other climate change interventions.

In terms of implementing tangible, on-ground adaptation measures, the PIFACC will assist with:

- Enhanced resilience to the adverse effects of climate change through the implementation of best practice adaptation and risk reduction measures.
- Improved access, and
- Management and dissemination of equitable amounts of climate change financing at regional, national and community levels.

These approaches will increase the adaptive capacity of socio-economic and biophysical systems through measures designed to reduce the adverse effects of climate change on key development sectors in the food production and food security sector, coastal and the water sectors. Emphasis should be placed on on-the-ground implementation, building capacity and institutional structures and decision systems to enable these sectors to better cope with current variability and long-term climate change impacts. We should take advantage of tools that had been developed under the PACC project such as the vulnerability and risk assessment, planning processes, guidelines for socio-economic assessments and mainstreaming.

Threats to key biodiversity ecosystems, habitats and threatened species of plants and animals also need to be taken into consideration in adaptation work as part of a holistic and integrated approach that takes into consideration Ecosystem based Adaptation to enhancing climate change resilient systems. It is encouraging to note that there is an increasing recognition of the role biodiversity conservation and ecosystems play in helping to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Mangroves and coral reefs provide coastal protection and reduce the impacts of cyclones and storm surges and extreme weather events. Many communities in the Pacific including Samoa are engaged in mangrove replanting, coral reef rehabilitation including the expansion of networks of marine protected areas to ensure these critical ecosystems are well maintained and continue to support and sustain our livelihoods while at the same time enhance protection from impacts of climate change, sea level rise and extreme events. In this regard, I would like to underscore the need to put in place effective policy frameworks and increase financial resources to further harness the contributions that biodiversity and ecosystems provide in strengthening our resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Conclusion

We have ahead of us a very challenging and ambitious agenda. However, I am confident that as participants to this Forum, we can each play a key part and contribute to the discussions. Your active participation and substantive input will form the basis for a successful Forum outcome. Let us harness this opportunity to further enhance our collective efforts for a sustainable environment for the people of the Pacific now and in the future. With those words, I now officially open the first Pacific Environment Forum.

Soifua

Hon. Fa'amoetauloa Lealaiauloto Taito Ulaitino Dr F. Tumaali'i
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment

Annex 6. Outcomes Statement

1st Pacific Environment Forum

12 September 2011, Apia, Samoa

Outcomes of the Forum

Introduction

The 1st Pacific Environment Forum (PEF) was convened by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in response to the request by its Member States for an opportunity in the margins of the SPREP Meeting for members and partners to discuss issues of interest in more detail and in an informal setting. After consultation with members it was decided to hold the PEF as a 1-day forum to discuss the three key issues of:

- Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication
- Environmental Governance in the Pacific
- Adapting to Climate Change

Mr David Sheppard, Director SPREP as convener of the PEF made some welcome remarks then a Keynote Address was delivered by Mr Alphonse Kambu on behalf of the Director General of UNEP before the Forum was opened by the Honorable Fa'amoetaulua Dr. Fa'ale Tumaali, Samoa's Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

The forum started with a series of three panel discussions addressing the three key issues. Each panel discussion began with a number of presentations followed by a discussion on issues raised. After lunch the forum broke up into three breakout groups, one on each of the key issues – where each issue was discussed in more detail. Each breakout group was tasked with reporting back to the forum on the issues discussed. The final session consisted of the forum considering the reports from the breakout groups then consolidating these into an Outcomes Document for the Forum. This Outcomes Document would be tabled by the Director, SPREP as part of his report to the SPREP Meeting.

The Forum was attended by participants from the following SPREP Member States: Australia, Cook Islands, FSM, France, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga and the United State of America, and from the following Partners: CMS Secretariat, Conservation International, Pacific Invasives Initiative, Ramsar Secretariat, Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa, UNDP, UNEP, USP, and WMO.

In summary, the priority areas were:

Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

Support the call for a blue economy

Participants recognised that the concept of a “green economy in a blue world” can be a key driver of sustainable development in the Pacific; in particular that the wellbeing of Pacific Island peoples depends on maintaining healthy ecosystems, emphasising the importance of the marine environment and its oceans, coastal and fisheries resources.

The call of Pacific SIDS representatives at the United Nations, the Pacific SIDS preparatory meeting for Rio+20 and the joint statement of Pacific Island Forum leaders and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for the 'blue economy' to feature prominently at next year's UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), was seen as a timely and important development.

Practical support for healthy ecosystems, which are the foundation of our wellbeing

Participants were strongly of the view that the Pacific Ocean is of global significance, and therefore acknowledged the global contribution that Pacific Island Countries are making through their stewardship – often based on their traditional knowledge and cultures.

Participants saw resourcing of practical initiatives to maintain healthy ecosystems on land and at sea at scales relevant to the local level as a critical need.

Increased support for regional initiatives for sustainable development based on healthy ecosystems

Excellent regional models of integrated oceans management exist, e.g. the Pacific Oceanscape, that incorporate traditional knowledge and practices; and these provide a sound basis to showcase integrated oceans management initiatives and promote work towards a global network of marine protected areas at Rio+20, in order to secure further support.

Environmental Governance in the Pacific

Address the disconnect between local, national, regional and global

Participants stressed the important role of local and traditional community environmental governance systems, noting that they should be adequately linked and integrated into the international environmental governance discourse. They also noted the disconnect between the international level discourse and implementation on the ground, and drew attention to the challenges of meeting the obligations of the many Conventions and Agreement processes, decisions, etc. that are required to be implemented at the local levels at different scales.

In this context participants supported reform of international environmental governance, in particular better synergies and coherence in the UN system and between MEAs.

In this context the participants saw value in support for action addressing environmental issues, including climate change in the Pacific, to be driven more strongly by national needs.

Support the maintenance of natural capital and ecosystem services

Participants recognised the need to maximize returns from the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, including governance systems which are capable of optimizing returns to owners of natural resources. In this context it was recognised that strong linkages between conservation and community development would be required to ensure an integrated framework addressing the costs and needs for environment, society and economy.

Participants also identified the need for an increased focus on valuation of natural capital as an integral part of both development and environmental governance, particularly because full appreciation of the environmental dimension in the development of societies is lacking;

In this context the participants saw the establishment of a 'nature fund for natural capital' to provide support for ecological services that are of global significance.

Financing for ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change

Participants were of the view that most of climate change funds are for people and not so much to address ecological systems' needs to cope with climate change impacts, and welcomed proposals for ensuring that climate change financing supports ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change through preserving natural capital.

Adapting to Climate Change

Support stewardship of the region's islands and ocean

Participants recognised that natural resources and ecosystems are being impacted by climate change from the radiative and pollutant effects of increasing CO₂ and they were concerned that some of these impacts would be beyond the adaptive capacity of island and ocean ecosystems.

In this context, they saw considerable value in supporting stewardship of the region's islands and ocean, which critically underpin any drive for green economies in the region and provide significant global benefits.

Scale up pilot adaptation initiatives

Participants noted that our ability to adapt is constrained by knowledge gaps, human capacity and financial resourcing.

While there was recognition of the many pilot level adaptation initiatives, including ecosystem based adaptation, there is a need for more support to learn from, scale up, replicate and widely implement these initiatives. This would require an increased investment in climate change science and research in the region, in order to better inform planning and adaptation responses.

Ongoing urgency of climate change mitigation action

Participants shared their increasing concern as to how close the region may be to the limits to adaptation, and drew attention to the need to strengthen climate change mitigation, including the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency.