

Working Draft

**Action Strategy for Nature Conservation and
Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region
2014 - 2020**

***(Guiding Framework for the Implementation of
Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region)***

15 November 2013

Introduction.

The Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region 2014 - 2020 is a guiding framework for achieving concerted conservation in the Pacific, based on best conservation practices. The 2014 - 2020 Action Strategy draws on the experience of the many conservation practitioners attending the 9th Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. It builds on previous Action Strategies which have been developed at the 5 yearly Pacific Conferences on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. It encourages coordination and cooperation between the many Pacific conservation stakeholders in order to achieve strong outcomes at local, national and regional level which reflect the priorities of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs).

The Action Strategy is a holistic framework and contains the components of conservation action needed to achieve the Strategy's 30 year goals which were first articulated in 2002 at the 7th Conference for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in 2002. The Goals articulate the interdependence between healthy environments, sustainable economies and the social and cultural well being of Pacific people and communities and are as valid today as they were when conceived.

The Strategy embraces the Code of Conduct and Principles for conservation practitioners together with the Guidelines for Community Conservation which were at the heart of the previous Strategy. It does so in the belief that adoption and on-going commitment to the Code of Conduct by all parties and individuals involved in Pacific conservation will improve the quality of project and programme implementation, strengthen partnerships coordination and cooperation, improve accountability and overall significantly improve the collective impact of the regional conservation effort.

Developing a practical and simple way to gauge the progress of the regional conservation effort against the goals and objectives of the Action Strategy has proved very difficult. Although the Strategy is informed by and aligned with the PICT's goals and priorities expressed in their NBSAP's, these are too numerous and specific to provide a useful measure of regional progress. The global Convention on Biodiversity, the umbrella for NBSAPs, has developed a set of global targets (the Aichi Targets) with which NBSAPs will eventually align. The Action Strategy has adopted those Aichi Targets which although global in nature are relevant to its regional Goals and Objectives.

This Strategy also addresses the need to strengthen the implementation of the Action Strategy and ensure its objectives, targets and strategies are embraced by PICTs in national environmental management frameworks and strategies. It retains the Code of Conduct and Principles for implementation of the previous Strategy. These promote coordination, communication and overall effective implementation by the governments, donors, communities, individuals, businesses, NGO's and research and tertiary education institutions which represent the stakeholders of Pacific conservation..

Timeframe

The suggested timeframe of the Action Strategy is the 6 year period 2014 - 2020. This would bring the Strategy into line with the CBD Aichi Targets and would eventually marry with the five year review of the 2010 - 2015 SPREP Action Plan with which its aligned.

Vision, Mission and 30 year Goals

The 30 Year Vision

Developed at the 7th Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands 2002, the vision of this and previous Strategies captures an inspiring and aspirational picture of the environment and its fundamental importance to the people of the Pacific

VISION

Our people proudly honour our natural heritage and cultural identity; the waters of our streams, lagoons and oceans are bountiful and crystal-clear; our mountains are wild , our forests pristine and our beaches unspoiled; our societies are vibrant and diverse; we have equitable relationships with our global partners and our economies thrive; our cultures and traditions are widely appreciated ; and the products of our creativity and labour are especially prized.

Islands of Life ... Pure Pacific

The Mission is not time bound - it is the expression of the rationale behind the work of all those involved in conservation in the Pacific.

MISSION

To protect and preserve the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Pacific Islands forever for the benefit of the people of the Pacific and the world

30 Year Goals express our understanding of the interdependence of environment, economy and human well being and that our future prosperity and social and cultural well being will depend on our commitment to ensuring a healthy Pacific environment.

GOALS

Environment

The biodiversity and natural environment of the Pacific are conserved

Economy

Nature conservation and sustainable resource use are integral parts of all island economies

Society

Pacific peoples are leading activities for the sustainable use of the natural resources and the preservation of cultural heritage for the benefit of present and future generations

These are generic and will stand the test of time, although as with all such goals, regular revision and "ground truthing" in the context of the times and changing environmental, economic and social conditions is desirable.

Objectives

Originally intended to establish 5 year milestones the Objectives identify key focus areas for the concerted action of the Action Strategy stakeholders. Established in 2007 at the Alotau conference, they are open-ended enough to remain valid throughout the term of this Action Strategy (2014 - 2020).

<p style="text-align: center;">Objective 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ensure conservation has a development context that recognises, respects and supports sustainable livelihoods and community development aspirations</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Objective 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Identify, conserve and sustainably manage priority sites, habitats and ecosystems</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Objective 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Protect and recover threatened species and species of ecological, cultural and economic significance</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Objective 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Manage threats to biodiversity, especially climate change impacts and invasive species</p>

Principles for Nature Conservation in the Pacific - Code of Conduct for Action Strategy Implementation.

The Principles define the critical components for the effective delivery of nature conservation in the Pacific region. They were derived through lessons learned from past Action Strategies and were at the heart of the 2008 - 2012 Action Strategy. The scope of the Principles reflect the outcomes of the Alotau conference and were given the status of a Code of Conduct for all conservation practitioners working in the Pacific.

The Principles and Code of Conduct are essential to successful implementation of the Action Strategy and indeed, all projects, programmes and frameworks in the Pacific. This dictates that it must be respected, recognised, supported and applied by all agencies, partners and organisations striving for nature conservation outcomes in the region. Collectively the application of the Principles in full will result in stronger projects and programmes, more effective strategies, improved financial sustainability and a significant and exponential improvement in the Pacific's overall conservation capacity.

The Principles address the following implementation principles - Annexed in full .

Principle 1. Community Rights

Principle 2. Conservation from a Pacific Perspective

Principle 3. Ownership of Conservation Programmes

Principle 4. Financial Sustainability

Principle 5. Good Governance

Principle 6. Coordination

Principle 7. Capacity Development

Principle 8. Accountability

Targets

Without agreed to targets, outcomes or outputs, past measurement of progress against the objectives has been difficult and mainly anecdotal. To help overcome this and improve the accountability of the Action Strategy, the Aichi 2020 Targets of the Convention on Biodiversity are suggested as a possible option for consideration. These are the newly formulated global targets for biodiversity conservation and protected areas and are the umbrella targets agreed upon by all Parties to the CBD, including the Pacific Island countries. The Aichi targets are expected to be adopted by Parties in the revisions of their NBSAP's suggesting that they will influence the priorities of the PICT's in the six years to 2020.

There are 20 Aichi Targets and not all are applicable to the nature conservation and protected area focused Goals and Objectives of the Action Strategy. Table 1 below seeks to correlate the Aichi Goals and Targets to the Goals and Objectives of the Action Strategy as a basis for identifying appropriate Action Strategy Targets.

Table 1. Assessment of Correlation of 2020 Aichi Targets and 2013 - 2018 Action Strategy Objectives	
Aichi Targets	Relevance to Action Strategy Objectives.
<i>Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</i>	
Target 1 By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	Not specific to Action Strategy nature conservation focus
Target 2 By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	Objective 1 Ensure conservation has a development context that recognises, respects and supports sustainable livelihoods and community development aspirations
Target 3 By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.	Not specific to Action Strategy nature conservation focus
Target 4 By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	Objective 1 Ensure conservation has a development context that recognises, respects and supports sustainable livelihoods and community development aspirations
<i>Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use</i>	
Target 5 By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and	Objective 2 Identify, conserve and sustainably

fragmentation is significantly reduced.	manage priority sites, habitats and ecosystems
Target 6 By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	Objective 1 Ensure conservation has a development context that recognises, respects and supports sustainable livelihoods and community development aspirations
Target 7 By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	Not specific to Action Strategy nature conservation focus
Target 8 By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.	Not specific to Action Strategy nature conservation focus
Target 9 By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	Objective 4 Manage threats to biodiversity, especially climate change impacts and invasive species
Target 10 By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.	Objective 2 Identify, conserve and sustainably manage priority sites, habitats and ecosystems
Target 11 By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	Objective 2 Identify, conserve and sustainably manage priority sites, habitats and ecosystems
Target 12 By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	Objective 3 Protect and recover threatened species and species of ecological, cultural and economic significance
Target 13 By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.	Not specific to Action Strategy nature conservation focus.
Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity	
Target 14 By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	Objective 1 Ensure conservation has a development context that recognises, respects and supports sustainable livelihoods and community development aspirations
Target 15 By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	Objective 4 Manage threats to biodiversity, especially climate change impacts and invasive species
Target 16 By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.	Not specific to Action Strategy nature conservation focus
Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building	
Target 17 By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and	Covered by Action Strategy Code

has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.	of Conduct Principles
Target 18 By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.	Covered by Action Strategy Code of Conduct Principles
Target 19 By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	Covered by Action Strategy Code of Conduct Principles
Target 20 By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	Covered by Action Strategy Code of Conduct Principles

Measuring Progress - Monitoring and Reporting

Building on the correlation between the Action Strategy Objectives and the global 2020 Aichi targets, the addition of proposed Key Performance Indicators provides the Action Strategy with a broad framework for assessing and monitoring progress with its implementation (see Table 2.) PICT's will be the primary sources of information to assist with the assessment of progress for each target, but so too are a number of organisations and prominent regional programmes. They have been added to the framework for this purpose. This is a preliminary list only and it should be supplemented as the targets and key indicators are further refined in by the Action Strategy Working Group and participants of the 9th Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.

Linking the Action Strategy with the regional and national, monitoring and evaluation programmes of PICTs and other regional organisations and programmes is a logical step towards strengthening its monitoring function. These include the Coral Triangle - Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) programme, the Micronesia Challenge and SPREP. One of the issues which has inhibited the reporting of progress with Action Strategy Goals and Objectives in the past has been the difficulty of obtaining baseline data. Partnering with these organisations/ programmes may assist in this task as most will already have data and information. The State Of Conservation in Oceania report being assembled by SPREP will be a valuable asset in this regard.

For this process to be effective, responsibility for its leadership must be designated. Given the long association of the Pacific Island Roundtable and SPREP with the Action Strategy, the interests, scope of activities and geographic spread of their members this responsibility could be shared between the two groups with SPREP assuming responsibility for tracking indicators with PICTs and the PI Roundtable Action Strategy Working Group monitoring tracking the work of NGO's Regional tertiary and research institutions and donors and taking responsibility for coordinating the activity.

Table 2 . Correlation of Action Strategy Objectives with Aichi 2020 Targets and proposed Indicators.

Action Strategy Objective	Aichi 2020 Target	Key Performance Indicators	Regional Program Linkages
<p>Objective 1 Ensure conservation has a development context that recognises, respects and supports sustainable livelihoods and community development aspirations.</p>	<p>Target 2 By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p> <p>Target 4 By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p> <p>Target 6 By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.</p> <p>Target 14 By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of PICTs which can demonstrate integration and examples of incorporation into national accounting/budgets ➤ Number of examples where sustainable production and consumption has been linked to ecosystem based management plans e.g. in fisheries management. ➤ Number of PICTs introducing sustainable resource utilisation policies ➤ Number of PICTs with EBAFM legislation and policies in place ➤ Number of examples of successful EBAF projects established and being implemented ➤ Number of examples where PICTs have actively managed ecosystems to provide or improve the provision of essential development services, most likely watersheds, but also coastal systems 	<p>PICTs</p> <p>PICTs</p> <p>SPC Coastal Fisheries Roundtable Members</p> <p>UNDP/GEF Sustainable Land Management USAID PNG Marsh CTI - CFF</p>

	and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	(mangroves/reefs) used for gleaning, fishing etc.	
<p>Objective 2 Identify, conserve and sustainably manage priority sites, habitats and ecosystems</p>	<p>Target 5 By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.</p> <p>Target 10 By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.</p> <p>Target 11 By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p> <p>Target 15 By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of PICTs which have banned natural forest harvesting for commercial purposes or an demonstrate decrease in logging licences and area under licence. ➤ Number of PICTs which have management plans/policies in place limiting use of mangroves. ➤ Number and area of resilient Marine Protected Areas and MPA networks established and functioning ➤ Number and area of terrestrial and marine protected areas and protected area networks established or under implementation ➤ Number of landscape / seascape/ oceanscape integrated management policies and plans endorsed or under implementation. ➤ Number and area of protected areas established and effectively managed ➤ Number of ecosystem restoration projects and area restored from degraded state. 	<p>PICTs (Forest Agencies)</p> <p>PICTs Roundtable Members IUCN/Marsh</p> <p>PICTs Roundtable Members Micronesia Challenge CTI-CFF Forum/Oceanscapes CSPC/SOPAC</p> <p>PICTs Roundtable Members Micronesia Challenge CTI-CFF</p>
<p>Objective 3 Protect and recover threatened species and species of</p>	<p>Target 12 By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of recovery plans developed and implemented across the region 	<p>Roundtable Members PII</p>

ecological, cultural and economic significance	conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	➤ Effectiveness of implementation of regional Marine Species Action Plan evaluated	SPREP
Objective 4 Manage threats to biodiversity, especially climate change impacts and invasive species	Target 9 By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of PICTs with National Invasive Species Action Plans - linked to NBSAPs ➤ Number of successful eradication projects carried out ➤ Evidence of regional cooperation on transport related invasive species prevention policies and response plans 	Roundtable Members PII SPREP

Mainstreaming the Action Strategy

Essentially the Action Strategy is the Code of Practice developed by conservation practitioners with years of experience in implementing all facets of conservation in the Pacific. It represents "best practice" relevant to programme and project implementation at all levels in the region, including national and regional. As such the Strategy can be viewed as a surrogate Implementation Strategy for national and regional frameworks and programmes and is especially relevant as a guiding framework for implementation of NBSAPs.

As NBSAPs come up for review, they will embrace the Aichi 2020 biodiversity targets which will also be at the core of the revised Action Strategy. This high level of alignment helps ensure the Action Strategy objectives are embedded in mainstream PICT conservation and environmental planning and vice versa but what is needed to really achieve the mainstreaming of the Action Strategy is its formal adoption by PICTs as the overarching Implementation Framework for each of the NBSAPs. Similarly the Action Strategy (which could be renamed more accurately - The Guiding Framework for the Implementing Conservation in the Pacific Region) could be formally adopted as such by other regional frameworks including the SPREP Strategic Plan and GEF funded multi-country programmes.

This formal adoption and inclusion in the planning frameworks of PICT's, Roundtable members and donors will provide the Action Strategy with the level of institutional recognition it has lacked in the past and rigorous application of the implementing Principles of the Code of Practice will provide a strong platform for ensuring the core elements of the Strategy are recognised and integrated into national, local, sectorial and regional policies. Strong ownership of the Strategy by the region's conservation stakeholders will enhance this process.

Communication and Outreach

The onus for communicating and articulating the purpose, Goal, Objectives and Targets of the Action Strategy rests with all Pacific conservation practitioners who have adopted and committed to its, Vision, Mission, Goals, Objectives and Code of Conduct . In particular the members of the PIRT and SPREP as key partners of the Action Strategy have a responsibility to take advantage of key regional events such as the SPREP Council Meeting, to raise the profile of the Strategy and seek where possible, high level and meeting endorsement. Prominent linkages to the Action Strategy on PIRT member and SPREP websites to increase its availability together with the distribution of hard and electronic copies through institutional networks will help ensure its widespread recognition.

Coordination of Implementation and Financial Sustainability

Robust application of the Code of Conduct, especially Principles 4 and 6 (Financial Sustainability and Coordination) will ensure stronger coordinated efforts across all sectors and levels engaged in nature conservation and protected areas, including the mobilisation of resources and new donor partnerships and programmes.

Annex 1

Principles of Nature Conservation in the Pacific - a Code of Conduct.

Principle 1. Community Rights

This Principle is based on the premise that most natural resources in the Pacific are owned and used by indigenous and local communities.

The Principle calls on International and national partners to actively recognise, respect and support:

- *Community property rights including traditional rights over natural resources, indigenous intellectual property relating to natural resources and cultural knowledge;*
- *Community decision making practices*
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Principle 2. Conservation from a Pacific Perspective

The Principle is based on the understanding that natural resources are often the most important source of wealth and development opportunities for Pacific communities. Therefore the practice of conservation principles in Pacific communities will influence the economic, social and cultural affairs of those communities.

The Principle calls on International and national partners to actively recognise, respect and support:

- *Community aspirations for development and well being;*
- *A Pacific approach to conservation based on sustainable resource use.*

Principle 3. Ownership of Conservation Programmes

This Principle is based on the understanding that lasting conservation in the Pacific can only be achieved if national partners (including communities) take responsibility for leadership of the design, implementation and evaluation of all conservation programmes in their respective areas

The Principle asks National and community partners to commit to:

- *Exercise and build their capacity for leadership of conservation programmes*

International partners were asked to commit to:

- *Respecting and encouraging national and community partner leadership for all conservation programmes and helping strengthen partner capacity to exercise their leadership for all programmes and helping strengthen partner capacity to exercise their leadership;*
- *Aligning all conservation programmes with those of the national partners;*
- *Strengthening national and local partners as an alternative to establishing their own institutions and infrastructure;*
- *Connecting regional and international initiatives with national priorities and aspirations;*
- *Ensuring all key programme decision-making take place in-country with participation by national and community partners and led by their conservation priorities.*

Principle 4. Financial Sustainability

This principle reflects the fact that conservation initiatives must be adequately resourced over time if they are to be successful.

The Principle calls on international and national partners to commit to:

- *Ensuring their conservation programmes are of scale and budget appropriate to the local context*
- *Long-term strategic planning and resource mobilisation that sustains conservation over time.*

Principle 5. Good Governance

The basis for this principle is the need for effective conservation programmes to be participatory, accountable and transparent.

The Principle calls for national and international partners to commit to:

- *Reinforcing participatory approaches by involving all stakeholders, particularly community representatives when designing, implementing and assessing conservation programmes;*
- *Ensuring systems are in place to enable full accountability to the people affected by conservation programme implementation;*
- *Ensuring their programmes and systems are well communicated, fully transparent and open to stakeholder scrutiny.*

Principle 6. Coordination

The Principle is based on the tenet that conservation is more effective when partners coordinate and work within a strategic framework

It calls on National Partners to commit to:

- *Ensuring NBSAPs and the locally devised conservation programmes are strategic, focused and set clear local priorities for action;*
- *Taking a leadership role in coordinating all partners;*
- *Providing national and local focal points for coordinating NBSAP and other programme implementation.*

International Partners will commit to:

- *Working within the legislation, policies, strategies, agreed priorities and coordination of political engagement to avoid duplication*
- *Working with each other to ensure collaborative analysis, strategies, agreed priorities and coordination of political engagement to avoid duplication*
- *Avoiding programming that directly competes with national partners for projects and funding.*

Principle 7. Capacity Development

The Principle recognises the importance of community and national capacity to design, prioritise, direct, manage, implement, monitor and evaluate conservation programmes so that lasting conservation objectives can be achieved.

National partners and communities will commit to:

- *Building effective and sustainable conservation capability and organisations through on-going capacity development*
- *Ensuring conservation is continuously improved by recording, disseminating and incorporating lessons learned and best practices.*

International partners will commit to:

- *Supporting national partners in their efforts to build effective and sustainable national institutions;*
- *Supporting national partners and communities in their efforts to develop leadership, project direction and management skills*
- *Ensuring their presence in-country does not undermine national and local institution - building or capacity development;*
- *Contributing to national partner's best practice by recording, disseminating and implementing lessons learned.*

Principle 8. Accountability

The issue addressed by this principle was the need for international and national partners to be accountable to the communities and countries they work in for their investment and engagement in conservation programmes.

National partners would commit to:

- *Reinforcing participatory approaches by involving all national conservation partners and other stakeholders, including community representatives, when designing, implementing and assessing conservation programmes;*
- *Setting clear and standard processes of the establishment, operation and accountability of international partners through formal agreements. These agreements should include a Code of Conduct with defined consequences for breaches, and mechanisms to ensure transparency of operations;*
- *Establishing systems to register all partners conservation activities against national and local priorities (for example NBSAP's)*
- *Setting easily measured benchmarks to ensure progress against defined conservation problems with each partner held accountable for its commitments and progress.*

International partners will commit to:

- *Adopting systems that ensure transparency and accountability of their programmes at a national level;*

Providing timely transparent and comprehensive reporting on conservation programmes to national partners, including reporting on implementation of NBSAP priorities