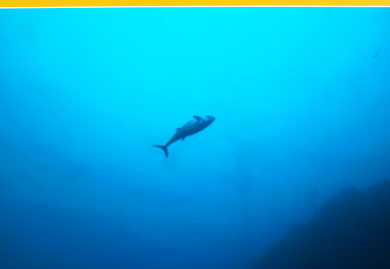




SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal



Needs Assessment Survey for the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal

A Summary Report of the Results
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Acknowledgement

The information obtained from this survey will help immensely with the development of the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal (PIPAP). The respondents that took the time to complete the survey should be acknowledged and commended for playing a role in assisting in the development of their regional resources. In addition to answering multiple choice questions, respondents from 19 countries took the time to provide helpful suggestions and comments that will be used to enhance the functionality of the portal for Pacific Island practitioners. Funding provided through the Noumea Convention.

Contents

Acknowledgement	1
Background	3
1.1 Target Audience	3
1.2 Objectives.....	3
Method	3
Results.....	4
3.1 Survey Respondents.....	4
3.2 Involvement in Protected Area Implementation or Management	4
3.3 Avenues for Obtaining Technical Assistance among Target Audience	5
3.4 Likelihood of Respondent Using a Web-based Portal.....	6
3.5 Preferred Topics for Inclusion in Portal	7
3.6 Protected Area Networks of Interest.....	8
3.7 Social Networking Resources and Opportunities of Preference.....	8
3.8 Additional Information or Networking Needs.	9
Summary and Discussion.....	10
4.1 Strong Support for a Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal	10
4.2 Sample size and Geographic Coverage	10
4.3 Lessons Learned from the Needs Assessment Survey	10
4.4 Emerging Themes.....	11
4.5 Show Case Local Success Stories.....	11
4.6 Work Towards Tracking of Protected Areas	11
4.7 Build Links	11
Appendix 1	13
Appendix 2	15

Background

A web-based portal for protected area practitioners in the Pacific Islands is being developed. It will provide access to the multitude of wide-ranging protected area networks (from locally-based to global) and resources already available online. It is the intention of this portal to provide summaries of (and links to) these networks and categorize the resources and tools in a way that is of benefit to protected area practitioners in the Pacific Islands region.

In the long-term, it is anticipated that the portal will assist in the creation of a social network of protected area practitioners throughout all the Pacific Islands. Virtual networking is envisaged through means such as online discussion forums, newsletters and other social media, as appropriate. A regional needs assessment (appendix 1) was created in order to better understand how practitioners in the region currently access support and to identify appropriate resources and social networking tools for the portal.

1.1 Target Audience

The intended practitioners include both community-based and Government/NGO staff from the SPREP Pacific Island member countries that are responsible for all aspects of protected area implementation and management (including design, implementation, monitoring, compliance and outreach etc.) It is also anticipated that the portal may be used by NGO staff, researchers and international organisations from outside the region.

1.2 Objectives

In addition to collecting some personal information about the respondents (in order to understand whether or not the target audience had been reached and which parts of the region were represented), the survey was designed to fulfill the following objectives:

1. Establish likelihood of target audience using a web-based portal to find resources and network with other practitioners in the region.
2. Collect information on the types of resources and networks that would be useful to the target audience.
3. Establish the types of social networking preferred by the target audience and the types of opportunities that should be advertised.
4. Provide opportunity for respondents to state any additional needs relating to the portal.

Method

A short Needs Assessment Survey was created for the Pacific Island Protected Area Portal. The survey contained ten questions (mostly multiple-choice) and was made available in English and French. The survey was uploaded to Survey Monkey (an online system) to enable respondents to complete it from anywhere in the world. The survey was available as a Word document and was distributed in paper format during the 9th Pacific Nature Conference for Protected Areas in Fiji (2-6 December 2013). It was also handed out to the attendees of the workshop session focusing on the portal that was held during the joint workshop of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) and Access Benefit Sharing (ABS) Capacity Development Initiative on Thursday 26th November 2013.

A Concept Flyer for the portal (appendix 2) was distributed during the 9th Pacific Nature Conference for Protected Areas which contained details of the online survey. It was also emailed to relevant protected area practitioners and existing networks in the Pacific region. This included the registrants of the 9th Pacific Nature Conference and the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network (FLMMA) etc.

Results

A total of 105 respondents completed the survey. The majority of the completed surveys came from the online survey (n = 82), 15 were completed during the joint CBD PoWPA/ABS workshop in Fiji and 8 completed surveys were emailed back. Surveys were collated up to 7th February 2014. This allowed approximately one month for most of those targeted individuals to complete the survey.

3.1 Survey Respondents

Figure 1 shows the break-down of survey respondents according to their job title/role. Thirty seven percent of respondents were from Local Government representing 16 countries; 21 % were from country-based NGOs, representing 8 countries; 15 % were from regional organizations or regional sectors of international organisations (including SPREP, SPC, UNDP regional projects, CI Pacific, WWF-South Pacific, FAO regional and the Pacific Invasives Initiative); 13 % were from Universities or research institutes; 7% were from international organisations (including UNEP-WCMC, UNEP, GEF, Ramsar, TNC and WorldFish); 5 % were individuals representing their countries and communities and 2% were from private environmental consultancies working in the region.

Sixteen of the 21 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) were represented (Tuvalu, Fiji, New Caledonia, Tonga, Nauru, American Samoa, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Wallis and Fatuna, Cook Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia and Niue) along with New Zealand, USA and Australia.

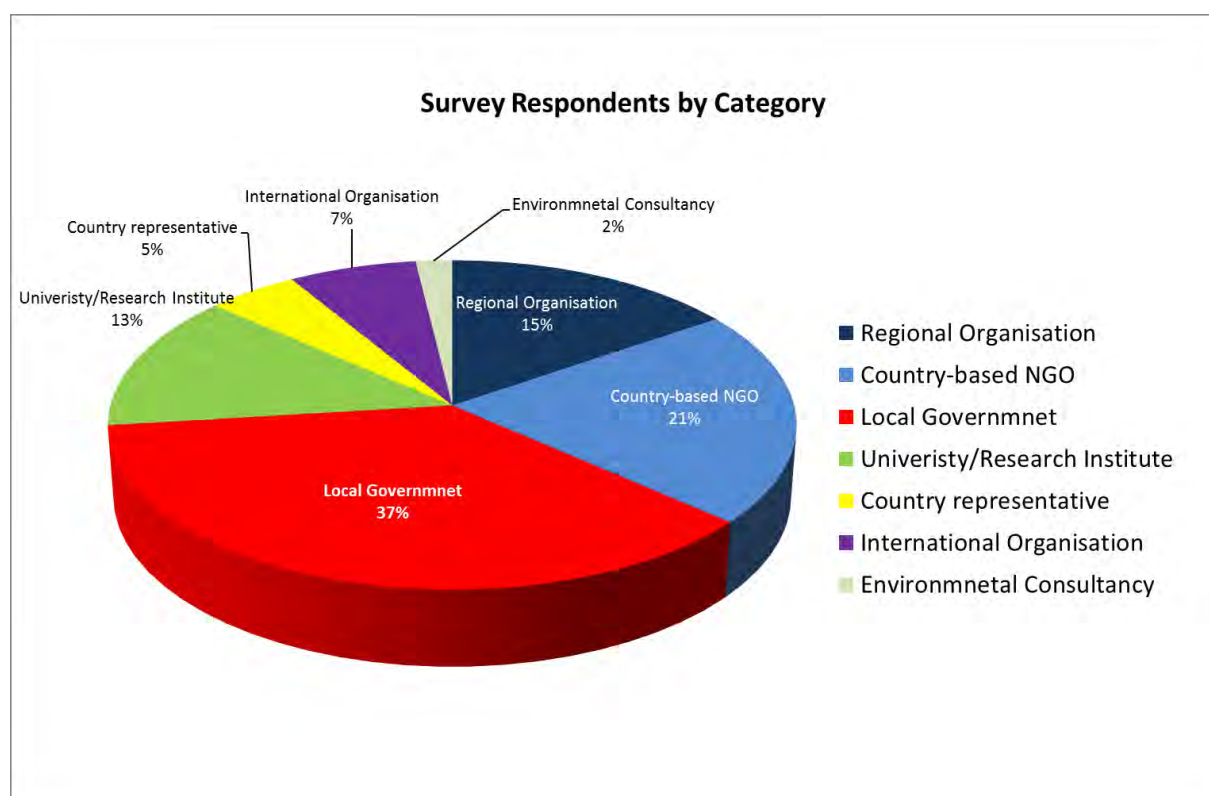


Figure 1 Pie chart of Survey Respondents (n = 100) by Category. Categories were created post-survey and were based on response to the question: 'Place of work (organisation or protected area and country)'.

3.2 Involvement in Protected Area Implementation or Management

After being given the option of supplying their name, email address and place of work, respondents were asked in 'In what way are you involved in protected area implementation or management?' Ninety-five responses were provided which have been categorized into 13 classifications. These

range from being directly involved through the community to providing advice on invasive species and through policy or legislation development. Figure 2 shows the results of this analysis.

The most common response was ‘protected area planning’ which included ‘site selection’. Technical support and in-situ management also scored highly. There were a good range of responses and this information shows that everyone that completed this section (at least 94 % of respondents), are involved directly or indirectly with the implementation or management of protected areas. This indicates that the respondents were indeed the correct target audience that could potentially benefit from a portal such as the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal.

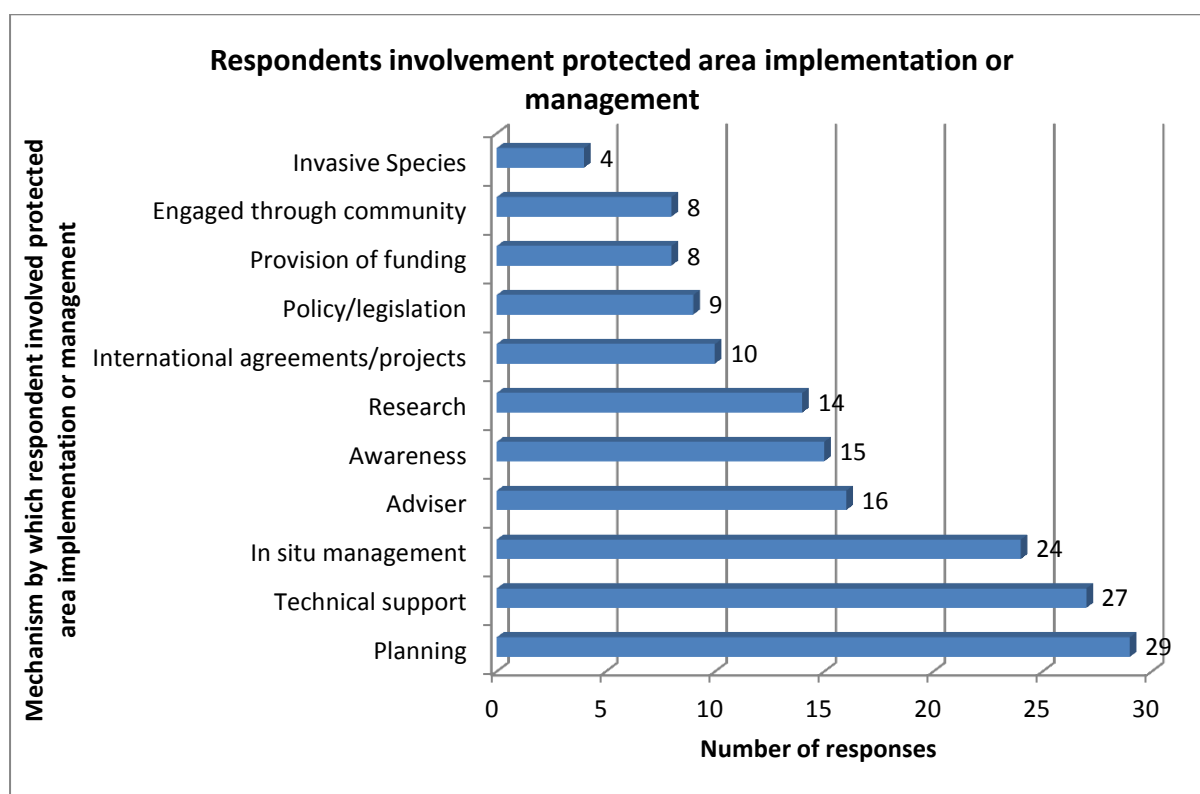


Figure 2 Mechanisms by which the respondents to the survey are involved in protected area implementation or management. The question was open ended and categories were created post-survey to cover all responses provided.

3.3 Avenues for Obtaining Technical Assistance among Target Audience

Respondents were asked ‘*where (if anywhere) do you normally go for technical assistance in implementing your work?*’ They were given four choices (table 1) or they could provide an alternative.

One hundred and one respondents answered this question. Forty-three percent selected ‘all of the above’, indicating that they use all avenues. In addition to this, the most popular avenues for respondents to obtain support are from colleagues/mentors/supervisors (51%) and internet based searches (48%). Whilst approximately one quarter of respondents (25 %) stated they utilize existing networks for support, this figure still seems low and it is possible that some investigation into the relatively low usage rates for existing networks could reveal some useful mechanisms for enhancing the amount of support that practitioners can access through networks (and portals).

Other mechanisms by which practitioners get technical assistance included international and regional NGOs and CROP agencies (IUCN, UNDP, SPREP, ICRI, SPC were named) and directly from experts. Respondents also named specific networks including Pestnet, Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN), Seaweb and several stated that they use global networks and networks outside the

region. Two respondents described the local communities and park rangers (from local to government level) as being of assistance.

Table 1 Table showing responses to question 5 ‘Where (if anywhere) do you normally go for technical assistance in implementing your work?’ Respondents could select more than one answer and could also select the option for ‘all of the above’.

Where respondents normally go for technical assistance in implementing their work	N	%
Colleague/mentor/supervisor etc.	52	51
Internet based search	48	48
Guidelines in books/papers etc.	38	38
Existing network (e.g. PIMPAC or LMMA)	25	25
All of the above	43	43
Other	16	16

3.4 Likelihood of Respondent Using a Web-based Portal

The results to this question were intended to mirror whether or not the target audience was likely to use a portal such as the proposed Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal (PIPAP). The survey asked ‘would you use a web-based social and linkage mechanism that provides a roadmap to protected area networks and resources relevant to Pacific Island Countries?’ Respondents were given five choices and the results can be seen in Figure 3.

Eighty-nine percent of respondents indicated that they would indeed be likely to use such as portal (48% definitely and 41% probably). There was only one respondent who stated that they would definitely not use such as a mechanism but it is likely that this was due to a misunderstanding of the question. The other responses that they put on their form indicated that they would indeed like to have resources on many subjects and would be interested in the full range of networks etc. Seven percent of respondents were unsure and 2 % indicated that would probably not use such a mechanism. The results of this question provide strong support for the development of a Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal for the target audience outlined in section 1.1.

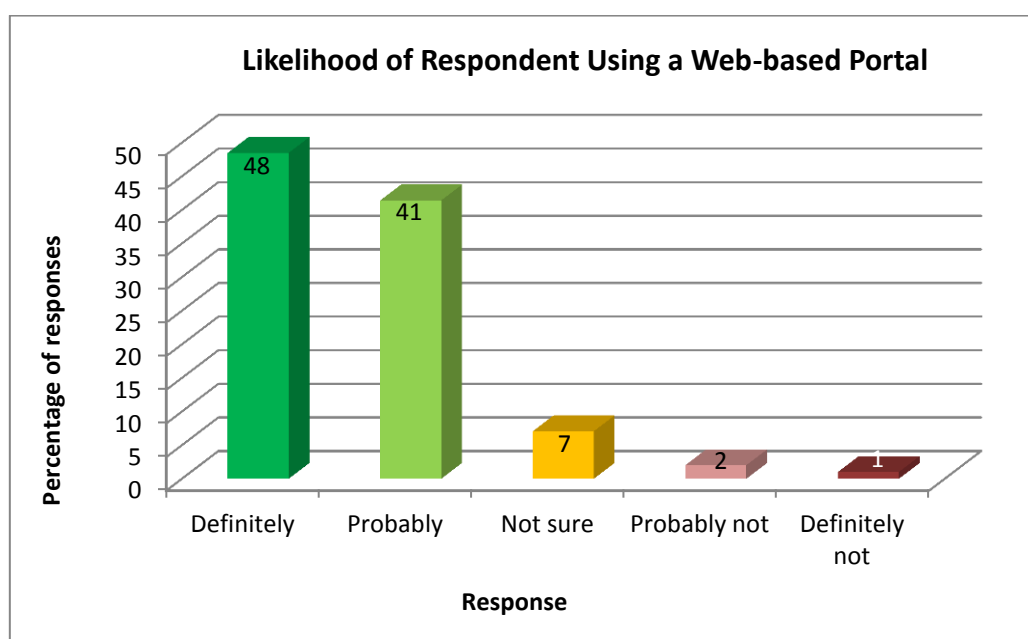


Figure 3 Responses provided to question 6 ‘Would you use a web-based social and linkage mechanism that provides a roadmap to protected area networks and resources relevant to Pacific Island Countries?’

3.5 Preferred Topics for Inclusion in Portal

Respondents were asked to select from 12 topics, which they would like to have information/resources on. More than one topic could be selected and an option for 'all of the above' was provided.

Approximately half of the respondents selected 'all of the above' and a total of 465 responses were received (an average of 4 per individual that answered this question; n = 98). Table 2 shows the results in order of preference. Community-based management, management plan development and biological/ecological monitoring were the most popular topics which fits in well with the Pacific islands region and its protected area management style. The least popular topics were 'ecological networks' and 'links to national management processes.' However, it is interesting to note that of the respondents who completed the survey in French (from the French territories), 60% of them selected 'ecological networks' as a preferred topic. This indicates that there may be different priorities for different countries and this should not be overlooked in the portal.

A number of alternative information/resource suggestions were also made by respondents and these can be found in Table 3.

Table 2 Results to question 7 'Which (if any) of the following topics would you like to have information/resources on? Respondents could select multiple topics. Ninety-four respondents completed this question selecting a total of 449 options.

Topics (provided on the questionnaire form)	Number of responses	Percentage
Community-based management	45	46
Management plan development	45	46
Biological/ecological monitoring	42	43
Marine/terrestrial protected area design	40	41
Sustainable financing	35	36
Socioeconomic monitoring	34	35
Data analysis	32	33
Reporting relating to protected areas	31	32
Enforcement/compliance	30	31
Education/outreach	29	30
Links to national management processes	27	28
Ecological networks	23	23
All of the above	52	53
Total number of responses	465	

Table 3 Additional topics (13) provided by respondents in response to question 7 under the 'Other' option.

Additional information/resources suggestions provided by respondents

1. Open Standards for Conservation Action	8. Cultural environments
2. Climate change issues and policies	9. MPA and fisheries management
3. Legislation and regulations for establishment and management of protected areas and payments for ecosystem services	10. Determining and accounting environmental capital at different levels

4. UNESCO world heritage site establishment	11. Quantified project costs
5. Sustainable tourism	12. Data validation
6. Obscure research documents	13. Scientific data
7. Local knowledge	14. Information on social marketing for conservation

3.6 Protected Area Networks of Interest

Respondents were asked ‘which (if any) of the following types of protected area networks are you interested in?’ They were provided with four choices, ranging from sub-national networks to global networks and specific examples were provided. Respondents could also select ‘other’ and provide an alternative.

Responses were fairly evenly mixed with a preference for national networks and less interest in global networks. However, 66 % of respondents stated that they were interested in all types of networks. Several respondents made specific suggestions such as the Big Oceans Network, LMMA and Protected Areas of New Caledonia but these could all be included under the categories provided in question 8.

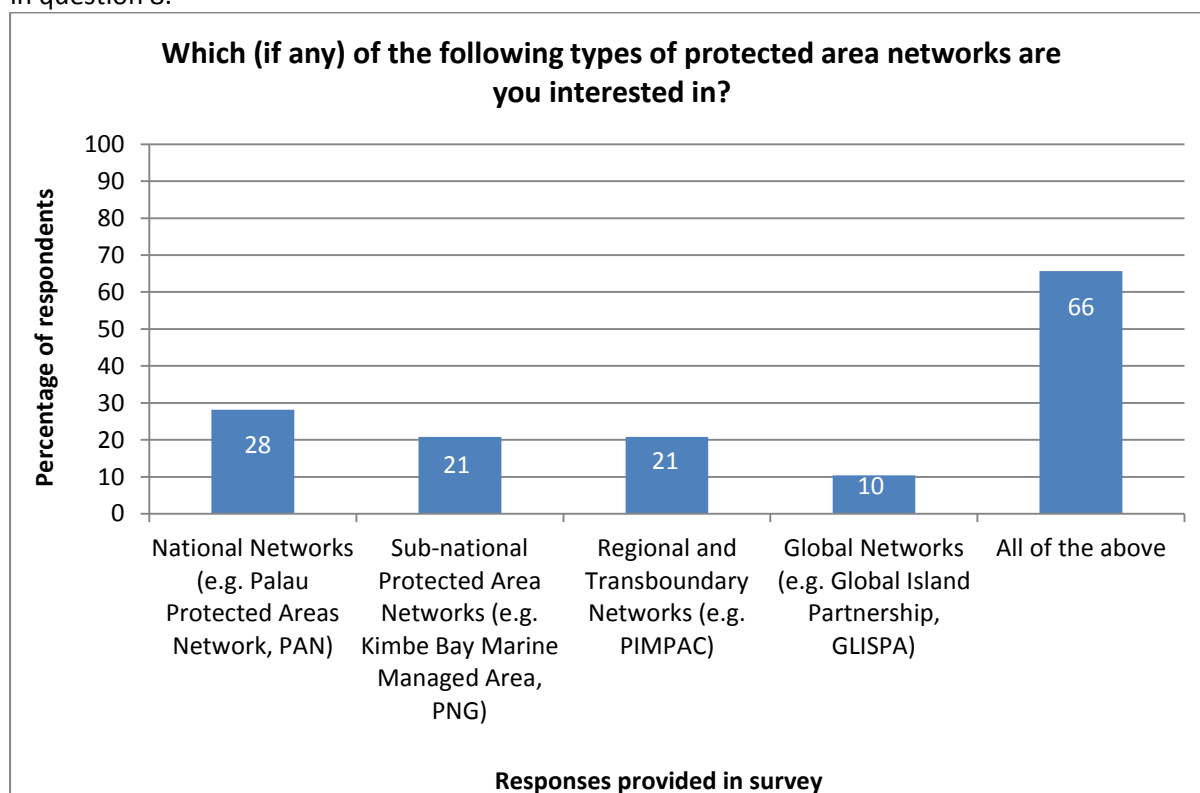


Figure 4 Percentage of respondents (n=92) with interest in different scales of protected area networks. Respondents could select multiple answers and could also provide an alternative under the ‘other’ category.

Note: GLISPA is not a Global Protected Area Network and was finally included in the ‘Other Global Conservation Partnerships’ category of the portal.

3.7 Social Networking Resources and Opportunities of Preference

Respondents were asked ‘which (if any) of the following social networking resources/opportunities are you likely to respond to?’ They were provided with nine options and could select multiple choices. There was also an option for ‘other’ which solicited several suggestions.

Approximately one quarter (24%) of respondents stated that they would respond to all of the suggested social networking resources and opportunities. In addition to this, the most popular opportunities selected were: conferences and meetings (63%); Funding opportunities (53%), learning

exchanges (53%) and training opportunities (53%). The most popular choices for social networking were: a discussion forum (38%) and a newsletter (38%). A mailing list was the least popular method (only 6%) which is valuable information in order for portal managers to be able to direct their time effectively.

Other suggestions for social networking included 'linkedin', 'twitter' and the idea of having documentaries of South Pacific community based organizations (CBOs) with case studies showing their work. Three responses specifically stated that they did not want Facebook and one response suggested that any emails needed to be concise and infrequent with abstracts providing the option to click for more information. This could be something like the reef-resilience list serve (see <http://coral.aoml.noaa.gov/mailman/listinfo/reef-resilience>).

Table 4 Responses received to question 9 'which (if any) of the following social networking resources/opportunities are you likely to respond to?' Respondents (n = 97) could select multiple choices in addition to 'all of the above'.

Social Networking Resources and Opportunities of Preference

Resource/opportunity	%	Resource/opportunity	%
Conferences and meetings	63	Newsletter	38
Funding opportunities	53	Facebook page	19
Learning exchanges	53	Mailing list	6
Training opportunities	53	other	6
Jobs/internships	38		
Discussion forum	38	All of the above	24

3.8 Additional Information or Networking Needs.

The final question of the survey was open ended and asked respondents if they had any other information/networking/linking needs related to marine and terrestrial protected areas. A total of 30 constructive comments were received which can be categorized into (1) suggestions (n=17); (2) needs (n = 7) and (3) data available (n = 3). The summarized responses are below in Table 5.

Table 5 Collated and summarized responses to Question 10 of the PIPAP Needs Assessment Survey 'Do you have other information/networking/linking needs related to marine and terrestrial protected areas?'

Suggestions
1. Portal needs to be intuitive and have good capacity to refine searches.
2. Inventory learning and research needs for region.
3. Section to show successful country based GEF projects under Small Grants Programme (SGP).
4. Include ecosystem based climate adaptation options.
5. Build links between researchers, local managers, volunteers, artists and communities & learn from local knowledge.
6. Include information for globally and regionally agreed targets and contributions towards them.
7. Include conservation actions and name and shame those who are talking but not doing!
8. Include notes from working groups of protected area networks.
9. Include deep sea mining as a topic.
10. Provide assistance with gathering baseline biological and socioeconomic data.
11. Include SIPAN (Solomon Islands Protected Area Network) and other sub national networks in Solomon Islands to enhance awareness, raise profiles etc.
12. Liaise with Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs Fisheries and Food Security.
13. Establish mechanism to allay concerns over data ownership.
14. Include a registry of Community-based organizations but create eligibility requirements.
15. Include management tools in common.

16. Include networks of experts for coral health.
17. Provide access to or information on training in NGO/CBO management and administration.
Needs
1. Protected area boundaries for global statistics.
2. Communities need further support.
3. Climate change predictions, scenarios on local areas, on regional and migratory species basis.
4. Access to databases on protected areas.
5. Leads to funding that could be used by small organizations for monitoring etc.
6. Access to MPA data, legislation and experts in the region.
7. Information on the Interaction between customary protection of areas/species and formal law
Data Available
1. Access to forestry and protected area data from Vanuatu to be available for the portal (FPAM Coordinator).
2. Ramsar site information available on website and email discussion list.
3. Information on turtle populations available from Vanuatu.

Summary and Discussion

4.1 Strong Support for a Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal

The results of this survey provide strong support for the development of a Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal (PIPAP). However, the result of question 5 (section 3.3) suggest that whilst the target audience have access to the internet for searches to assist in their work, they do not necessarily use this to access existing protected area networks. It is possible that the portal could assist with providing links between existing networks to assist practitioners with accessing benefits and resources already available within these existing networks.

It is vital to ensure that the portal is well advertised, easy to find (through internet based searches), runs smoothly, is well organized and user friendly and has good search capabilities. Ongoing user assessments of the portal should assist with ensuring that the portal achieves its objectives.

4.2 Sample size and Geographic Coverage

Without knowing the exact size of the target audience, it is difficult to know whether the sample size is representative of the target community. However, the fact that the survey reached the target population and elicited 100 responses from 16 PICTs gives a reasonable representation of protected area practitioners in the region. There was also a good balance between local Government staff, local/regional/international NGOs and other protected area community members.

It is recommended that portal managers continue to elicit feedback from the target audience throughout the entire process of portal development and implementation. It would also be advisable to target certain protected area practitioners from the PICTs that were not represented in these results (Guam, Tokelau, Northern Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands and Kiribati).

4.3 Lessons Learned from the Needs Assessment Survey

The results of the survey will be able to direct the portal developers to the areas where most time should be spent initially (e.g. the sections on community based management and national networks). It is also obvious that there are certain opportunities that the target audience are very keen to hear about (e.g. conference and trainings). Portal developers should attempt to include those topics from Table 3 in the resources section of the portal.

In terms of social networking through the internet, a discussion forum and a newsletter were the most popular methods selected. It was also pointed out by several people that Facebook was not a popular choice and that any newsletters etc. need to be concise and infrequent. This should be taken into account when developing social networking tools.

4.4 Emerging Themes

From the comments and suggestions received throughout the survey (particularly those found in Table 5), several themes have emerged which should be cross cutting throughout the development and ongoing management of the portal. These are:

4.5 Show Case Local Success Stories

Several comments related to the highlighting of ongoing projects through the portal. One person suggested that these should be those supported by the GEF Small Grants Programme but there is no reason to limit case studies to GEF funded projects. A directory of local CBOs was also suggested with eligibility criteria to be show-cased within the portal. Another person commented that by highlighting efforts in their local area (for example with the sub-national network in the Solomon Islands) local profiles could be raised and the ownership and pride engendered would support practitioners and community members in their ongoing work.

This theme can also fit in with the preferred resources that were highlighted in section 3.5 (Table 2) such as resources on community based management and management plan development. For example, CBOs or other could submit examples of best management practice to be reviewed and potentially highlighted through the portal.

4.6 Work Towards Tracking of Protected Areas

There were several comments relating to the utility of being able to track progress towards regional and global protected area. The many varying types of protected areas in the Pacific Islands and their transient nature make this a challenging task. The most recent effort by Govan (2009) did a great job of cataloging many of the marine protected areas in the region and these figures are used by UNEP WCMC. However, this information is constantly changing and a mechanism for the portal to assist in tracking these changes would be of benefit to the region and the global organizations.

There are a variety of ways that this task could be undertaken and there are also other initiatives currently in the initial stages (e.g. the IUCN initiative to develop a digital biodiversity and protected area observatory in the region) at present. The portal developers should further investigate options for achieving this task as development is ongoing.

4.7 Build Links

This theme emerged in various ways and it should be a cross cutting theme of the portal. The portal in itself will be designed as a 'doorway' and not an information containing site in itself. While it will be useful to organize, summarize and display information in such a way that is user friendly, ultimately the majority of that information should relate to something elsewhere on the internet. The portal is therefore a way of building bridges between practitioners and resources, experts, existing networks, each other etc.

The portal developers should ensure that this theme is not lost and that an efficient way of creating links is forged. A directory of regional experts is a great way of building links because it could involve a practitioner in one area learning from work that has been carried out elsewhere and applying it in their own environment. By show-casing this through the portal, the practice could spread to other areas. In addition, some networks that currently work outside of a person's area might still have resources or information that are relevant to them. However, because the practitioner knows that

they are not formally a part of that network, they may not look there for assistance. Hopefully the portal might help to overcome some of these barriers where possible. It seems logical for SPREP to play a linking role between the various regional and national protected area networks and hopefully the development of the Pacific Island Protected Areas Portal may help to facilitate this.

Reference

Govan, H. et al. 2009. Status and potential of locally-managed marine areas in the SouthPacific: meeting nature conservation and sustainable livelihood targets through wide-spread implementation of LMMAs. SPREP/WWF/WorldFish-Reefbase/CRISP. 95pp + 5 annexes.

Appendix 1

Needs Assessment Survey for the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal

1. Full Name (optional)

2. Email Address (optional)

3. Place of work (organisation or protected area and country)

4. In what way are you involved in protected area implementation or management?

5. Where (if anywhere) do you normally go for technical assistance in implementing your work?

- ☐ Colleague or mentor
- ☐ Internet Based Search
- ☐ Guidelines in books/papers etc.
- ☐ Existing network (e.g. PIMPAC or LMMA)
- ☐ Other (**please specify**):

6. Would you use a web-based social and linkage mechanism that provides a roadmap to protected area networks and resources relevant to Pacific Island Countries?

- ☐ Definitely ☐ Probably ☐ Not sure ☐ Probably not ☐ Definitely not

7. Which (if any) of the following topics would you like to have information/resources on?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marine/terrestrial protected area design | <input type="checkbox"/> Enforcement/compliance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Management plan development | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable financing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological/ecological monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecological networks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Data analysis | <input type="checkbox"/> Education and outreach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community based management | <input type="checkbox"/> Links to national management processes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socioeconomic monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> All of the above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting relating to protected areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |

8. Which (if any) of the following types of protected area networks are you interested in?

- ☐ Sub-national Protected Area Networks (e.g. Kimbe Bay Marine Managed Area, PNG)
- ☐ National Networks (e.g. Palau Protected Areas Network)
- ☐ Regional and transboundary Networks (e.g. PIMPAC)
- ☐ Global Networks (e.g. Global Island Partnership, GLISPA)

- ☐ All of the above
☐ Other (**please specify**):

9. Which (if any) of the following social networking resources/opportunities are you likely to respond to?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Forum | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs/internships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook page | <input type="checkbox"/> Funding opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Conferences and meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mailing list | <input type="checkbox"/> Training opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning exchanges | <input type="checkbox"/> All of the Above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): | |

10. Do you have other information/networking/linking needs related to marine and terrestrial protected areas?

Thank you for your time.

Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal

Photo © Stuart Chape



The Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal aims to facilitate the sharing of resources and expertise among Pacific Islands Protected Area Practitioners.

This includes anyone involved in implementing or managing marine or terrestrial protected areas (e.g. Government/NGO staff, community members, enforcement officers). This web-based mechanism will capitalize on existing expertise/resources and will assist with navigating through this information by providing helpful summaries and clear access to the multitude of resources available.

This Portal aims to fulfill a request made by Pacific Island leaders through the Pacific Oceanscape Strategy to make 'Liaising, Listening, Learning and Leading' a strategic priority. Opportunities for discussion and dissemination of information will also help to create a social network across the twenty one Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTS).

Vision: To provide a doorway through which Pacific Island Protected Area Practitioners can share expertise and benefit from opportunities.



Photo © Niue Tourism Office

What are the benefits of having a Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal?

- Facilitate knowledge exchange among protected areas practitioners in the Pacific Islands
- One portal through which to access a wealth of existing information
- Build capacity to plan, implement and manage protected areas in the region
- Save time for practitioners by providing summaries of the most useful tools
- Provide a forum for communication and advertisement of opportunities
- Achieve multiple objectives within international and regional targets



Photo: Lucy Jacobs



Please send us your feedback

We would greatly appreciate feedback on how this resource could be useful to you.

Please send your suggestions and ideas to: pacificprotectedareas@sprep.org

Alternatively, please take the time to fill in our online survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VVTFSP7>



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VISION: The Pacific environment - sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures