

Pacific Umbrella Initiative (draft): Planning for Sustainable Community Lifestyles in the Pacific

Proposed Partners

Governments

Pacific island countries and territories including: American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis & Futuna

Intergovernmental Organisations

South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP), South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO), University of the South Pacific (USP), Australian National University and University of Hawaii.

Potential Major Groups/NGOs/Civil Society

FAO (Land Tenure Service – SDAA), RICS Foundation, National Oceans and Atmosphere Agency (US Dept of Interior); FSP (Foundation for the People of the South Pacific); UNESCO - Live & Learn; World Wide Fund for Nature – New Zealand and Pacific (WWF); Pacific Concerns Resources Centre (PCRC); The Nature Conservancy; local Municipalities; Women, Youth and church groups and professional/technical associations.

Possible Donors

Asian Development Bank (ADB), AusAID, Commonwealth Secretariat, European Union (EU), Global Environment Facility (GEF), JICA, NZAID, United States Department of the Interior (USDIO), World Bank, Canada.

Global Partners

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), Millennium Environment Assessment Secretariat (MEA), International Conservation Union (IUCN).

Leading Partners

SPREP, SPC and USP – Land Management (to be confirmed through consultation)

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

Provide long-term community based capacity-building activities to fully integrate environmental and development needs, using people and customs as the central parameters for decision making, management and fostering social cohesion.

Principles:

- People are at the core of the pursuit of sustainable development;
- Traditional and local knowledge enhances scientific knowledge and can guide future directions to ensure pragmatic and mutually beneficial efforts;
- Environmental and sustainable development are for the people and communities and therefore their aspirations and needs should dominate policies, plans, decision making, management and practice;
- Sustainable development requires Environmental justice and preservation of human rights.
- Early community involvement and partnering with government in the development and project pipeline presents the best means to suit peoples aspirations, values, issues and priorities to socio-economic progress.

Purpose

To develop environments for local and national capacity for partnering for prudent anticipation and decisions regarding the planning and management of environmental change and sustainable development in the pursuit of enhanced quality of life for all.

Intended Activities

Community capacity-building activities to fully integrate environmental, social and development issues, needs a long term horizon to cover the following facets:

- Improving the availability and use of information, knowledge and expertise;
- Strengthening the participatory process of policy-making, policy integration and strategy formulation, especially as relates to land and resource access;
- Institution planning processes which are fully participatory/holistic systems driven by information and community involvement, incorporating abilities to value our environment and ensure user pay systems are adopted.
- developing capacities for converting strategies into action plans;
- providing enabling environments for the implementation of strategies and plans;
- strengthening abilities to mobilise resources within and outside of government;
- developing effective partnerships with all elements of civil society, particularly the private sector;
- securing greater effective empowerment of local or village level government;
- maintaining awareness and education of the need for change through the use of traditional methods of communication including music and dance.

Community Development Frameworks

The benefits of indigenous or local peoples' involvement for 'good governance' of sustainable development and biodiversity conservation initiatives (co-management) have been commonly expounded (Chambers, 1983: 101; Burkey 1993; Courrier 1992: 85; Kothari & Parajuli 1993). However this ethos of 'practice' needs to be transferred to integrative decision-making systems where the local community is involved with central government throughout the development and management decision-making process.

This promotion of community development frameworks relates to **Chapter 26 of Agenda 21** and

specifically the objectives under **26.3**:

“In full partnership with indigenous people and their communities, Governments and, where appropriate, intergovernmental organizations should aim at fulfilling the ...Establishment of a process to empower indigenous people and their communities through” through various measures...

To strive for a ‘sense of ownership’ in environmental planning, conservation and management the community needs to be involved at the outset of policy, program or project design and implementation. Participation rather than consultation should be the redeeming principle in ensuring the sense of ownership (Burkey, 1993; Chambers, 1983).

Integrative decision making systems should consist of a number of ingredients – in addition to base laws and ‘raw’ scientific data. Decision support systems including use of technology, use and development guideline documents, policy integration methods, best practice criteria and user pay systems should be delivered in a manner which allows the local community to dictate actions (or be partners to same) consistent with national objectives and strategies. Such local ‘empowerment’ could see the re-establishment of respect for elders and matua, which has slowly diminished in some Pacific Island countries under ideals of western style centralised governance. Successful traditional management practices survive on a high respect level afforded to elders and matua.

Community driven conflict resolution

With strengthened respect offered from community based frameworks for decision making - the adjudication of land/resource conflict matters (defining and redistribution of rights) could be transferred to the local village level away from the ‘foreign’ traumatic centralised court systems (**Objective 26.3 (v) of Agenda 21**).

Between 83-97% of land in Pacific Islands is held under customary ownership. Growing conflict over land and resource access and use stemming from value-conflicts between customary and western ideals is seen as an impediment to economic development, astute environmental management and poverty alleviation. This Initiative strives for reform led from the grass-roots level that is both based on and sensitive to the reality of continuing customary ownership. The Initiative aspires to facilitate a productive interface between indigenous and western information to ensure sustainable land and resource use.

The Initiative will assist the region to build capacity in landowners to take an active part in decisions regarding their own land, with land tenure mechanisms for poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability in accordance with existing SIDS BPOA and Agenda 21 protocols. Critical to such capacity building is facilitating more people to be able to express their views (at various levels) through on-going meetings of locals to talk more about solutions; networking to improve inter-group relationships (understand problems of other islands, improve landlord/tenant relationship; review the role, place and responsibilities of intermediaries); and open transmission of information to explain issues/proposals to people, where possible in their own language.

Information

Information is central to good governance, mainstreaming the environment and integrated decision making for sustainable development (**Chapter 8 & Chapter 40, Agenda 21**). Concerted targeting and consistent efforts to fill data voids shall be managed by priorities established by communities.

Customary and traditional means of communicating such as dance, art and music shall be explored as the mediums to increase awareness of the benefits of community based development, convey local messages, establish priorities as well as assisting in the delivery of outputs.

Information collation and GIS enhancement is a critical element for developing environmental planning systems. It provides an effective communication tool for community participation, products and platforms. It allows for both rudimentary, multi-level and multi-disciplinary query based analysis of resource status, sensitivity, capacity and suitability. Resource inventory and GIS enhancement for systems based planning can be developed as an interactive information tool to assist decision making.

Community Planning and Participation

Chapter 10 of Agenda 21 notes that:

".... If, in the future, human requirements are to be met in a sustainable manner, it is now essential to resolve these conflicts and move towards more effective and efficient use of land and its natural resources. Integrated physical and landuse planning and management is an eminently practical way to achieve this."

PICs have seen the push for better governance stimulated by economic planning over the last decade. Countries and Territories are now calling for the filling of the void in physical resource use/land use planning (*PIC National Assessment Reports for WSSD*). Many PICs do not have systems or procedures for integrated environmental and resource use planning, development and management. Such systems are necessary to ensure countries are able to cater for sustainable development (physical, ecological, economic, social and cultural considerations). Planning systems can bring certainty and confidence into development and environmental management processes especially when targeted at the local level - through the provision of adequate environmental information, policy integration, safeguards, planning strategies and development guidelines.

Current philosophies aim to integrate economic and physical planning as there are inherent linkages. For example economic policy (especially fiscal) can stimulate physical development and physical development stimulates economic activity and/or creates an asset value system. Both perspectives have implications for the environment and are best integrated at the grass-roots level consistent with national policy directions.

The aim is to provide countries and territories with concepts of objective based planning systems that maintain community level decision making, while enabling national action when key threats are faced. The benefits of a total package including enhanced GIS, sustainable development guideline documents, land and resource use development objectives and criteria, as well as integrated environmental planning legislation - will be conveyed. The holistic system should be driven by information and community involvement, incorporating abilities to value the environment and to ensure user pay systems are included in decision making at the outset of the development process.

Features of contemporary community based planning systems in addition to those depicted above include:

- 1) Incorporation of forward assessment/forecasting of threats or cumulative impacts;
- 2) Incorporation of community and local knowledge in decision making;
- 3) Objective based guidelines and EIA as part of a simple planning process;
- 4) Flexible and modular systems able to be adapted or adopted by local communities with local additions or variations;
- 5) Relies and supports community empowerment, information and continued involvement throughout the development and resource use process.

Expected Results

- Productive interface between Indigenous and Western information, science and management models to ensure sustainable land and resource use for enhanced quality of life opportunities.
- Improved understanding of Pacific land and resource use systems and their role in societal and economic development.
- Peaceful and equitable use of land and marine resources in the Pacific stimulated by greater confidence and certainty at the local level.
- Establishment of effective partnering regimes at the local level, between grass-roots and central government, between governments and business and civil society.
- Greater exposure of traditional know-how, communication and entertainment through advancement of Pacific music, art and dance.

Specific Targets of the Partnership/Initiative and Timeframe for their Achievement.

Phase 1:

Jan 2003 - Jun 2003	Consultation and Inception process for implementation the Initiative
July 2003 – June 2004	Assist with National Profiles and Baseline Studies for self-determination of priorities and scoping of activities.
July 2004 – June 2005	National based Workshops to explore options for advancement of Community Development frameworks.
July 2005 – Oct 2005	Regional Forum and development of a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) to coordinate activities and collaboration.
July 2005 – Dec 2005	SAP and options review by National governments & Civil Society.
Jan 2006 – Jun 2006	Consideration/adoption of preferred mechanisms by States and Territories.

Phase 2:

July 2006 - June 2007	National & regional extension of Outcomes & Action Plan – inception mechanisms
July 2007 – 2012	Implementation phase of specific programmes and projects targeting village – national level capacity building.

Coordination and Implementation Mechanism

- National level coordination and implementation shall be through national committees for sustainable development (or similar cross-disciplinary committees) established to facilitate NARs or fostered as part of Outreach work from WSSD. This shall be confirmed through in-country consultation on potential programmes/projects to stem from this Initiative.
- Regional level coordination and consultation will be led by SPREP in close collaboration with the USP and SPC, as well as their member countries, international agencies, donor organisations, regional organisations, NGOs and the private sector.
- Implementation at the regional level, where appropriate, will be by the relevant CROP organisations and their partners.

Arrangements for Funding

- Commitment towards the implementation of priority actions determined through national and regional consultations is expected from multi-partner and donor organisations.
- National Governments and Territories are expected to be responsible for financing or securing finances for facilitation forums, national profiling, community consultation and outreach activities related to the development of programmes/projects under this Initiative. Assistance will be provided by regional partners within CROP agencies.

<p>➤ Estimated cost: Phase 1: USD 450,000/year for 4 years USD 1.8m Phase 2: To be determined on the basis of priorities and ongoing existing activities.</p>
<p>Arrangements for Capacity Building and Technology Transfer</p> <p>Specific requirements for capacity building and technology transfer shall be determined through the advancement of NARs and melding of key messages and issues within National profiles generated to suit commensurate calls for same (GEF, UNDP Common Country reports, CSD reporting etc). Synergies with prior reporting and calls for capacity development will be explored (Climate Change, Biodiversity, Population, Energy etc). Coordination of these past/on-going efforts and planned activities under this Initiative shall be needed to avoid duplication and ensure mutual benefits.</p>
<p>Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level</p> <p>Specific Programmes/Projects and activities will be established and integrated into ongoing programmes and projects both nationally and regionally where appropriate. Specific opportunities exist through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Advancement of NARs at the National level through current programmes in Environmental Reporting to be the basis for National profiles and/or National Sustainable Development Strategies (called for in Agenda 21). ➤ Incorporation of associated activities at the regional level in the generation of a regional Sustainable Development Strategy (called for by the Pacific Islands Forum). ➤ Preparations for the review of the Barbados Programme of Action in 2004 (Chairs text for WSSD). ➤ Ongoing activities under the SPREP Action Plan 2001-2004 for the 'mainstreaming of environment and development' (Chapter 8 of Agenda 21) & follow-up activities of the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM), 2002 where Environment and Economics was the theme. ➤ Building on the FAO/USP/RICS Foundation 2002 South Pacific Land Tenure Conflict Symposium – where the importance of local community determination of improved dispute resolution mechanisms prevailed (as well as the call for resources).
<p>Monitoring Arrangements</p> <p>Monitoring and reporting on the Initiative at the national level shall be through the National Sustainable Development Committees (or similar multi-disciplinary committee) incorporating representatives of government, business, community groups, professional associations and NGOs.</p> <p>At the regional level monitoring will take place through SPREP's and other CROP agency Governing Council sessions and the extension to the (CROP) Health & Population Working Group. Activities of the Working Groups is monitored by the Heads of CROP (Meetings) and the annual Governing Council meetings of relevant organisations.</p>
<p>Other information</p> <p>Website: http://www.sprep.org.ws and http://www.pacificwssd.org</p>
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