

**Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 10th Conference
of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
16 - 18 August, 2010
Final Meeting Statement**



The Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 10th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Nadi, Fiji from 16 to 18 August, 2010, was attended by 11 Pacific island Parties to the Convention, partners, donors and non-governmental organizations from the region; and concluded with a Statement on:

Reaffirming the commitment by Pacific island countries to implement the three objectives of the Convention;

Recognising the importance of accelerating action to avoid further loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services;

Drawing attention to the fact that approximately 80% of Pacific island communities live on the coast and rely mostly on natural resources which underlines the importance of addressing integrated island ecosystem management;

Recalling and further recognising the achievements and initiatives of the Pacific through community-based and co-management approaches, national and multi-country challenges and commitments such as Locally Managed Protected Areas, Micronesia Challenge, Coral Triangle Initiative, Phoenix Islands Protected Area and World Heritage Site;

Acknowledging the continuing leadership demonstrated by Pacific island countries and territories in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (eg. LMMA and MMAs, regional initiatives, efforts in fisheries conservation and management by the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA));

Recognising the value of collaborating and working in partnership with PI territories and other SIDS to implement biodiversity and related programmes;

Recognising that Pacific SIDS are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and emphasising the role of biodiversity in climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as to the increasing impacts of climate change on biodiversity,

Further emphasising the need for targeted capacity building, technical assistance and adequate and timely financial support as critical to achieving the implementation of Convention objectives in the Pacific region,

The Meeting proposes the following recommendations for consideration.

AND in accordance with the Agenda Items for COP10 the Pacific Island Countries highlighted the following priorities and provides guidance:

CBD STRATEGIC PLAN

Note the importance of the Strategic Plan in establishing a road map for CBD implementation post 2010 and recognise that goals and targets must be specific, measurable, achievable, ambitious, relevant and timely with a longer term vision.

Call for support to review, update and align the NBSAPs to the new Strategic Plan.

FINANCING BIODIVERSITY

Urge the GEF and other donors to give consideration to the special circumstances of SIDS and LDCs in addressing the need to provide funding for priority environmental issues in an expedited manner.

Further elaborate the need to increase support for biodiversity-related activities both through increasing ODA as well as through innovative financing mechanisms (such as long-term trust funds) and request more support for this area particularly in terms of assistance in identifying and developing these mechanisms.

BIOFUELS AND BIODIVERSITY

Note that while biofuels may have potential for mitigating climate change, their production may have adverse effects on biodiversity through loss of species diversity, destruction of natural ecosystems and introduction of invasive species. Therefore the precautionary approach needs to be applied, including application of robust risk assessment and risk management systems within an ecosystem-based management framework.

ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING (ABS) AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE (TK)

Recognise the importance of the ABS Protocol for the Pacific and urge all Parties to ensure the conclusion of the negotiations for its adoption at CBD COP10 in Nagoya.

Recognise the role of Article 8j on traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and of Article 10c on Customary Use in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity,

Further urge Parties to ensure that the protection and utilisation of TK is incorporated as a cross-cutting issue in the ABS regime.

MARINE and COASTAL

Reaffirm the importance of marine and coastal ecosystems to Pacific livelihoods, commit to the meaningful implementation of the Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and seek the support of donors, development partners and the private sector through adequate and timely financial and technical assistance.

Recognise the adverse impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems of ocean fertilization and acidification as emerging and important issues for the Pacific to consider in national and regional development plans.

PROTECTED AREAS

Emphasise the fundamental importance of PAs in conserving biodiversity and their role in adapting to the impacts of climate change and recognising their mitigation potential and urge partners to ensure sustainable financing mechanisms are established and maintained for the effective management of PAs, including implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA).

BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Encourage Parties to the CBD to provide financial and technical support to assist PICs in developing effective adaptation and mitigation actions that address the linkages between biodiversity and CC.

Encourage regional and international organisations to provide targeted, nationally appropriate capacity building to assist PICs in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, reducing the loss of biodiversity and identifying co-benefits in actions to address REDD.

Further recognise the need for support for capacity building to assist PICs in identifying, assessing and monitoring impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

FOREST and AGRICULTURE BIODIVERSITY

Reaffirm the importance of agriculture biodiversity as the foundation for food and nutrition, food security, contribute to wider ecosystem functions such as maintenance of water quality and carbon sequestration and providing incentives for conservation areas.

Call for a closer collaboration of environment, climate change and agriculture actors to ensure a holistic approach to conservation, adaptation and sustainable use.

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES (IAS)

Recognise the serious threat of IAS to island biodiversity, which is exacerbated by climate change and the limited human, technical and financial resources in PICs.

Urge Parties to address IAS as a significant driver of biodiversity loss in the CBD Strategic Plan and post-2010 targets, and to allocate adequate and timely funding to prevent, control and manage IAS.

GLOBAL TAXONOMIC INITIATIVE

Recall the importance of taxonomy in the implementation of the CBD objectives encourages Governments and partners to ensure that taxonomy is reflected in the CBD Strategic Plan.

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Capacity building related to implementation of Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries

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