



## Financial Planning for Biodiversity in Oceania

### Contents

Overview of financial planning in Oceania .....	2
Australia .....	5
New Zealand .....	8
Fiji .....	10
Papua New Guinea.....	13
Solomon Islands .....	15
Vanuatu.....	17
Kiribati.....	18
Micronesia (Federated States of) .....	19
Palau.....	23
Cook Islands .....	25
Niue.....	26
Samoa .....	27
Tonga.....	31

## *Overview of financial planning in Oceania*

There are sixteen countries in Oceania and two are developed countries. Of 1210-page national biodiversity strategies and action plans released by these countries, around 1.5% was used to explore financing issues. Nauru and Tuvalu did not publish their national planning documents, and Marshall Islands did not consider financing issues.

### *Get organized*

Samoa had a financial resources and mechanisms group. New Zealand identified key players for financing actions under several objectives. These key players include: Department of Conservation, Ministry of the Environment, Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Research, Science and Technology, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Local Government New Zealand, local authorities, iwi/hapu, QEII National Trust, primary production sector, community groups, landowners, universities, research providers, nongovernmental organizations. In Vanuatu, Environment Unit is tasked with financing tasks, with advice from the Department of Finance, DESD and State Law Office. Papua New Guinea seeks to create and fill a position of fund raising specialist.

### *Financial base-lining*

Solomon Islands conducted an assessment of current and related projects. Samoa provided an inventory of financing biodiversity work.

### *Cost estimation*

Fiji and Solomon Islands estimated the costs of proposed projects that were derived from their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

### *Financial strategy*

The financial consideration by Oceania's national biodiversity strategies and action plans was mostly focused on how to mobilize financial resources in support of their implementation. A few points may be highlighted:

- **Targets.** Australia sets a target to achieve by 2015 a doubling of the value of complementary markets for ecosystem services. Kiribati sought to increase national government budgetary allocation by 5% (yearly) to fund biodiversity.
- **Review and accounting.** Australia reviews funding and administration of existing programs that relate to the conservation of biological diversity to identify the potential for reallocation of resources for improved efficiencies and the need for increased funds to ensure implementation of the Strategy. Micronesia (FS) designs and develops a network of relevant biodiversity agencies for documenting

revenues and expenditures on biodiversity related activities. Samoa establishes an accounting system for recording revenues and expenditures for biodiversity-related activities.

- Existing funding mechanisms. New Zealand plans to expand and modify existing national funding mechanisms.
- Legal measures. New Zealand identifies and removes legislative and other barriers to using financial incentives. Fiji puts in place the required legislative and administrative framework. Palau reviews and updates legislation regarding the imposition of additional taxes on imported non-essential food products.
- Capacity building. Fiji develops a national capacity for biodiversity management with trained specialists. Papua New Guinea develops human capacity to ensure the short- and long-term financing. Solomon Islands enhance the capacity of personnel to actively manage finances obtained. Samoa strengthens the local capacity in the coordination and implementation of biodiversity and conservation projects, and raise public awareness of existing and potential financial resources. Tonga assesses biodiversity conservation capacities, and builds capacities in conservation fund raising and management.
- Relations with external funders. Solomon Islands creates new and strengthens existing relationships with relevant regional, financial institutions and international stakeholders, and recommends establishing a national implementation support partnership scheme. Micronesia (FS) develops and regularly updates a database of all potential donor assistance programmes and distribute to all relevant agencies within the nation. Samoa establishes information systems of all potential donor assistance. Tonga collates and disseminates donor-related information, and builds effective partnerships with key local and international organizations to support the implementation of biodiversity conservation programmes.
- Trust Funds. New Zealand supports activities through the Sustainable Management Fund. Fiji explores conservation trust funds. Vanuatu establishes a conservation environment trust fund. Micronesia (FS) develops the Micronesian Conservation Trust Fund for implementation of its strategy and action plan. Palau explores to establish a Palau Conservation Trust Fund. Cook Islands establishes a biodiversity trust fund. Samoa plans to establish a conservation trust fund for NBSAP implementation.
- Thematic approach. Fiji explores funding under various themes. Palau discusses funding options within various themes.
- New mechanisms. Papua New Guinea designs and implements a spectrum of sustainable financing mechanisms. Solomon Islands establishes a financial mechanism that will enable effective dissemination of funds. Niue discussed a variety of funding methods. Samoa strengthens partnerships with the private sector, non-governmental organizations and local communities. Tonga uses economic tools and instruments for conservation funding.

- **Markets.** Australia's new planning document explores new markets for biodiversity and ecosystem services, and innovative mechanisms to encourage private investment and interest in biodiversity conservation. Papua New Guinea encourages local investment in biodiversity conservation. Samoa aims to undertake an economic valuation of its biodiversity, and identify and promote sustainable income generating activities for the community.
- **Coordination and monitoring.** New Zealand provides strategic direction, funding, national guidance, coordination and monitoring. Papua New Guinea reduces expenditure through reduction of duplication of effort, streamlining activities and strategic actions.

As developed country Parties, Australia and New Zealand also set out their international role in financing biodiversity objectives. Australia discussed actions on bilateral and multilateral aid, international scientific collaboration, and other forms of cooperation. New Zealand stressed the areas in which it has particular expertise or needs.

#### *Financial plan*

Micronesia (FS) commits to develop long-term financial plans for undertaking sustainable biodiversity management and conservation programmes. Niue develops a prioritized work plan with each action identified by externally funding identified, internally funded and external funding needed. Samoa aims to develop long-term financial plans for undertaking conservation programmes.

#### *Reporting/review*

Samoa develops a monitoring matrix with indicators (measured every two years unless otherwise indicated), means of measurement, and assumptions. Tonga presents a similar monitoring matrix with intended outcomes, indicators, means of measurement and assumptions.

## *Australia*

Australia's first planning document<sup>1</sup> contained two sections on its international role and financing implementation respectively. One objective was to ensure continued and effective international cooperation in the conservation of biological diversity, directly between governments or through relevant international governmental and non-government organizations. Actions included:

Bilateral and multilateral aid. Ensure that Australia's aid program continues to be developed in such a way as to avoid any significant adverse impacts on the biological diversity of recipient countries and that, where possible, it improves biological diversity conservation. This will include:

- Continuing to ensure that projects relating to biological diversity conservation are included in the Environment Assistance Program and other aid programs;
- Continuing to assist developing countries to identify environmental priorities and strengthen environmental expertise, legislation and institutions relevant to biological diversity conservation;
- Ensuring that opportunities to increase the level of technology transfer relevant to biological diversity conservation are included in relevant aid programs and projects;
- Considering impacts on biological diversity as part of routine evaluation of aid projects, including annual environmental audits, with a view to improving future aid program contributions to biological diversity conservation. Where significant negative impacts are identified, consider the need for remedial action.

International scientific collaboration: Enhance international collaboration in research related to biological diversity.

Other forms of cooperation: Maintain and strengthen Australia's participation in multilateral efforts concerned with the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, particularly in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction and other matters of mutual interest, through international organizations and programs such as the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the Global Environment Facility, the OECD, the World Conservation Union, the United Nations Environment Programme, and UNESCO.

The section on funding implementation presented an objective to ensure that the costs of biological diversity protection are equitably shared, such that they reflect contributions to degradation and benefits from protection or use. Actions (government appropriations): governments will review funding and administration of existing programs that relate to the conservation of biological diversity to identify

---

<sup>1</sup> Australia (1996). The National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity, Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories, Canberra, 70 pp.

the potential for reallocation of resources for improved efficiencies and the need for increased funds to ensure implementation of the Strategy.

The second document<sup>2</sup> provided a sub-priority (1.3) on enhancing strategic investments and partnerships. Cooperation between different parts of the community is essential to increase effective engagement in biodiversity conservation. More private expenditure on biodiversity conservation and partnerships between sectors are necessary for successful outcomes. Governments need to partner with other sectors and, importantly, with the primary industries sector. Society as a whole benefits, and future generations will also benefit, from protecting biodiversity. However these benefits are not fully reflected in our economic system. To ensure that biodiversity's importance as a public good is fully valued, we need to ensure that there are financial incentives for actions that protect or enhance biodiversity and that the cost of damage to biodiversity is accounted for in economic planning. One way of moving towards such a system is to stimulate the development and expansion of markets for biodiversity and ecosystem services, including initiatives such as the Australian Government's Environmental Stewardship Program, the Victorian Government's BushTender program and the New South Wales Government's BioBanking program. Markets provide a way to value biodiversity so that it can be considered alongside economic and social factors. Although putting a price on the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services is difficult, well-designed markets are one of the most effective policy instruments for attributing economic value to biodiversity and can be very effective in encouraging investment in biodiversity conservation. In using market-based approaches, we must ensure that new markets, such as those for carbon and water, are designed and implemented to avoid unintended negative consequences for biodiversity. We should seek multiple beneficial environmental outcomes wherever possible. Strategic investments and partnerships are an increasingly important way of identifying, prioritizing and achieving conservation goals. For example, cooperation between governments and the private and non-government sectors has already resulted in major private land additions to the National Reserve System (NRS) which would not have been possible otherwise. Emerging markets for a number of ecosystem services are creating opportunities for long-term investments in biodiversity conservation. Market-based offset schemes are developing as a mechanism by which biodiversity conservation can be integrated into public and private land use decisions. It is also important that we encourage increasing private investment in biodiversity conservation so that both the costs and the benefits of biodiversity use are distributed across relevant sectors. It is equally important that increased investment is prioritized and targeted for best effect.

Outcomes for enhancing strategic investments and partnerships:

- An increase in the use of markets and other incentives for managing biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- An increase in private expenditure on biodiversity conservation;

---

<sup>2</sup> Australia (2010). Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010–2030, Prepared by the National Biodiversity Strategy Review Task Group convened under the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council, 102 pp.

- An increase in public–private partnerships for biodiversity conservation.

Target 3: by 2015 to achieve a doubling of the value of complementary markets for ecosystem services.

Actions:

- Develop and align, where appropriate, emerging markets for biodiversity with markets for other ecosystem services (all governments, businesses);
- Develop innovative mechanisms to encourage private investment and interest in biodiversity conservation (all governments, businesses, non-government organizations).

## *New Zealand*

New Zealand's planning document<sup>3</sup> referred to financing actions under several objectives, including:

- Expand and modify existing national funding mechanisms (the Nature Heritage Fund, Nga Whenua Rahui and Queen Elizabeth II National Trust) to meet current demand by landowners and communities where a priority, to protect habitats and ecosystems important for indigenous biodiversity, and to maintain the condition of protected areas through fencing and pest management (Key players: Department of Conservation, Ministry of the Environment, local authorities, iwi/hapu, QEII National Trust, primary production sector, landowners, NGOs, community groups)
- Identify and remove legislative and other barriers to local authorities using economic incentives (such as rate relief and financial contributions for costs), and investigate new joint national and regional/local funding mechanisms to encourage and support the protection of ecosystems and habitats important for indigenous biodiversity on private land (Key players: Ministry of the Environment, Department of Internal Affairs, Local Government New Zealand, local authorities, QEII, landowners, iwi/hapu, NGOs)
- Provide strategic direction, funding, national guidance, coordination and monitoring, and encourage private sector, community and individual participation to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of New Zealand's biodiversity.
- Support activities through the Sustainable Management Fund that enhance landowner and community understanding of ways to avoid or minimize the effects of human activities on biodiversity, and encourage community involvement in practical initiatives that help achieve the sustainable management of biodiversity (Key players: Ministry of the Environment, Local Government New Zealand, local authorities)

Under objective 10.2 (Inter-country cooperation), New Zealand aimed to seek continued and effective cooperation and support for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, directly between governments and through people-to-people cooperation. Actions included:

- Enhance New Zealand's information exchange and collaboration internationally in biodiversity science, research and technology through the use of the Internet Clearing House Mechanism, travel grants and involvement in relevant international and regional organizations. (Key players: Department of Conservation, Ministry of Research, Science and Technology, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, research providers, universities)
- Continue to promote policies and programmes for New Zealand's Overseas Development Assistance and the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) for environmentally

---

<sup>3</sup> New Zealand (2000). The New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, February 2000, 144 pp.

sustainable development in partner countries, with priority given to assisting developing and small island countries in the Asia-Pacific region to identify environmental priorities and increase their capacity to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity (Key player: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade)

- Cooperate and work with other countries on biodiversity issues of mutual concern and in areas in which New Zealand has particular expertise or needs, such as research on shared taxa, threatened species management and recovery, prevention and elimination of invasive species, biological restoration techniques, and biodiversity assessment (Key players: will vary, Department of Conservation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of fisheries, Ministry of Research, Science and Technology, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, research providers)

## *Fiji*

Fiji's national biodiversity strategy and action plan<sup>4</sup> provided six project profiles and eight project briefs, the latter at US\$4.897 million. The planning document contained a section on funding the biodiversity strategy and action plan. The FBSAP envisages a major 'step-change' from the current predominantly passive approach based on resource management for extractive purposes with little inherent biodiversity management capacity, to an active, 'hands on' management with adequate domestic technical capacity. Experience with the National Environment Strategy has shown that although Government may endorse a Strategy, it is most unlikely to have funds available to initiate actions other than provide administrative frameworks, and the majority of the funding can, therefore, be expected to come initially from donor assistance with government providing a more active funding role in the medium term. Significant problems which arise as a result of an undue reliance on donor assistance are:

- A lack of continuity in funding and an inability to provide for recurrent expenditure (i.e. lease-rental and/or management of protected areas; CITES implementation; threatened species management; invasive species management etc.);
- donors are inevitably selective in their choice of projects and their priorities may not coincide with those of the Government;
- undue reliance on expatriate technical specialists;
- a lack of flexibility or the ability to meet changing circumstances or emergency situations;
- Government neglecting its funding role because of availability of project funding, and, sustainability of donor funded projects.

Under these circumstances, the FBSAP envisages the Government's main initial contribution will be:

- to endorse the FBSAP as Government's policy on biodiversity planning and management;
- to put in place the required legislative and administrative framework;
- to develop a national capacity for biodiversity management with trained specialists; and,
- to address the issues of a rapidly increasing requirement for recurrent funding for biodiversity management.

The document continued to explore conservation trust funds, traditional project approach and other initiatives. The document made reference to financing under other themes:

Objective (3.5): to provide adequate funding for protected area management.

---

<sup>4</sup> Fiji (2003). Fiji Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Ministry of the Environment, 129 pp.

Actions:

- Review and establish an appropriate Funding Mechanism(s) for the management of priority biodiversity protected areas;
- Ensure meaningful participation and provide equitable incentives and remuneration to resource owners for protected area establishment and management.

Objective (6.3): to develop communities' capabilities to manage and utilize forest and marine resources in a sustainable manner.

- Action: Establish a funding mechanism to enable wide adoption of successful community-based sustainable resource-management initiatives.

Fiji's implementation framework<sup>5</sup> considered financing under various themes.

For forest conservation, an objective (4.2) was: By 2014, sustainable funding mechanisms for protected areas are in place. Actions:

- Locate and access adequate financial and technical resources for management of protected areas.
- Encourage international and private sector collaborative research on Fiji's biodiversity.
- Ensure meaningful participation and provide equitable incentives and remuneration to resource owners for protected areas establishment and management.
- Undertake financial literacy, education and training in selected upland communities.
- Map out with trained communities saving plans for households.
- Review and establish an appropriate funding mechanism(s) for the management of priority biodiversity protected areas)

For invasive alien species, actions included:

- Locate adequate financial and technical resources for management of invasive alien species;
- Increase funding for Invasive Programs.

For inshore fisheries, an objective (2.2) was: By 2014, 20% increase in funds from biodiversity tourism coming into accounts for management and there is a 20% increase in funds (that are directly derived from biodiversity tourism activities) spent on management activities (Action: develop national campaign

---

<sup>5</sup> Fiji (2010). Implementation Framework 2010-2014 for the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Fiji Islands, 93 pp.

targeting biodiversity tourism). The other objective (5.2) was: By 2014, all inshore MMAs will have been trained in financial literacy and have access to financial mechanisms (Action: train all inshore marine management structures in financial literacy).

For species conservation, an objective (3.1) was: By October (2010-2014) ensure the budget allocation for species conservation is increased by 20% annually over the next 5 years. Actions:

- Monitor GEF funded species conservation initiatives by stakeholders;
- Conduct annual stakeholders meeting to discuss budget and report on NBSAP – species conservation implementation progress.)

For protected areas, an objective (3.1) was: By 2014, sustainable funding mechanisms are in place to continue protected areas work. Actions:

- Locate and access adequate funding to continue PoWPA;
- Locate and access adequate financial and technical resources for management of priority biodiversity protected areas;
- Encourage international and private sector collaborative research on and investment in Fiji's biodiversity;
- Ensure meaningful participation and provide equitable incentives and remuneration to resource owners for protected areas establishment and management;
- Undertake financial literacy, education and training in selected communities involved in protected areas management;
- Collate best practices for management, governance and sustainable financing from existing protected area sites;
- Promote Fiji's best practices for protected area management, governance and sustainable financing in regional and international fora.

For inland waters, an action was to source funding for more targeted surveys of un-surveyed areas.

### *Papua New Guinea*

Papua New Guinea's planning document<sup>6</sup> was structured by objectives, projects and activities. The programme (2) on financial and technical resource presented the following:

#### Objectives:

- Develop the human capacity to ensure the short- and long-term financing and sustainability of NBSAP;
- Design and implement a spectrum of sustainable financing mechanisms for NBSAP implementation;
- Obtain necessary financial support for biodiversity initiatives; encourage local investment in biodiversity conservation as a complementing measure to foreign donor support;
- Expenditure reduction through reduction of duplication of effort, streamlining activities, and strategic actions to ensure maximum mileage from minimum investment by the Biodiversity Projects Coordinator.

Project: Short and long term financing and sustainability for NBSAP

#### Activities:

- Create and fill a position of Fund Raising Specialist at DEC. The responsibilities of this position are to identify and obtain financial and technical support for projects under NBSAP.
- Develop the following initiatives (by the Fund Raising Specialist): mobilization of financial resources from the regional and international donor community, public/private mobilization of financial resources from national sources; community mobilization of financial resources from the sustainable use for biodiversity and other new and innovative funding mechanisms (including support for the PNG Mama Graun Conservation Trust Fund); mobilize technical assistance from regional and international sources.
- Coordinate the management of projects by the Biodiversity Project Coordinator, once funds have been accessed by the Fund Raising Specialist.
- Develop demonstration projects to test selected priorities.

---

<sup>6</sup> Papua New Guinea (2007). Papua New Guinea National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, October 2007, 18 pp.

- Support the development and activities of the PNG Mama Graun Trust Fund as a local initiative funding source.

- 

### ***Solomon Islands***

Solomon Islands<sup>7</sup> presented a list of 13 proposed projects at the indicative cost of SBD 7 million.

The document had a theme on financial resources, with the strategy goal: sustainable financing mechanisms are in place so that biodiversity is effectively managed for long term sustainability of the environment.

Objective 1: To ensure that work plans and activities are fully funded and that funds are effectively disseminated and managed. Actions:

- Create new, and strengthen existing relationships with relevant regional, financial institutions and international stakeholders in partnership with SIG to solicit funds for the implementation of NBSAP;
- Establish a financial mechanism that will enable effective dissemination of funds

Objective 2: To enhance the capacity of personnel to actively manage finance obtained. Actions:

- Training of government and provincial officers in financial management, budgeting and proposal writing;
- Training of government and provincial officers in environmental accounting and economics.

The document contained an objective to develop sustainable financing mechanisms for protected area management. Actions:

- Create a trust fund and raise funds specifically for protected areas;
- Commit long-term financial support for protected areas.

Solomon Islands also inventoried current and related projects, and recommended establishing a national implementation support partnership scheme, as well as seeking funds through the GEF Small Grants Programme and international conservation trust funds.

Solomon Islands discussed funding the biodiversity strategy and action plan.

The government and donor partners such as GEF and EU would be the major source of funding for implementing the NBSAP. Funding through partnership agreements between the government and donor partners has been successful in the past in other sectors. It is hoped that such partnership arrangements can also be done for NBSAP, perhaps, through a national implementation support partnership (NISP) scheme. The GEF Small Grants Program is another source of funding support which can be sought.

---

<sup>7</sup> Solomon Islands (2009). National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the Solomon Islands, June 2009, 71 pp.

Seeking support from various international Conservation Trust Funds (e.g. CTF by the World Bank's GEF Secretariat) to finance biodiversity conservation and management through protected area systems is another option for Government through MECM to consider.

In order to be able to secure funding and move SINBSAP forward, the government must first endorse the SINBSAP, review and develop policies and legislation and building capacity for biodiversity conservation and management.

Solomon Islands<sup>8</sup> reported the progress on the theme for financial resources:

- Objective 1: To ensure that work plans and activities are fully funded and that funds are effectively disseminated and managed. The implementation of the NBSAP has been improved with various interventions of the global financing mechanism, the GEF. Other donors have come into assist. These include EU and AuSAID.
- Objective 2: To enhance the capacity of personnel to actively manage financial obtained. The Institute of Public Administration has been increasing its effort to train relevant government officers in financial management. NGOs have their internal training facilities in this issue.

---

<sup>8</sup> Solomon Island (2011). Fourth Report, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, 25 July 2011, 81 pp.

- 

### *Vanuatu*

Vanuatu's planning document<sup>9</sup> had a priority on financing biodiversity. The Environment Unit and other agencies lack capacity to manage biodiversity, with respect to adequate staffing, equipment and budgets. This can only be redressed by more adequate funding for environmental management. Consequently it is a priority to identify ways to locally fund biodiversity conservation work and to avoid undue dependence on the international donor community. The option endorsed by this strategy is to introduce a 1000VT environment management levy on visitors to Vanuatu. This is based on the importance of strong natural and cultural environments to the tourism sector and successful experiences with such a levy in small island states in the Caribbean. Acceptance of such a scheme usually relies on funds being directly held for environment conservation work and held separately to general government revenue.

Priority response: Establish a conservation environment trust fund to finance biodiversity research and conservation work (Responsibility: Environment Unit with advice from the Department of Finance, DESD and State Law Office)

Proposed actions:

- Draft legislation to establish an environmental trust fund, possibly in association with the draft environmental legislation;
- Make necessary legal provisions for a 1000VT environmental levy on all visitors to Vanuatu;
- Establish a system for collection of this levy at the airport or in association with ticket sales.

---

<sup>9</sup> Vanuatu (1999). National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, November 1999, 41 pp.

- 

### ***Kiribati***

Kiribati's planning document<sup>10</sup> planned to create sustainable financial mechanism for the protection and management of biological diversity.

Targets:

- Increase national government budgetary allocation by 5% (yearly) to fund for the protection and management of biological diversity;
- Undertake feasibility studies on the viability of establishing Environment Trust Fund in Kiribati;
- Mainstream the protection and management of island biodiversity into different sectors of government, private sectors and civil society.

---

<sup>10</sup> Kiribati (2005). National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plan, prepared by Environment and Conservation Division, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development, October 2006, 49 pp.

•

### ***Micronesia (Federated States of)***

Micronesia's planning document<sup>11</sup> had a theme on financial resources with the following strategy goal: Local, regional and international financial sources provide for the long-term financial sustainability of all conservation and biodiversity related activities. To effectively implement biodiversity conservation and sustainable use programs, all available avenues need to be identified from which funds can be accessed, secured and managed effectively. All levels of government need to recognize the importance of their biodiversity and allocate financial resources to ensure sustainability of the nation's biological resources, in addition to developing and implementing other locally generated sustainable financial mechanisms (e.g.; resource use taxes/fees, tourist/diver fees, construction bonds, etc.) for these activities. This will also require assistance from international bilateral and multilateral donor sources. A National Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) is envisaged to act as a permanent endowment that can generate investment income providing a long-term source of stable annual funding for activities that support conservation and effective management of natural resources, build consensus on conservation priorities, complement and support government funded programs and national sustainable development and conservation strategies.

Objective 1. State Commitment: To define support needed to implement and monitor progress on the NBSAP at the State level. Actions:

- a. Determine staffing and financial and other recourses needed to carry out NBSAP activities in the States;
- b. Define and establish incentives to implement NBSAP activities;
- c. Develop and support community based biodiversity-friendly NGOs

Objective 2. National Commitment: To provide, in accordance within national capabilities, long term national financial support and incentives for undertaking conservation programs. Actions:

- a. Continue the development of long-term financial plans within each State for undertaking conservation programs at all levels of the government;
- b. Develop sustainable conservation funding mechanisms within the nation (e.g. allocation of tax revenue, user fees, eco-labeling);
- c. Continue National and State government budget allocations for staff and project activities for conservation and management of the nation's biodiversity;
- d. Develop and support community based biodiversity friendly NGO's;

---

<sup>11</sup> Micronesia (2000). National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2000, 66 pp.

- e. Design and develop a network of relevant biodiversity agencies for documenting revenues and expenditures on biodiversity related activities)

Objective 3. International Cooperation: To effectively acquire and allocate resources available under cooperation schemes with member of the international community. Actions:

- a. Develop long term financial plans for undertaking sustainable biodiversity management and conservation programs for the nation;
- b. Continue developing linkages to regional and international donor organizations, including private foundations and NGO's to provide financial assistance for sustainable biodiversity management and conservation;
- c. Continue developing linkages with other developed country partners party to the Convention as a means to effectively implement and provide financial assistance for sustainable biodiversity management and conservation;
- d. Develop and regularly update a database of all potential donor assistance programs and distribute to all relevant agencies within the nation

Objective 4. Conservation Trust Fund: The continued establishment and development of the Micronesian Conservation Trust Fund (MCT) for implementation of the NBSAP and relevant biodiversity work. Actions:

- a. Formally establish and implement the Micronesia Conservation Trust Fund (MCT);
- b. Identify long term funding sources for the establishment of this fund for the implementation of the NBSAP and relevant biodiversity related activities within the nation;
- c. Utilize the MCT to strengthen and empower resource owners and communities to manage their own resources sustainably;
- d. Explore the feasibility of establishing taxes and other sources of income generation for the use of the nation's biodiversity;
- e. Explore the possibilities of community based conservation trust funds.

Micronesia's report<sup>12</sup> reported on the status of implementation:

Objective 1:

---

<sup>12</sup> Micronesia (2010). Fourth National Report: Implementation of Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2010, 202 pp.

- a. This has been done; conservation NGOs largely fulfill much of the staffing needs through their program activities; government EPAs have at least one staff that is a focal point on NBSAP matters; FSM PAN Coordinator in place.
- b. Incentives well established: jobs and funding; MCT funds projects with ABS sites and EU CEPP funds projects that address Themes 1 and 8 in the NBSAP.
- c. This has been accomplished, but not so much through local governments, who often face NGOs as if they were competitors; support has come from international and regional organizations and foreign governments; FSM Dept. of R&D has also been very supportive.

Objective 2:

- a. Long-term financial plan (sustainable financing mechanism) has been drafted and is in place; awaits government implementation.
- b. Although no such mechanisms are currently in place, feasibility studies on potential mechanisms have been undertaken and those that are considered feasible are being pursued.
- c. Budgets for actual conservation work within government have actually been reduced, or are non-existent under Compact II with U.S.
- d. Conservation NGOs in FSM are strong and supported well through various mechanisms.
- e. A network exists: Micronesians in Island Conservation.

Objective 3:

- a. Long term financial planning has taken place through MCT and the Micronesia Challenge initiative; grants are already being provided.
- b. Donor revenue streams into FSM for conservation are quite strong, with national and state governments working with SPC, MSGP, MCT, TNC and foreign donors effectively.
- c. Linkages at highest levels of government are well-developed; an ongoing action.
- d. Action being undertaken at national government level; SBOC and EEM are the offices mainly responsible.

Objective 4:

- a. Formally established in 2002 and fully implemented.
- b. An endowment has been launched for this purpose.
- c. MCT only funds projects that have strong community participation.

- d. Different options have been identified and are being explored for their applicability.
- e. This action has been explored, mainly by the conservation NGOs in the states; MCT will serve this role through agreement from all stakeholders, with sub-accounts for states/communities.

## *Palau*

Palau's planning document<sup>13</sup> considered funding issues within various themes, including:

Under protected/managed areas, the objective 1 was to develop an effective management framework for the designation and long term sustainable management of protected areas, including sustainable funding mechanisms. Actions:

- Seek international and national funding to support the development and implementation of the PAN and individual sites;
- Develop sustainable funding mechanisms to support protected area management.

Under species protection, an action was to seek and develop funding options for species-specific conservation programs.

Under sharing benefits of genetic resources, an action was to source funding for collaboration between regional and international consultant to work with the existing legal services to research and draft legislation for protecting and maximizing equitable benefit sharing of genetic resources.

Under sustainable economic development, the objective (2) was to increase economic incentives and capacity for community led sustainable eco-tourism development. Actions:

- Provide government incentive packages for community based small business assistance programs focusing eco-tourism activities and facilities;
- Increase public awareness on existing assistance programs geared at sustainable small business start-ups and expansion opportunities;
- Review and update or lobby for the adoption of legislation regarding the imposition of additional taxes on imported non-essential food products;
- Introduce incentive measures for the promotion of agricultural co-ops through assistance in the development, packaging, and marketing of locally grown and harvested foods.

Under mainstreaming conservation, the objective (7) was to develop and implement effective long-term sustainable finance mechanisms for biodiversity conservation planning and programming. Actions:

- Identify and utilize opportunities for developing, implementing, and utilizing effective long-term sustainable finance strategies and mechanisms for biodiversity conservation activities and programs;
- Assess the feasibility of establishing and effectively utilizing a Palau Conservation Trust Fund;

---

<sup>13</sup> Palau (2008). National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 86 pp.

- If feasible, establish a Palau Conservation Trust Fund).

Other actions included:

- Identify funding mechanisms at the local, regional, and international levels;
- Fund scholarships for Palauans in advanced degrees in policy, resource management, and local/cultural resource issues;
- Seek new funding sources for programs and projects that aim to protect biodiversity.

- 

### ***Cook Islands***

Cook Islands' planning document<sup>14</sup> had a theme on financial resources and mechanisms for biodiversity. It noted that there should be a financial mechanism to ensure equitable funding to facilitate the required programmes, especially those not having a high public profile. The Trust Fund would consist of a board representing the different communities, traditional leaders and the main Government bodies involved with biodiversity. Government should provide the core funding for the Trust Fund, supported where possible by overseas donors. The Trust would table annual reports with audited accounts to Parliament, and make these reports available for wider distribution. The secretariat for the Trust could be provided by the Environment Service, although the Trust would have the power to change this arrangement if it wished.

Strategic goal: secure long-term financial sustainability for all biodiversity related activities and programmes

Action: establish a Biodiversity Trust Fund to support the wide range of activities required to conserve Cook Islands biodiversity in an integrated and equitable manner.

Cook Islands' national report<sup>15</sup> indicated no progress. The EPF which could have been used for this purpose, with some legislative and administrative change has been discontinued.

---

<sup>14</sup> Cook Islands (2002). Cook Islands Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Approved by the Cabinet of the Cook Islands Government on 11 April 2002, 81 pp.

<sup>15</sup> Cook Islands (2011). Cook Islands 4th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2011, Approved by the Cabinet of the Cook Islands Government on the 8th of April 2011 [CM (11) 0125], 140 pp.

### *Niue*

Niue's planning document<sup>16</sup> had a goal (3.2.5) on financial sustainability: Develop local, national, and regional financial mechanisms for conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity resources. A prioritized work plan was under development with each action identified by externally funding identified, internally funded, external funding needed.

The section on financing (5.1.3) stated that government contributions towards financing biodiversity conservation through the budgets of the relevant departments will continue to require subsidizing with significant additional funds if the objectives of this strategy are to be achieved. A variety of methods were noted, including international donor contributions, Conservation Trust Funds, user fees, environmental tax, and debt for nature swaps. It was hoped that individual donors will make use of Niue's BSAP in identifying areas that they can be of assistance on a bilateral basis.

---

<sup>16</sup> Niue (2001). Niue National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 81 pp.

## *Samoa*

Samoa's planning document<sup>17</sup> provided an inventory of financing biodiversity work, including government allocation (division of environment and conservation, ministry of agriculture, forests, fisheries and meteorology, ministry of internal affairs, Samoa visitors bureau), funding of non-governmental organizations, donor funding (bilateral donors – New Zealand, Japan, Australia, China, Canada, Sweden, United States; international and regional programmes – SPREP, UNDP, GEF, World Bank, IUCN and UNEP; overseas NGOs such as WWF, RARE Foundation, Swedish National Foundation for the Conservation of Nature).

The document had a theme on financial resources and mechanisms with the strategy goal to secure the long term financial sustainability of all conservation and biodiversity related programmes by way of access to funding mechanisms from local and international sources. The associated objectives and actions are:

**Objective 1 (Financial Plans):** to develop long term Financial Plans for undertaking Conservation Programs. Monitoring goal: long term financial plan for financing biodiversity work developed. Actions:

- Develop a long-term financial plan for undertaking conservation programmes in Samoa;
- Establish a programme for increasing financial assistance for conservation work through Foundations and other aid donors;
- Coordinate an annual or biannual donors meeting to present biodiversity priorities for funding.

**Objective 2 (Conservation Trust Fund):** to establish a Conservation Trust Fund for the implementation of the NBSAP and relevant Biodiversity Work. Actions:

- Identify funding sources for the establishment of a Conservation Trust Fund to provide long term financial sustainability for the implementation of NBSAP and relevant biodiversity related work;
- Establish a Conservation Trust Fund and provide Guidelines and set Criteria for its use;
- Explore the feasibility of establishing conservation taxes and permits from the use of Samoa's biodiversity;
- Develop guidelines for establishing community-based conservation trust funds.

**Objective 3 (Economic Valuation):** to undertake an Economic Valuation of Samoa's Biodiversity. Indicator: report on the economic values of Samoa's biodiversity. Actions:

---

<sup>17</sup> Samoa (2001). Samoa's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 91 pp.

- Conduct a study on the introduction of user fees for national parks and reserves, to supplement government funding for work in these reserved areas;
- Institute environmental economic valuation methodologies for assessing the full economic value of biodiversity;
- All user fees, taxes, fines and other revenues determined in the economic valuation should be deposited in the Conservation Trust Fund;
- Integrate biodiversity valuation as an integral part of land use and coastal use planning.

Objective 4 (Information Systems): to establish Information Systems of all Potential Donor Assistance. Indicator: Number of donors on the national biodiversity database. Actions:

- Establish and regularly update a database of all potential donor assistance programs;
- Develop a mechanism to determine different funding sources channeled to NGO's for implementation of biodiversity related programs;
- Maintain and strengthen existing networks with donor agencies.

Objective 5 (Income Generating Activities): to identify and promote sustainable Income Generating Activities for the community. Monitoring goal: number of income generating started in conjunction with conservation and sustainable use initiatives. Actions:

- Identify and develop appropriate programs to promote sustainable income generating activities at the community level;
- Establish a network with public and private sectors including donor agencies to support income generating activities;
- Conduct feasibility studies for newly proposed income generating activities;
- Establish and update a database to record all income generating activities implemented locally.

Objective 6 (Partnership): to strengthen the Partnership with the Private Sector, NGOs, and Local Communities. Monitoring goal: number of partnerships for conservation between private sector, Government, NGOs and Local Communities. Actions:

- Develop and implement programs to strengthen the partnership with the private sector, NGO's and local community in implementing biodiversity related programs;
- Establish a special award for an environmentally friendly company to be integrated in the Exporter of the Year Award programme;
- Establish an award program for environmentally friendly community development.

Objective 7 (Accounting System): to establish an Accounting System for recording revenues and expenditures for Biodiversity related activities. Monitoring goal: number of agencies and projects with accounting systems to record revenues and expenditures for biodiversity related activities. Actions:

- Set up a network with relevant Biodiversity agencies for recording revenues and expenditures for biodiversity related activities;
- Produce Quarterly Progress Reports (including financial statements) for each biodiversity project;
- Establish mechanisms for the establishment of national green accounting in Samoa.

Objective 8 (Capacity Building): to strengthen the local capacity in the coordination and implementation of Biodiversity and Conservation Projects. Actions:

- Identify existing capacity development needs in addressing biodiversity and conservation related programs;
- Secure financial assistance to develop and implement capacity development programs;
- Develop capacity building programs to improve financial management planning and implementation of biodiversity and conservation projects.

Objective 9 (Public Awareness): to raise public awareness of existing and potential financial resources. Actions: Publish and disseminate as widely as possible information on funding mechanisms

The document indicated that there was a financial resources and mechanisms group.

The document also presented a monitoring matrix (Strategic Objective 6 (Financial Sustainability) to develop local, national, regional and international sources of funding to achieve conservation and sustainable management of natural resources while securing long term support from multilateral and bilateral donors; and to develop and advocate appropriate new funding mechanisms) with three intended outcomes:

Intended outcomes	Indicators (measured every 2 years unless otherwise indicated)	Means of measurement	Assumptions
Increased funding from local and national sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Total local funding, % of total and no. of donors from local and national sources to support environment agencies conservation sites, programs and national NGOs</li> <li>- National Government Expenditure: expenditure for conservation and natural resource management activities (environment, fisheries, forestry in agencies, national budgets; extent to which these expenditure are differentiated in agencies/national budgets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National biodiversity database with information provided by NGO community, Treasury Dept., MFA, and DEC</li> <li>- Treasury Department</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diversity of sources will increase financial sustainability</li> <li>- Total local/national financing of conservation programmes in Samoa is not feasible, and continued donor support will be essential</li> </ul>
Increased commitment	- Total international (multilateral/bilateral	MFA, DEC, NGO	The International

by international community to financing NBSAP implementation	NGO) funding for conservation/natural resource management programs; - No. of international funding commitments or programs (including phased programs/projects of >5 years to conservation/natural resource management program	community	Community is committed to supporting favorable efforts towards biodiversity conservation at the grassroots
Developed new conservation funding mechanisms	No., type and level of new conservation funding mechanisms in process or established	National biodiversity database	Limited knowledge and experience in developing new financing mechanisms

Samoa<sup>18</sup> reported the progress in implementation:

- Develop a long term financial plan for undertaking conservation programmes in Samoa. There is no long term financial plan for the implementation of the NBSAP. MNRE's 3-year corporate plans sets out priorities for funding for biodiversity conservation work plans. Samoa's NAPA (2006) has a 2008 update identifying a list of priority projects with associated budgets. A number of these projects have implications for biodiversity conservation particularly the protection of coastal ecosystems.
- Establish a programme for increasing financial assistance for conservation work through Foundations and other aid donors. No concrete actions taken to date.
- Coordinate an annual or biannual donors meeting to present biodiversity priorities for funding. Regular annual and bi-annual consultations with multilateral and bilateral donors are normal to discuss multi-sectoral priorities. Biodiversity conservation is considered within the broad framework of these priorities.

<sup>18</sup> Samoa (2009). 4<sup>th</sup> National Report, 108 pp.

- 

### *Tonga*

Tonga's planning document<sup>19</sup> had a theme area (8) on financial resources and mechanisms. The basis for action was that while some of the activities proposed may be funded from external sources, many will need to be funded from locally generated revenue. For activities for which there are external funding sources, accessing those sources require skills in proposal writing largely based on a good understanding of donors' requirements and processes. Training in this area is necessary. Informing local groups eligible for funding of potential sources of funding and funding requirements needs the support and coordination from a central government agency and DOE is a logical candidate for this role. The long term sustainability of funding for biodiversity conservation actions can only be assured by having local funding mechanisms that are designed to be sustainable. This calls for innovative ideas with good political support. A number of Pacific Island Countries have experience with conservation trust funds and other mechanisms that Tonga can draw on.

Objective 8.1 (Assessment of biodiversity conservation capacities): to ensure a thorough and comprehensive assessment of the technical, managerial and administrative capacity for implementing biodiversity conservation within Tonga's relevant line ministries and all conservation organizations. Strategies: A national capacity self assessment is needed to identify existing capacity needs for implementing the NBSAP; a GEF-funded UNDP initiative is currently underway for national capacity self assessment that should be tapped into. Actions:

- Implement a National Capacity Self Assessment project to identify areas of capacity needs;
- Develop a capacity building programme based on the result of the NCSA to build capacity across all sectors involved in the NBSAP implementation

Objective 8.2 (Collation and dissemination of donor-related information): to inform all interested organizations of potential funding sources for biodiversity conservation and of donors funding requirements. Strategies: Information on current and potential funding sources and their requirements for assistance should be readily accessible to all potential implementers of the NBSAP to facilitate access and solicitation of funds and other forms of assistance. Actions:

- Develop a database listing all donor organizations active in environmental projects in Tonga and other Pacific Islands, their areas of funding interests, requirements for eligibility, contact details etc. and make this database accessible to all potential implementers of the Tongan NBSAP;
- Coordinate proposal formulation and fund raising activities with regional implementing agencies including FFA, SPTO, SPREP, SPC and SOPAC to ensure inclusion of Tonga in relevant regional projects or regionally disbursed technical and financial assistances;

---

<sup>19</sup> Tonga (2006). National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Department of Environment, June 2006, 104 pp.

- Organize public meetings and workshops to explain different funding mechanisms and applications/eligibility requirements.

Objective 8.3 (Capacity Building in Conservation Fund Raising and Management): to strengthen the capacity of key stakeholders in planning and implementing fund raising strategies and in the management of conservation funds. Strategies: Formal training in proposal writing, and fund-raise planning should be provided for all local implementing organizations including NGOs to enhance their capacity to attract donor funding to biodiversity conservation in Tonga. Actions:

- Organize formal short training in proposal writing and fund raising planning for NGOs and government agencies;
- Facilitate opportunities for major donor organizations to meet and promote conservation funding programmes with local implementing organizations;
- Update implementing organizations and other local NGOs with up-to-date information on available opportunities for funding biodiversity activities, as they come on hand;
- Conduct workshops to explain to local NGOs and other eligible implementing agencies different donors eligibility requirements and procedures for accessing funds.

Objective 8.4 (Economic Tools and Instruments for Conservation Funding): to generate local funding sources for biodiversity conservation. Strategies: Whilst funding biodiversity conservation is likely to be sourced from external funding partners, local funding should also be encouraged; a number of mechanisms can be investigated for their feasibility to generate conservation funding. Actions:

- Explore the feasibility of setting up a national funding mechanism for biodiversity conservation;
- Promote the use of economic instruments such as permit and access fees for bioprospecting, eco-tourism fees, EIA related levies, national lotteries and other gaming revenues to fund a national funding mechanism for biodiversity.

Objective 8.5 (Partnerships): to build effective partnerships with key local and international organizations to support the implementation of biodiversity conservation programmes. Strategies: All relevant agencies, local conservation NGOs and 'like-minded' civil society groups and private sector representatives should be encouraged to work together in informal and formal arrangements to support biodiversity conservation. Official recognition for participating in not-for-profit and community-spirited endeavors such as environmental protection and biodiversity conservation can be a strong motivation for many organizations. Similarly, many international conservation organizations should be targeted and partnerships developed. Many are useful sources of conservation information, technical expertise and sometimes of funding. Often, close partnerships with some of these organizations can bring in other new partners and donors, and their support and involvement can provide a useful leverage for major international donors. Actions:

- Establish an official ‘environment conservation’ award to recognize outstanding contributions to the conservation of Tonga’s environment and biodiversity by members of the public, civil organizations and private sector companies;
- Create opportunities for representatives of the private sector and conservation NGOs to sit on national coordinating committees dealing with different environmental issues
- Encourage regular consultations with representatives of civil society and the private sector on issues of national policies;
- Use every opportunity to advance formal partnerships with private sector and civil society organizations to collaborate and co-implement conservation initiatives;
- Encourage contact with international conservation NGOs and where possible, provide them with reports on work carried out in Tonga;
- Develop a website for DOE as a tool for making access to Tongan conservation information easier for local and in particular, international conservation organizations.

Tonga also presented a monitoring matrix:

Intended Outcomes	Indicators	Means of measurement	Assumptions
Objective 8.1 - Assessment of biodiversity conservation capacities.		To ensure the thorough and comprehensive assessment of technical, managerial and administrative capacity for implementing biodiversity conservation within Tonga's line ministries and all conservation organizations.	
Gaps in Tonga’s technical, scientific, technological, managerial and administrative capacity are identified and a plan for filling them is implemented.	NCSA report is compiled. No. of capacity building measures identified in NCSA and NBSAP implemented.	NCSA report. NBSAP DOE reports on capacity building initiatives. Meeting or workshop reports.	Capacity building initiatives are driven by the needs and gaps identified in the NCSA and NBSAP.
Objective 8.2 - Collation and dissemination of donor related information.		To inform all interested organizations of potential funding sources for biodiversity conservation and of donors funding requirements.	
All interested organizations, groups and individuals are informed on possible sources of conservation funding and or funders requirements.	No. of meetings/ workshops held. No. of organizations attending. Quality of funding proposals received.	DOE reports and database. DOE workshop reports. Qualitative assessment of proposals.	Accessibility to DOE database is feasible for most organizations.
Objective 8.3 - Capacity building in conservation fundraising and management.		To strengthen the capacity of key stakeholders in planning and implementing fund raising strategies and in managing conservation funds/.	
Amount of project funding received by conservation organizations register a	No. of successful fund raising initiatives including proposals.	Reports of Conservation NGOs and donors.	NGO and donor reports are accessible.

significant increase over previous years.			
Objective 8.4 - Economic Conservation Funding	tools and instruments for	To generate local funding sources for biodiversity conservation.	
The establishment of local funding mechanisms well-endowed with locally generated funding.	Funding mechanism idea supported and viable. No. of economic instruments introduced to generate income from biodiversity related services, and others.	DOE reports & database Report of feasibility study on funding mechanism	There is political support for conservation funding mechanism.
Objective 8.5 - Partnership		To build effective partnerships with key local and international organizations to support the implementation of NBSAP.	
Increasing numbers of partnerships between local conservation organizations and outside organizations.	Increasing no. of foreign organization active in biodiversity conservation work in Tonga. Increasing no. of multi-donor funded projects implemented in Tonga	DOE reports Donor reports	There are no political barriers to the participation of any foreign organizations in biodiversity conservation in Tonga.

Tonga<sup>20</sup> reported the progress on financing objectives.

- Objective 8.1 - Assessment of biodiversity conservation capacities. The NCSA report has been compiled and published. However there is lack of funding to pursue capacity building. This review identified a need to back up existing scientists in fishery, forestry, agriculture and NGOs. There is an urgent need for a zoologist for terrestrial fauna to be based at MECC. This position would be essential for a proper stocktake to take place in future. At the moment the layer of scientists is thin due to a voluntary redundancy package offered in 2008, which many scientists took. If any scientists decided to leave overseas now, this would impact negatively on Tonga's scientific capacity and the NBSAP main goals.
- Objective 8.2 - Collation and dissemination of donor related information. Workshops have been held with a number of organizations attending. However, most government organizations believe that MECC should provide all funds for implementation of NBSAP, through GEF, UNEP etc. because government is not funding any of the NBSAP objectives. Discussion with Acting CEO of MECC indicated that all government sectors are aware of their focal points in term of international financial sponsors. It is possible that Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture do know their focal points, however their work plans may not include NBSAP objectives. In the NGOs, it does not appear that they experience much

<sup>20</sup> Tonga (2010). Fourth Report : Review of Tonga NBSAP, 157 pp.

difficulty with accessing funds for their biodiversity programs. The Civil Society has seven community based programs operating at the moment on GEF Small Fund grants.

- Objective 8.3 - Capacity building in conservation fundraising and management. Civil Society and Tonga Community Development Trust have secured about 13 projects on fundraising from international sponsors. The past and on-going projects are worth almost 1 million pa'anga.
- Objective 8.4 - Economic tools and instruments for Conservations Funding. Nothing constructive has been in place for this objective. Discussion with MECC reveals that government is only providing about 1% of its budget to MECC for biodiversity activities. Most of the funding is for salary alone. The same applies for all government sectors. At the moment every sector is facing a 20% budget deficit. Government is in no position to assist financially, although it seems receptive to assist any legislation in this area. There seems to be an opportunity to approach local banks and embassies for community conservation programs.
- Objective 8.5 - Partnership. Civil Society and NGOs have established good relationships with GEF Small Grant and other international sponsors. A total of about 14 projects have been assigned as community based projects. They are successful because they are using the NBSAP objectives to design their projects and seek funds from overseas. German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) is also active with Forestry projects.

Financial Resources and Mechanism has displayed a well balanced performance with about 40% already achieved (Green) and another 40% in the Yellow. It is currently ranked third on its current performance and second on its future outlook. This achievement is once again due to strong contributions from the Civil Society and NGOs, with their overseas fundraising efforts, increasing their memberships and setting up biodiversity conservation programs for community participation around Tonga. The other 20% in Red is due to difficulty is raising funds locally to support this type of issue. With the economy in a very weak position, there is very little hope that this position on local fundraising will improve in near future.

---