



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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**REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPING CAPACITY FOR NATIONAL BORDER
CONTROLS ON LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS IN PACIFIC
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
SUVA, 27-29 MARCH 2017**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Workshop on Developing Capacity for National Border Controls on Living Modified Organisms in Pacific Small Island Developing States was held in Suva from 27 to 29 March 2017. It was hosted by the Government of Fiji.
2. The workshop was attended by 39 participants from 11 countries in the region and one participant from the Pacific office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The participation of representatives from 10 countries was funded by the Government of Japan through the Japan Biodiversity Fund. The list of participants is presented in annex I below.
3. The following countries were represented: Cook Islands; Fiji; Kiribati; Marshall Islands; Micronesia (Federated States of); Nauru; Niue; Papua New Guinea; Samoa; Solomon Islands; and Tonga.
4. The objective of the workshop was to introduce customs officers and related border control officials to the following:
 - (a) The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, its requirements regarding the identification and documentation of living modified organisms (LMOs) and the role of customs officers and border control officials in enforcing those requirements;
 - (b) Techniques and methodologies that may be used for the implementation of the above-mentioned requirements, in particular the sampling of shipments and the detection of living modified organisms;
 - (c) Activities and experiences of the Green Customs Initiative.
5. Another purpose of the workshop was to facilitate the exchange of information and national experiences on the implementation of the identification and documentation requirements under the Protocol and to identify subregional needs and gaps.

ITEM I. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

6. The workshop was officially opened by Mr. Peter Deupmann, Legal Officer, Biosafety and Biosecurity Unit of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on behalf of the Executive Secretary. Mr. Deupmann thanked the Japan Biodiversity Fund for its financial contribution to the workshop. He also thanked the Government of Fiji for hosting the workshop and for providing the laboratories for the practical exercises scheduled for later in the week. He noted the joint work of the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji in making sure that all arrangements were in place and that the workshop would run smoothly. Thanking the Governments in the region for nominating the participants, he said that

the high number of nominations was clearly a sign that there was a great interest in the region in strengthening capacities for national border controls on living modified organisms.

7. The workshop was opened, on behalf of the Government of Fiji, by Mr. Joshua Wycliffe, Permanent Secretary of Local Government, Housing and Environment in the presence of Mr. Jitendra Singh, Permanent Secretary of Agriculture, and Ms. Sandeep Singh, Director of Environment. He welcomed participants to Fiji and noted the joint efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji and his own Ministry in making arrangements for the workshop. He noted that, while biotechnology could have benefits, genetically modified organisms might pose threats to biodiversity, and a precautionary approach was necessary. He highlighted the important role of the Biosecurity Authority and all border control officials in safeguarding the borders of Fiji. He hoped that the workshop would provide the necessary training for better national and regional collaborative efforts in the area.

8. Participants were invited to introduce themselves.

ITEM 2. OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

9. Mr. Deupmann explained the objectives for the workshop and provided an overview of the programme and expected outcomes. The workshop programme is presented in annex II.

10. A film introducing the Cartagena Protocol was shown to participants.

ITEM 3. INTRODUCTION TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

11. Mr. Deupmann provided a brief background on the Protocol and its relationship with the Convention on Biological Diversity. He described the objective and scope of the Protocol, the different categories of LMOs recognized under the Protocol, the different procedures applying to the transboundary movement of LMOs of different categories, and other provisions of the Protocol intended to foster the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs. Finally, he briefly introduced the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH).

ITEM 4. CARTAGENA PROTOCOL: IDENTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION, ILLEGAL AND UNINTENTIONAL TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS, AND THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE

12. Mr. Deupmann made a presentation which focused on the documentation requirements set out in Article 18 of the Protocol and in related decisions. In the context of intentional transboundary movements, he underlined that the Protocol provided different requirements for the information that must be provided in documentation accompanying shipments of different categories of LMOs: (a) LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing; (b) LMOs for contained use; and (c) LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment. He also outlined the specific information requirements contained in the Protocol and related decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol and described where to find information on LMOs in shipping documentation.

13. Ms. Dina Abdelhakim, Programme Assistant in the Biosafety and Biosecurity Unit of the Secretariat, then provided an overview of unique identifiers for transgenic plants and demonstrated how they could be used to search the BCH for further information. She also explained that Parties had adopted operational definitions of unintentional and illegal transboundary movements with regard to LMOs at their most recent meeting and described situations that could constitute unintentional transboundary movements of LMOs.

ITEM 5. THE ROLE OF CUSTOMS AND BORDER CONTROL OFFICIALS IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROTOCOL

14. Under this item, the Secretariat made a presentation on the specific role of customs officers, including all related border services personnel, such as quarantine officers, inspection officers and plant health personnel, and the practical steps they needed to take in the implementation of the Protocol when receiving shipments which might contain LMOs, such as (a) ensuring that LMO imports and exports had been approved for the intended use before they were cleared, (b) ensuring that LMO shipments were

accompanied by appropriate identification documentation, (c) inspecting incoming shipments of LMOs to verify the actual content and cross-check them against the accompanying documentation, (d) detecting illegal or unintentional transboundary movements, and (e) reporting to relevant authorities information concerning shipments of LMOs arriving at ports of entry. The presentation by the Secretariat highlighted the importance of collaboration with competent national authorities as well as the use of the BCH as a resource.

ITEM 6. NATIONAL EXPERIENCES WITH TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS: PRESENTATIONS BY PARTICIPANTS

15. Prior to attending the workshop, participants had been invited to prepare short presentations on national experiences with transboundary movements of LMOs and the legal, policy and institutional framework within which border controls on LMOs were regulated in their respective jurisdictions. The presentations were to follow the structure below:

(a) Legal and policy framework applying to transboundary movements of LMOs in the country (applicable national laws and policies);

(b) Institutions involved in transboundary movements of LMOs, including, where applicable, competent national authorities on biosafety or LMOs and border control institutions, and their responsibilities and involvement;

(c) Collaborative arrangements between different institutions involved;

(d) Experience with transboundary movements of LMOs in the country, focusing on applicable requirements, approval procedures, information exchange, testing and detection;

(e) Description of national awareness and capacities for border controls on LMOs, including strengths, gaps, needs and recommendations.

16. Under this item, the participants from all the countries taking part in the workshop gave presentations on their national situations and experiences. The presentations were later shared with participants on USB keys, together with other materials, including presentations provided by the Secretariat.

ITEM 7. INTRODUCTION TO SAMPLING, DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS

17. Under this agenda item, Ms. Abdelhakim gave a presentation introducing participants to modern biotechnology and genetic engineering, also describing the process of making a living modified organism. She explained the purpose of testing of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and how it was possible to detect a GMO through different methods. Ms. Abdelhakim gave a detailed overview of the different analytical methods for detecting and identifying LMOs, including DNA-based assays (e.g., qualitative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) (gel-based) and quantitative real-time PCR) and protein-based assays (e.g., lateral flow strip (LFS) assays and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)), and explained the advantages and disadvantages of each method.

18. Ms. Abdelhakim also described the process of selecting samples and how best to ensure that the samples were a true representation of the entire lot or shipment. In that regard, she noted that the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) developed, adapted and published standard procedures for sampling and testing seeds, and promoted uniform application of those procedures for evaluation of seeds moving in international trade. She also described the different sampling methods commonly used.

19. Participants visited the Fiji Agricultural Chemistry Laboratory of the Research Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nausori, Fiji, for a practical exercise in detection. The participants were led through the steps of using lateral flow strips to detect proteins (Cry1F, Cry2A, Cry34Ab or Cry3Bb1) that were commonly present in commercial transgenic maize. The participants were divided into small groups and provided with two samples of maize. The participants weighed out and prepared a sample of 5g of

whole kernels of maize obtained from a local market and a sample of 5g of cornmeal (ground maize) brought from Canada for the workshop, to determine if the proteins were present. In each case, the samples were measured out into a container and an extraction buffer was added. The samples were then homogenized through vigorous shaking for at least 15 seconds. When the solid portion of the samples settled, participants transferred the supernatant to a reaction vial. A test strip was inserted into each vial, and, after five minutes, the results were analysed. According to the manufacturer's instructions, two lines would appear on the membrane strip for samples that contained modified Cry1F, Cry2A, Cry34Ab or Cry3Bb1 proteins. The sample prepared from whole kernels tested negative, while the cornmeal sample tested positive. The importance of each step in the process was explained to the participants, who were also introduced to basic laboratory procedures.

ITEM 8. NEEDS AND GAP ANALYSIS: GROUP EXERCISE

20. Under this item, participants were divided into four groups of ten. Two groups identified and discussed common challenges in the area of border control of LMOs, using the synthesis of their national experiences shared at the workshop as guidance, and made recommendations or suggested actions that could be taken to address the challenges. The other two groups discussed opportunities for cooperation at the national and regional levels, including the ways in which to achieve it. The small groups then reported back to the larger group. The output of the exercise was compiled into a needs and gaps analysis for the subregion and is provided in annex III.

ITEM 9. INTRODUCTION TO THE GREEN CUSTOMS INITIATIVE AND THE E-LEARNING MODULES

21. Under this item, Mr. Deupmann gave a presentation introducing the Green Customs Initiative, a partnership of secretariats of international organizations cooperating to enhance the coordinated delivery of capacity-building activities targeting customs and other relevant enforcement personnel to monitor and facilitate the legal trade and to detect and prevent illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities. He mentioned the different multilateral environmental agreements whose secretariats were partners in the Green Customs Initiative, namely the secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, as well as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. He listed other international organizations that were also partners in the Initiative: the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; the United Nations Environment Programme's Division of Environmental Law and Conventions and Division of Technology, Industry and Economics; the World Customs Organization; INTERPOL; and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

22. Mr. Deupmann outlined the benefits of the Green Customs Initiative for customs officers, countries, the treaty secretariats and the global environment. He described a number of tools developed by the Initiative, including e-learning modules, the Green Customs Guide to Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the Green Customs website, and indicated where these resources could be found. The Green Customs Guide was later made available to participants on USB keys. Finally, Mr. Deupmann noted some further achievements by the Initiative, including integrating Green Customs into national training curricula for customs officers and the more than 45 regional, subregional and national training workshops delivered by Green Customs Initiative Partners and other experts since 2004, enabling capacity-building for more than 350 customs officers from almost 120 countries.

ITEM 10. E-LEARNING MODULES: GROUP EXERCISE

23. Prior to the workshop, participants were informed of the availability of an e-learning module course on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for Customs/Border officials that had been developed in the context of the Green Customs Initiative. The course comprised five modules and was available on the Convention's Biodiversity E-learning Platform, under the Biosafety heading at: <https://scbd.unssc.org/>.

Participants were registered on the BCH before the workshop and provided with passwords so as to familiarize themselves with the first e-learning module introducing the Cartagena Protocol. They had also been invited to undertake the evaluation quiz of the first module.

24. Under this agenda item, Ms. Paola Scarone, Programme Assistant, Biosafety and Biosecurity Unit of the Secretariat, guided participants through the remaining four e-learning modules. The second module provided an overview of the Protocol's requirements for the handling, transport, packaging and identification of the three different categories of LMOs covered under the Protocol and gave users an understanding of how identification requirements could be included in existing types of shipping documentation. It also trained the user to be able to recognize an LMO unique identifier and an LMO Quick-link. The third module covered the role of customs authorities under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and what measures should be taken when a shipment containing LMOs arrived at a port of entry. The fourth module explained the reasons why countries might wish to test for LMOs in a shipment and the different methods that can be used for detecting, identifying and quantifying LMOs. It detailed some of the strengths and weaknesses of protein-based testing methods versus DNA-based testing methods. Finally, the fifth module illustrated the features of the Biosafety Clearing-House and how it could be used to access and exchange information on LMOs.

25. Participants were divided into small groups to carry out the evaluation quizzes at the end of each module. The hands-on training allowed participants to try the e-learning tool and provided a summary of what had been discussed during the workshop. It also allowed participants to familiarize themselves with the e-learning materials as a tool for further training at the national level.

ITEM 11. OTHER MATTERS

26. On the last day of the workshop, participants heard a presentation by Mr. Tevita Tupou, Operations Manager at the Secretariat of the Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) on collaborative border management in the Pacific region.

27. Prior to attending the workshop, participants had been invited to join the online forum that the Secretariat had established for the workshop. During the last session of the workshop, participants were reminded that the online forum, which had been created on the Collaborative Portal for Customs Officials in the BCH, would allow them to keep in touch and share national experiences on an ongoing basis. The forum can be accessed at the following URL: http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art18/pacific.

28. Participants were also invited to summarize what they had found to have been the most useful part of the workshop for them personally and to share their views on how they expected to transmit what they had learned to colleagues and authorities back home.

29. Finally, participants undertook an evaluation of the workshop. The results of the evaluation are summarized in annex IV.

ITEM 12. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

30. After some closing remarks by Mr. Deupmann on behalf of the Secretariat and Ms. Eleni Marama Rova Tokaduadua, Principal Environment Officer in the Department of Environment, on behalf of the Government of Fiji, the workshop was concluded at 16.30 hrs on Wednesday, 29 March 2017.

Annex I

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Annex II

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Date and time	Agenda item
Monday, 27 March 2017	
9.30 – 10 a.m.	1. Opening of the workshop
10 – 10.30 a.m.	Official photo and coffee/tea break
10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	2. Overview and objectives of the workshop 3. Introduction to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety 4. Cartagena Protocol: identification and documentation, illegal and unintentional transboundary movements, and the Biosafety Clearing-House
12.30 – 2 p.m.	Lunch break
2 – 3 p.m.	5. The role of customs and border control officials in implementing the Protocol
3 – 3.30 p.m.	Coffee/tea break
3.30 – 5 p.m.	6. National experiences with transboundary movements of living modified organisms: presentations by participants
Tuesday, 28 March 2017	
9 – 10.30 a.m.	6. National experiences with transboundary movements of living modified organisms: presentations by participants (<i>continued</i>)
10.30 – 10.45 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
10.45 a.m. – 12 p.m.	7. Introduction to sampling, detection and identification of living modified organisms
12 – 12.45 p.m.	Lunch break
12.45 – 4 p.m.	7. Introduction to sampling, detection and identification of living modified organisms: laboratory exercise (<i>continued</i>)
4 – 4.15 p.m.	Coffee/tea break
4.15 – 5 p.m.	8. Subregional needs and gap analysis: group exercise
Wednesday, 29 March 2017	
9 – 10.30 a.m.	8. Subregional needs and gaps analysis: group exercise (<i>continued</i>) 9. Introduction to the Green Customs Initiative and the E-learning modules
10.30 – 10.45 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
10.45 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	10. E-learning modules: group exercise
12.30 – 1.30 p.m.	Lunch break
1.30 – 3 p.m.	10. E-learning modules: group exercise (<i>continued</i>)
3 – 3.30 p.m.	Coffee/tea break
3.30 – 4.30 p.m.	11. Other matters
4.30 – 5 p.m.	12. Closure of the workshop

Annex III

**SUBREGIONAL NEEDS AND GAPS ANALYSIS OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
IN THE PACIFIC**

**Output of the Workshop on Developing Capacity for National Border Controls on Living Modified
Organisms in Pacific Small Island Developing States**

Organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaboration with the
Government of Fiji and with the financial support of the Government of Japan through the
Japan Biodiversity Fund
Suva, Fiji, 27-29 March 2017

I. Introduction

Most Pacific small island developing States regulate living modified organisms (LMOs) and transboundary movements of LMOs under existing non-specific legislation, including, for example, legislation pertaining to quarantine, plant protection and food safety. The notable exceptions are Fiji, Niue, Tonga and Samoa, which regulate LMOs through biosafety-specific legislation.

Many countries are currently developing (additional) biosafety-specific legislation, which is pending adoption (Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, Papua New Guinea). An overview of status of legal and policy instruments of the participating small island developing States is provided in the appendix to the present document.

Most Pacific small island developing States do not import LMOs. While experience on importing LMOs is therefore limited, there seems to be an interest in understanding better what benefits LMOs can bring to the region. More awareness, capacities and education are needed as well as support in detecting LMOs at the border. An overview of challenges and ways to address them is provided in section II.

Workshop participants report a varying level of collaboration between the sundry authorities involved with LMOs. Most countries indicate that collaboration is effective and close, although there is scope for strengthening collaboration and sharing information. At the regional level, a large number of organizations and institutions are involved or relevant to biosafety. An overview of opportunities for strengthening national collaboration and regional collaboration is provided in section III.

The information given in the present document is based on inputs received during a workshop on developing capacity for national border controls on living modified organisms in Pacific small island developing States, held in Suva from 27 to 29 March 2017, from participants representing Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and other participants in their personal capacity and does not necessarily reflect the position of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity or Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.¹ More information on the workshop is available on the Convention's website, at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=CPHTPIWS-2017-01>.

¹ Present at the workshop were participants from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga as well as representatives of United Nations organizations who contributed to the present document.

II. Challenges and ways to address them

The table below describes challenges that were identified in implementing the Cartagena Protocol through border control and customs activities. It also identifies recommendations for addressing these challenges.

	Challenges	Recommendations
1	Absence of legal framework on biosafety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review current legislation or gap analysis at national level • Acquire services of consultants or specialists • Develop new or revised legal framework
2	Better understanding of the Biosafety Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More capacity-building workshops at country level • Establish national biosafety clearing-house and terms of reference for competent authority • Complete e-modules on biosafety • Procedural, technical and legal requirements of GMOs vs. LMOs
3	Lack of biosafety specialists in the country and technical capacity at borders for the handling and detection of LMOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage online courses for officers • Offer scholarships for biosafety studies • Institutionalize biosafety training modules • Engage short-term advisors or technical consultants
4	Limited access to detection equipment and tools (test kits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify gaps in technology/equipment • Identify donors and sponsors for equipment • Government to invest on equipment • Request support through bilateral agreements with other countries • Fully established recognized and accredited central laboratory at national level • Network of laboratories at national level • A regional hub and accredited laboratory with established memorandums of understanding for access by countries
5	Lack of public awareness and cooperation on biosafety-related issues, and limited knowledge on LMOs at borders (unless impacts of LMOs are fully understood, restrictions are needed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted awareness on biosafety issues (shipping company owners, consumers, schools, public, cabinet, parliament, relevant stakeholders, etc.) • Strengthen role of consumer council, health sector or watchdogs over food safety issues • Encourage national debates or forums on biosafety issues • Adopt a communication strategy on biosafety • Increase capacity-building on LMOs

	Challenges	Recommendations
6	Lack of collaboration between border officials / competent authorities / relevant stakeholders within countries and across the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage engagement through established memorandums of understanding among partners • Effective reporting mechanism to national focal point and/or competent authority • Establish national technical committee or working groups • Identify a national liaison officer /contact point for biosafety issues • Regular joint mock run/border operation exercises • Establish mechanisms for sharing information among border officials and relevant stakeholders
7	Lack of government support and will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted awareness to Cabinet and Parliament on biosafety issues • Propose provisions during national budget process • Effective reporting on COP and international meetings to cabinet
8	Lack of regional cooperation on biosafety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish memorandums of understanding for exchange of information between countries e.g. permitting requirements • MOU on technical exchange programme • Set up a network of accredited laboratories and identify a central laboratory for support to countries • Make support on biosafety from regional agencies (such as Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and Secretariat of the Pacific Community) more visible on the ground
9	Geographical isolation of islands within countries (monitoring entry informal imports is difficult due to the large number of islands and their remoteness)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve inter-island biosecurity at national level • Improve awareness of enforcement officers at all national borders • Strengthen networking of border officials with communities with government support at national and regional levels
10	Absence of tariff classification on LMOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat to consult with World Customs Organization to develop harmonized tariff code classification on LMOs • Consider the issue at COP MOP for Cartagena Protocol • Secretariat to support technical representation (biosecurity and customs officials) to COP MOP on Cartagena Protocol

III. National and regional collaboration

The following opportunities for strengthening cooperation at the national level were identified:

- (a) In the absence of a national cooperation mechanism on LMOs/biosafety, countries may wish to consider the use of existing border control committees and involve other agencies, such as Health, Environment (competent authority), private sector and NGOs. For example, Kiribati established a combined law agency group (CLAG) and a joint enforcement team (JET);
- (b) Memorandums of understanding may be put in place between key stakeholders;
- (c) Periodic national meetings may be convened to review progress, challenges and achievement in each country;
- (d) National budget allocations and donor-funded projects should be used to support cooperation.

At the subregional level, a number of regional and other organizations and institutions were identified as partners for alliances. When engaging with regional partners, the roles of each should be clearly defined to avoid duplication. The following organizations and institutions were mentioned in particular:

- (a) Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC);
- (b) Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP);
- (c) University of the Pacific (UoP);
- (d) University of Honolulu (UoH);
- (e) Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIF);
- (f) Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF);
- (g) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
- (h) Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA);
- (i) Oceania Customs Organization Secretariat (OCO).

The objectives of these collaborative alliances include:

- (a) Facilitating awareness-raising;
- (b) Providing technical support and analytical services and, where possible, canvassing and leveraging financial resources to implement the Protocol;
- (c) Facilitating in developing the capacity of all relevant stakeholders to monitor movements of LMOs effectively.

The activities by which these objectives may be achieved include:

- (a) Assisting in developing policies and legislation;
- (b) Developing a Pacific regional LMO strategy;
- (c) Developing and implementing a training course for border control officials on documentation, handling, sampling and detection;
- (d) Developing and managing a regional database to facilitate the exchange of information on biotechnology and risk assessments;
- (e) Using existing networks, such as the Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN) established by SPREP, to strengthen networking and information sharing;
- (f) Using SPC and SPREP media services to assist countries in raising awareness;
- (g) Conducting regional meetings every two or three years, preferably prior to submitting national reports to the Protocol secretariat, to share experiences;
- (h) Developing a harmonized classification code for LMOs;
- (i) Establish a regional/hub laboratory;

Appendix

RELEVANT NATIONAL POLICIES AND LEGISLATION

Cook Islands

- National Biosafety Framework
- Biosecurity Act 2008 (does not address LMOs)
- Tariff Act (agricultural commodities are regulated articles and are subject to import specifications)

Fiji

- National Biosafety Framework
- Biosecurity Act 2008 (LMOs are designated as regulated articles. Depending on the nature of the import and outcomes of risk assessment, imports are regulated)
- Environmental Management Act (2005) (designates Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment as national focal point)

Kiribati

- National Biosafety Framework
- Biosecurity Act (2011)
- Environmental Act (1999, amended in 2007)
- Biosecurity Regulations (2005)
- Customs Act 2005
- Importation of Animal Act
- Plant Ordinance

Marshall Islands

- National Biosafety Framework (draft developed)
- National Quarantine Act (1966, revised in 1996)
- National Quarantine Regulations (2000)
- National Customs (Import Duty and Licensing) Act 1989, revised in 2012
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2000
- National Biosecurity Bill (draft since 2008)
- National Biosafety Strategy (draft since 2008)

Micronesia (Federated States of)

- Biosafety Bill (2013) (draft, pending adoption)
- Agriculture Policy (2012-2016)
- Plant and Animal Quarantine Regulations (2000)
- National Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021

Nauru

- Draft Environment Bill (addresses biosecurity but not LMOs)
- Agriculture Quarantine Act 1999
- Customs Act 2014
- Customs Tariff Bill (2014)
- Plant and Animal Quarantine Regulations 2004

Niue

- National Biosafety Framework 2006
- Biosecurity Act 2016 (addresses LMOs and allows for imports, under certain conditions and establishes powers for officers to act)
- Biosafety Regulations 2006 (draft pending adoption)
- Environment Act 2003

Papua New Guinea

- National Biosafety Framework (2004)
- Biosafety and Biotechnology Policy (2003)
- Customs Act (1951)
- (Draft) Biosafety and Biosecurity Bill (provides legal, administrative provisions as well as relevant measures to implement the Protocol)

Samoa

- Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act 2005 (under review) (addresses genetic material and GMOs, by restricting the importation of regulated articles and the importation of cultures (which include LMOs); establishes an import permit system for plants/plant products and animals/animal products)
- Pesticides Regulation (2011)
- Customs Act 2014
- Customs Tariff Act 1975
- Draft Environment Management and Conservation (EMC) Bill 2015 (addresses biosafety by regulating the importation, development, field testing, fermentation, release and export of GMOs)

Solomon Islands

- National Biosafety Framework 2012
- Biosecurity Act 2013
- Custom and Excise Act 2003
- Environmental Health Act 1998
- Environmental Act 1998 (made provisions for the protection and conservation of the environment, the establishment of the Environment and Conservation Division and the Environment Advisory Committee)
- Wildlife and Protection and Management Act 2016 (regulates the export of wild flora and fauna)

Tonga

- National Biosafety Framework (2002)
- Biosafety Act 2009 (regulates LMOs and the application of modern biotechnology consistent with the Cartagena Protocol)
- Environment Management Act 2010
- Customs Act 2007
- Customs and Excise Management Regulations 2007
- Pesticide Act 2002
- Plant Quarantine Act
- Plant Quarantine Regulations 1995

*Annex IV***WORKSHOP EVALUATION**

1. At the end of the workshop, participants were asked to complete a workshop evaluation form. They were asked to rate, on a scale of 1 to 6, the extent to which the workshop had improved their understanding of the issues covered at the workshop. The participants were also invited to provide an overall assessment of the workshop in terms of how well it was organized and conducted and the extent to which it had met their expectations. A total of 35 participants completed the forms. The results of the evaluation are summarized in the table below.

Summary of the workshop evaluation

Item	Average level of satisfaction
1. Improving your understanding of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety?	90%
2. Improving your understanding of the role of customs officers under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety?	87%
3. Improving your understanding of what the identification and documentation requirements are under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety?	86%
4. Improving your understanding of the existing practices in shipments of bulk grains?	84%
5. Improving your understanding of the process of sampling genetically modified organisms?	87%
6. Improving your understanding of detection and identification of genetically modified organisms?	85%
7. Improving your knowledge of existing practices in other countries?	82%
8. Improving your knowledge of existing gaps and needs in the subregion with regard to border control of LMOs?	85%
9. Improving your understanding of the Green Customs Initiative?	83%
Overall workshop assessment	
1. Has the workshop met your expectations?	83%
2. Has the workshop improved your understanding of how to enforce the identification and documentation requirements of living modified organisms under the Cartagena Protocol?	88%
3. How useful has the workshop been in improving your understanding of how your country could handle a shipment of LMOs?	88%
4. How useful was the workshop for you as an individual?	90%
5. How well organized was the workshop?	91%
6. How did you find the balance between presentations and the discussions?	86%
7. How useful are the e-learning modules introduced during the workshop?	93%
8. Overall, how would you rate the workshop?	92%

2. In the written comments by participants, the following were considered, in descending order of popularity, to have been the most helpful parts of the workshop:

- (a) The laboratory exercises;
- (b) The exercises with the e-learning modules and their evaluation;

- (c) The introduction to and awareness of LMOs and the requirements of the Biosafety Protocol;
- (d) Learning about how to search in the BCH database;
- (e) The exchange of ideas among participants and small group discussions;
- (f) The country presentations on experiences and challenges with the identification and documentation of LMOs;
- (g) The joint participation of officials from customs/quarantine and competent national authorities, hopefully resulting in better inter-agency communication;
- (h) Interaction with the staff of the Secretariat of the Convention and benefiting from their knowledge.

3. Most participants considered that all aspects of the workshop were helpful and necessary. A few participants opined that some country presentations were not very useful or should have been better prepared and that simply reading the text of the slides was tedious. One participant noted that undertaking the e-learning exercises during the workshop was redundant, although most participants had also indicated, as noted above, that doing the e-learning modules was the most helpful part of the workshop. One participant was of the opinion that the “timetable” for the workshop was too long.

4. The participants made the following suggestions for improving future workshops:

- (a) Allow more time for further laboratory exercises and the possibility of trying other detection methods introduced, such as the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA);
- (b) Include more animations or videos as tools in presentations;
- (c) Try to encourage other participants to be more attentive during the workshop;
- (d) Disseminated soft copies of presentations in advance of the workshop;
- (e) Hold workshop over a five-day period to allow further detailed discussion on certain aspects of particular interest, such as LMO detection;
- (f) Ensure better collaboration with subregional organizations for their participation in such workshops;
- (g) Start the day earlier and finish earlier;
- (h) Provide case studies of successful implementation of the Protocol in other countries;

A number of participants commented that they found the workshop to have been very well planned and that they hoped there would be more frequent workshops of this nature in the future. In this regard, a few participants noted that the same officials could be invited to participate in follow-up workshops to ensure continuity and sharing of experiences.

5. The participants described the following ways in which they intended to share the knowledge and experience gained at the workshop with colleagues in their countries:

- (a) Conduct or help plan national train-the-trainer workshops or customs courses using the presentations provided by the Secretariat, the e-learning modules and the BCH;
- (b) Make a presentation to colleagues upon returning home;
- (c) Prepare a report for the relevant ministry/agency regarding participation at the workshop and knowledge gained;
- (d) Contact the competent national authority to gain more access to information on the LMO situation in the country;

- (e) Have a national stakeholder consultation awareness workshop and then work closely with them;
- (f) Request the strip test kit;
- (g) Raise public awareness through local media;
- (h) Have an open forum with the regulatory body;
- (i) Apply knowledge learned at the workshop to everyday tasks;

One participant indicated that office policy required that they conduct a workshop for other staff upon returning home so that the information acquired could be shared immediately.
