



Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Marine and Coastal programme

Dominique Benzaken
Coastal and Marine Adviser
SPREP



What is SPREP

- Established under a SPREP regional convention
 - Environment Ministers and Officials of 25 members (Pacific Island Countries and Territories, US, Australia, New Zealand, France)
- **Mandate**
 - “to promote cooperation in the Pacific islands region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve the environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations”
- Secretariat based in Samoa



SPREP strategic policy framework

- Action Plan for managing the environment of the Pacific island Region 2005-2009
 - “People of the Pacific islands better able to plan, protect, manage and use their environment for sustainable development”
- Strategic Programme 2004-2013
 - Island Ecosystems (terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems, species of special interest)
 - Pacific Futures (climate change, waste management and marine pollution, Sustainable development)



Coastal and marine programme

- SPREP Strategic Programme (2004-2013)
 - To promote and support the sustainable management and conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems and marine species of special interest
- Regional policies
 - Forum Leaders' Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy 2002
 - SPREP Action Strategy on Nature Conservation 2003-2007



Implementation

- Policy coordination (regional and international)
- Technical and policy advice
- Develop/disseminate tools and techniques for management/training
- Facilitate dissemination of information and best practices management (regional Networks and in country partners)
- Foster Partnerships (NGOs, CROP, international, industry, churches) to support national implementation
- Identify resources for national implementation



Main areas of activity

- Coral Reef Initiative in the Pacific Region (CRISP)
- Regional initiative on marine protected/managed areas
- Marine Conservation Initiative
- Regional wetlands initiative
- Marine ecosystems and Climate change
- Marine species programme



Coral Reef Initiative- SPREP

- Governance and economic evaluation tools for management
- Developing/Sharing best practices
 - Locally managed marine areas (LMMA)
 - Socio economic monitoring guidelines
- Pacific year of the Reef 2008
 - Focus on reef ecosystems and climate change adaptation
- Reef base Pacific
- In country support- French Territories (with CRISP partners)



Regional initiative on MPA/MMAs

- Drivers
 - Micronesia Challenge (CBD COP8)
 - SPREP ministers decision 2006 regional framework on MPAs
- Progress
 - Our sea of Islands meeting (NOAA-UNESCO and partners) and communique
 - Status of MPA policy development and implementation (gap and investment to meet targets)
- Challenges
 - Needs well articulated regional vision and strategy to implement
 - PNG conference on nature conservation and protected Areas (October 2007)
 - Proposed 2008 regional workshop



Marine Conservation Initiative

- CI/SPREP partnership
- Information for marine conservation planning and evaluation of management interventions such as MPA networks
- SPREP GIS based specialist being recruited
- Regional coordination/collaboration



Regional wetlands initiative

- Ramsar Regional Initiative (COP9)
 - Capacity building
- SPREP IUCN concept (mangroves)
 - Policy and legislation
 - Information and research
 - Conservation and sustainable management
 - Communication and awareness
 - Coordination and implementation
- Development of funding proposal



Marine ecosystems and Climate change

- Vulnerability assessment in Melanesia (with Bishop Museum)
 - Ecological and socio economic impacts
 - assessment of institutional adaptive capacity
- Vanuatu case study
 - Strengthening local and national institutions and decision making to enhance resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems to climate change
 - Integrated planning and management tools (eg Ridge to Reef) and conservation practices-national approach and pilot projects
 - UNEP-GPA-SPREP project on Ridge to Reef



Strengths

- Mandate for action from our members
- Strong pacific leadership
- Regional coordination
- partnerships building
- Build on longstanding experience and expertise in coastal and marine management



Challenges

- Marine protected/managed areas
 - How to learn from and upscale local initiatives into ecologically, and socially meaningful MPA networks across the ocean realm?
 - how to effectively engage with regional fisheries interests and institutions in marine conservation
 - Harnessing resources effectively through strong partnerships mechanisms to meet CBD targets for MPA/MMAs (eg Forum decision on sustainable financing and value of conservation)
- Marine and coastal ecosystems and climate change
 - Empowering/engaging coastal and oceans managers and policy makers in climate change debates at all levels
 - Scale of impacts and scale of management
 - best practice management as key strategy to enhance resilience to climate change impacts (Ridge to Reef, etc...)



Linking communities and information

- Why?
 - Oceans are shared resources and most valuable asset in Pacific region-
 - Shared issues, shared solutions- eg MPAs
 - Peer learning best strategy for behaviour change
 - Pacific leadership in marine conservation (eg migratory species)
- Mechanisms
 - LMMA, PIMPAC etc
 - Exchanges (PI and Territories)
 - Regional and international partnerships in support of national efforts (eg Micronesia Challenge, GLISPA)
 - Roundtable on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas
 - Roundtable on climate change



- Thank you



8th Conference on nature conservation and protected areas

- PNG 22-26 October
- Conservation serving communities
 - protected/ conservation areas, habitats, and ecosystems
 - species conservation
 - Invasive species and gmos
- Roundtable on nature conservation