SPREP Report • CBD COP 11

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ACP MEAs

9th PACIFIC ISLAND CONFERENCE ON NATURE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREAS

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	**1**
CBD COP11 KEY HIGHLIGHTS	**3**
COMMUNICATIONS AT CBD COP11: THE PACIFIC VOYAGE CBD COP11	**10**
COORDINATION MEETINGS	**14**
SPREP SUPPORT TO PICS	**14**
COP11 LESSONS LEARNT	**14**
ANNEX 1: LIST OF PACIFIC DELEGATES AND PARTICIPANTS TO COP11	**16**
ANNEX 2: SPREP DIRECTOR GENERAL STATEMENT AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT	**19**
ANNEX 3: CONSOLIDATED RESPONSES TO THE COP11 QUESTIONNAIRE	**22**

Introduction

The 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held from the 8th to the 19th October in Hyderabad, hosted by the Government of India. About 6,000 delegates representing parties, UN Agencies, NGOs, Inter-Governmental Organisations, indigenous and local communities, private sector, and academia attended the meeting. The theme of the conference was on *"Nature Protects, If She is Protected".*

The Pacific delegation to COP11 included 10 Pacific Island State Parties: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Tuvalu.

In addition to Pacific Island Parties, the following agencies and organisations were also present providing support to the Pacific delegation to COP11: SPREP, GLISPA, Pacific Invasive Initiative, Greenpeace and TNC. WWF, CI, IUCN and TNC shared their respective positions papers which were useful as additional information to assist PICs with their preparations and negotiations. See Annex 1 for the full list of COP11 Pacific delegates and participants.

In the first week of COP11, the Pacific Group mourned the passing away of one of the Pacific CBD negotiators – Ms. Tania Temata of the Cook Islands. Tania served in the CBD COP Bureau and had been one of the advocates of Pacific issues in past COP meetings and she was also active in mentoring young Pacific Islanders on COP issues. Tributes to Tania were uploaded on the http://www.bionesian.blogspot.com

Pacific engagement at COP11

Pacific Island Country delegates at the preparatory meeting in Rotorua in August 2012, agreed to focus on the following overall objectives for COP11 and to continue the Pacific Voyage – One Voice Campaign:

(i) ***Improve visibility*** of the Pacific through the promotion and communication of success stories and lessons learnt including key issues and challenges. Continue the *Pacific Voyage* campaign which was delivered through the use of key communication and media products; exhibition booth, side events featuring the Pacific; publications, flyers, promotional information kits, press releases, bionesian blogspot, and statements during plenary and negotiations sessions.

(ii) ***Ensure effective coordination*** at COP11 by bringing together Pacific delegates and key partners in particular other SIDS to work together in support of Pacific and SIDS issues.

(iii) ***Engage effectively in negotiations*** by actively presenting Pacific issues and concerns on key substantive matters. A number of key substantive issues were identified at the Rotorua preparatory meeting which were elaborated in Pacific Brief developed and prepared by SPREP to guide and assist PICs during negotiations.

(iv) ***Expand partnership and networking*** through Pacific side events, bilateral meetings, attendance and presentations at key side events including the Rio Conventions Pavilion to generate interest and attract potential partners to support future work in the Pacific.

Specifically on substantive issues to be discussed at COP11, the following were selected as priority issues for the Pacific to pursue:

Agenda Item 3.1: Review of progress in implementation including the establishment of national targets and updating of NBSAPs
Agenda item 4: Financial Resources and Financial Mechanism

Agenda Item 8: Review of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity
Agenda Item 9: Ecosystem Restoration
Agenda Item 10: Marine and coastal biodiversity

Agenda Item 11: Biodiversity and climate change

Agenda Item 12: Biodiversity and development
Agenda Item 13: Other substantive issues arising from the 10th meeting of the Parties

In addition to the collective objectives outlined above, each country was also encouraged to set their own national specific priorities and objectives for COP11 to be pursued on an individual basis.

SPREP as part of its engagement at COP11 developed specific priorities and strategies to guide its work:

- √ Provide technical support to PIC delegations
- √ Assist with the coordination of Pacific Island daily briefings and key meetings
- √ Facilitate information sharing on COP11 issues of interest to PICs
- √ Raise awareness and advocate on Pacific priority biodiversity issues
- √ Network and seek partnership to support SPREP's work on biodiversity and ecosystem management
- √ Coordinate the Pacific Voyage-One Voice campaign and side events
- √ Promote SPREP and its work
- √ Raise awareness of the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas
- √ Organise the signing of the UNEP-SPREP MOU and the SCBD and SPREP MOU
- √ Organise the GEF CEO-SPREP Breakfast Meeting for Pacific Island delegates
- √ Hold bilateral meetings with key partners
- √ Director General to deliver SPREP statement at the High Level Segment

CBD COP11 Key Highlights

COP11 adopted 33 decisions from a broad range of issues from administrative, financial, budgetary, technical and substantive issues. The main overarching messages that were echoed throughout COP11 were on the issues of: ***implementation and resource mobilisation*** - implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and adequate financial resources to support its implementation. There was also a lot of interest to progress the Nagoya Protocol ratification process and subsequent implementation.

A summary outline of key decisions adopted at COP11 which were relevant to the Pacific:

- At the opening of COP11, Kiribati delivered a statement on behalf of SIDS and highlighted achievements by SIDS, key challenges faced and opportunities to strengthen support to SIDS.

- *Financial resources*: This was a contentious issue between developed and developing countries on the issue of setting targets vis-à-vis setting baseline for resource mobilisation. COP decided on an overall doubling of total biodiversity-related international flows to developing countries by 2015 and at least maintaining this level until 2020.

- *The Financial Mechanism (GEF):* Two key decisions adopted by COP which are of significant relevance and importance to the Pacific were on the use existing NBSAPs as the basis for GEF-6 priorities; the concept and application of co-financing for biodiversity projects; and the application of co-financing arrangements in ways that do not create unnecessary barriers and costs for recipient countries.

- *Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity*: This is a very important Programme of Work for PICs given their focus on island biodiversity. COP adopted the proposed recommendations by SBSTTA16 on the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity and called for continued focus on IAS, climate change adaptation and mitigation, marine protected areas (MPAs) capacity building, ABS, and poverty alleviation. COP also called on parties to accord priority to management of terrestrial PAs.

- *Marine and coastal biodiversity*: COP requested the Secretariat to include the summary reports (which includes the Western South Pacific Region Workshop report) on the description of areas that meet the EBSA criteria in the repository, as referred in Decision X/29 and the COP11 decision, and submit them to the UNGA and particularly its Working Group on Marine Biodiversity in ABNJ, and other international bodies.

- *Biodiversity and climate change*: COP encouraged governments to: strengthen knowledge and information, including comparable data sets and related research and monitoring activities on the **linkages between biodiversity and**

climate change policies and measures; recognise the **significant role that protected areas, restored ecosystems and other conservation measures can play in climate change related activities** and consider reviewing land use planning to enhance ecosystem based adaptation to climate change.

- *Protected Areas*: COP invited parties to integrate national action plans for the POWPA into NBSAPs. 11 of 14 PICs have completed and submitted their National Action Plans to the SCBD and SPREP is already playing a key role to ensure POWPA integration with NBSAPs. Strengthen recognition of and support for community based approaches to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. This decision is in line with SPREP's current work through the GEFPAS Integrated Island Biodiversity project in the Cook Islands, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu. COP has also invited the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, UNESCO Biosphere Programme and others to create synergies. This is another relevant issue to PICs and some actions have already been identified to build synergies among the biodiversity MEAs through Phase Two of the EU ACP MEA capacity building project.

- *Invasive Alien Species*: COP encouraged governments to address threats from IAS and, as appropriate, make use of and improve existing standards to address associated risks. This is something that could be strengthened through the GEFPAS Invasive Species Project and other initiatives implemented by partner organisations working on invasive alien species issues in the Pacific.

- Other issues which were discussed at COP11 of potential interests to the Pacific included the discussion on newly emerging issues regarding *synthetic biology*. This is an issue that requires more research to assess potential risks and impacts on biodiversity. The other issue discussed and debated at length was on the issue of *geo-engineering*. On both issues, the compromised view was to apply a precautionary approach in dealing with these issues. For the Pacific, a lot of research and information on these issues would help to better understand the impacts of these on Pacific Island Countries.

Summary of key highlights and events

The GEF **Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund** was highlighted at COP11. The main objective of this fund is to support developing countries conduct Initial scoping assessments, outreach and public awareness leading to accession to the Nagoya Protocol. The GEF NPIF is available as medium sized projects (up to US$1m). More information on the NPIF is available on the GEF website http://www.thegef.org/gef/content/nagoya-protocol-implementation-fund-brochure

NBSAP Online Forum: The NBSAP Online Forum was launched at COP11 which is a joint initiative by UNEP-WCMC, UNDP and the CBD Secretariat. The online NBSAP Forum assists countries to transform their NBSAPs into a roadmap for achieving the Aichi

Targets. More information on the online NBSAP Forum is available on the following website: http://www.nbsapforum.net SPREP attended the launch of the NBSAP Forum and highlighted SPREP's work on NBSAPs.

Future Policy Award: Palau the winner of the World Future Council Gold Award was recognized at a special ceremony at Hyderabad. The award is a symbolic and significant one for Palau and the Pacific as it demonstrates to the international community the commitment by a small island state to biodiversity conservation and protection.

Signing of the MoU with UNEP

The MoU between SPREP and UNEP was signed by the Director General of SPREP – Mr. David Sheppard and the Executive Director of UNEP Mr. Achim Steiner at a special ceremony on Tuesday 16th October, 2012 in Hyderabad, India. The signing was attended and witnessed by UNEP and SPREP staff including Pacific Island delegates. The signing of the MoU symbolizes the increasing cooperation between SPREP and UNEP. The Executive Director of UNEP – Mr. Achim Steiner commented positively on the increasing cooperation.

PRESS RELEASE

SPREP and UN relationship strengthened through Agreement

Ties between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme were rejuvenated today with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. The 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was the backdrop for the event which brought together Pacific island countries and territories to commemorate this occasion.



L - R David Sheppard SPREP, Achim Steiner UNEP



The Hon. Tufuga Gafoa, Associate. Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa also attended the event, meeting with the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Achim Steiner.

"This is a stepping up of what we have always called a very special relationship. The Pacific region represents a very significant part of the planet and this relationship reaffirms and further develops our relationship between SPREP, the Pacific region and UNEP," said Mr. Steiner.

"Small Island Developing States have in the United Nations, found one of the places where their voice is heard louder and clearer than in some of the other fora that we have for our geo-political meetings and I would like to commit our MoU that we have signed today, to strengthen that voice".

The last MoU signed between SPREP and UNEP took place in 2005, the new agreement is to cover the next five years. It will help ensure increased cooperation in mutual areas of work and expertise. Environment information will be exchanged and there will be an increase in capacity of Pacific islands to access and manage environment and climate change resources.

"We suffer major issues of isolation, biodiversity loss, major challenges and we must have good partners. Since coming to SPREP we have had a reform process, focused on delivery to members, improved our systems and built better partnerships. Partnerships are fundamental," said Mr. Sheppard. "We see UNEP as a partner of choice, this MoU is very important, and SPREP is committed to making this agreement in the future."

Present at the signing event today were delegates from the Cook Islands, FSM, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu with staff from SPREP and UNEP.

Signing of the MoU with the CBD Secretariat

The MoU between SPREP and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity was signed by the SPREP Director General – Mr. David Sheppard and the Executive Secretary of the CBD Secretariat – Dr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Diaz at the occasion of the GLISPA High Level Island Innovation Event on Tuesday 16th October, 2012, Hyderabad. The MoU reflects the increasing cooperation between SPREP and the SCBD and it gives special recognition of the role SPREP plays in the implementation of key CBD programmes and activities in the Pacific Islands region. The signing was symbolic as it was signed in the first term of the Executive Secretary and in the presence of high level dignitaries and delegates.

PRESS RELEASE

SPREP and CBD sign a Memorandum of Understanding



L - R David Sheppard SPREP, Dr Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias SCBD

Nature conservation efforts in the Pacific were highlighted during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD).

The signing took place during a special Island life event coordinated by the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) that brought together different Ministers and organisations that work in Islands, to pledge biodiversity commitments. Setting the scene for the night was the official signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

"There is a saying in this region – if you want to go fast you go alone, if you want to go far you go together. SPREP wants to go far in support of Pacific Island countries. This is why we are so delighted to be signing this MoU with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity tonight," said Mr. David Sheppard, the Director-General of SPREP.

"Over the last few years we have been increasing working with the CBD Secretariat on issues such as National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans, Access and Benefit Sharing, and Programmes of Work on Protected Areas and Island Biodiversity. In the short term we look forward to working with the SCBD on the key event for the region over the next year – the 9th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, which will be held in Fiji in November next year."

The MoU identifies key priority areas for the Pacific region over the next two years with plans for both organisations to work together to assist the region. The signing commits SPREP to taking this partnership to the next level and to working for the long term to address biodiversity loss in the Pacific.

"SPREP is an exemplary partner of the SCBD, and it is with great pleasure that I sign a reiteration of our commitment to work together for the Strategic Plan and the Aichi targets. The document signed lists an impressive range of joint activities, in capacity building and planning, in coordination and agenda setting, across many if not most of the programmes of work and targets of our Convention," said Dr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, the Executive Secretary of the CBD.

"I invite all of you to step in and support our joint activities, and I invite all regions to learn from lessons and the track record of close cooperation we've built over the years with SPREP. The MOU is just paper, but in this case it is a symbol of ongoing and future work. I look forward to action with SPREP - the world's islands need our fullest collaboration."

GEF CEO Breakfast Meeting

SPREP and the GEF Secretariat hosted a breakfast meeting on Thursday 18th October, 2012 at the Westin Hotel for Pacific delegates to meet the new GEF CEO Dr. Naoko Ishii and discuss key GEF issues. Dr. Ishii in her opening remarks outlined her vision and roles GEF could play in moving forward:

- Innovator, promoter of new ideas, new model, new way of thinking about doing business. Island states have demonstrated innovative ways of doing business. Example: how to enhance adaptive capacity of islands.
- Global champion: For example, Islands fighting global challenges. GEF as champion of global commons noting that many of the issues are global externalities, but need local measures and stressed that the ocean is the biggest global common.

- Financial catalyst: Need financial resources to deal with these questions. How to make access easier? All aware that there are serious challenges with finances and the issue of under utilisation of GEF resources for various reasons, for example capacity due to small size of islands. GEF PAS was one way to deal with this, however there is a need to strike the balance of having a regional platform, but tailor the programme to countries specific needs.

Dr. Ishii assured the meeting, that in the GEF 2020 10-year strategy there will be special attention to SIDS' issues with an emphasis on the need to fully integrate issues Pacific SIDS are facing, with the hope that the GEF could come up with effective ways of doing business with the Pacific. In response, Pacific delegates raised many key issues including: (a) need to increase and improve direct access of PICs to GEF funds; (b) need to move from "donor-recipient" basis to "partner-partner"; (c) need to ensure regional approaches do not compromise the need for increased resources at the country level; (d) support expressed for SPREP as an IA; (e) status of SPREP GEF officer queries in which the Director General advised that an offer had been made and that the position will be filled soon.

PRESS RELEASE

Pacific delegates meet the new Head of Global Environment Facility



Pacific delegates had a special breakfast meeting with the new CEO of the Global Environment Facility, Dr Naoko Ishii, at the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Coordinated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the GEF Secretariat, the high level breakfast was an opportunity for the Pacific to meet with Dr Ishii and discuss funding issues.

"This years' SPREP Ministerial Meeting also focused on environmental financing and the role of the GEF in particular. Ministers noted strong appreciation for GEF funding in the region under the GEF- PAS – Pacific Alliance for Sustainability Programme. This is the only regional GEF programme in the world and we consider this as a potential model of innovation for application elsewhere," said Mr. David Sheppard, the Director-General of SPREP.

"It is critically important to continue to improve access by Pacific countries to GEF resources. It is positive that GEF 5 is allowing greater flexibility for access by small island states to GEF resources. We would like to see these initiatives continue and accelerate. Dr Ishii - SPREP greatly looks forward to your leadership of GEF. We appreciate the clear vision you have set out for the future of GEF and we stand to partner with you in these efforts."

Dr Ishii has been at the helm of the GEF Secretariat for two months. At the breakfast meeting she outlined her four key visions she had for the GEF, these being – the GEF must remain an innovator; must remain a champion of the Global Commons; must

remain the partner of choice for environmental benefits and; must remain a catalyst in the evolving architecture of environmental finance.

“I see a lot of challenges, but also see a lot of opportunities too,” said Dr. Ishii.

“We have successes but need to continue these, we don’t have all the answers but we do have commitment for ‘on the ground’ achievements.”

A number of queries and concerns were raised by the Pacific delegates at the breakfast meeting during the question and answer session that was led by comments from the Minister for Local Government, Housing, Urban Development and Environment – Col. Samuela Saumatua.

“GEF must remain the partner of choice, but I ask you that we work together as partners in environment projects. We work together against biodiversity loss and climate change, while you provide the funds, and we provide the tools and labour. We work together in partnership, it’s the Pacific Way.”





The breakfast was attended by delegates from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru and Samoa along with members from SPREP and the GEF Secretariat.

High Level Segment

The High Level Segment was held from 17-19 October and was attended by Ministers from Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, and Samoa. PICs that did not have their Ministers present were represented by senior government officials in the HLS. The SPREP Director General attended the HLS which was the first time that SPREP had ever participated and addressed the HLS. HLS panel discussions were held parallel to the main HLS plenary. The panel discussions were organised and coordinated by the Government of India focusing on the following key topics:

- Panel-I: Implementation of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011-2020
- Panel-II: Biodiversity for Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction
- Panel-III: Coastal and Marine Biodiversity
- Panel-IV: Implementation of Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing

The High Level Segment was opened by the Hon. Prime Minister of India. Dr. Mammohan Singh. In his speech, the Prime Minister announced India's Hyderabad Pledge of $50 million to help India achieve the objectives of the CBD. Part of this pledge is to support capacity building of developing countries.

During the HLS, statements were delivered by the following Pacific Island Delegates: Honorable Col. Samuela Saumatua on behalf of Fiji, Hon. Tony De Brum of RMI on behalf of the Micronesian Challenge, Mr. Manikaoti Timeon on behalf of Kiribati and Hon. Tufuga Gagoaileala on behalf of Samoa.

The Director General of SPREP addressed the HLS for the first time since SPREP participated in the CBD COP meetings. In his statement, the Director General highlighted SPREP's vision and key programmes, Pacific achievements and challenges and called on partners to cooperate and work in partnership with SPREP to support conservation efforts by Pacific Island Countries.

Copy of the SPREP Director General's Statement is in Annex 2

Communications at CBD COP11: The Pacific Voyage CBD COP11

The Pacific Voyage at CBD COP11 had key communication activities based upon preparation and outcomes of the Communications Session at the prep meeting in August in New Zealand. Below are the key communications activities and tools that were used along with outcomes of each.

Communication tools provided

- Before the CBD COP11, at the preparatory meeting a Survival skills for CBD COP11 was produced as well as emailed electronically to the participants
- A postcard flier on the 9th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas was produced
- Generic Pacific Voyage at CBD COP11 business cards were developed
- USB Credit Cards containing SPREP resources
- CBD COP11 Pacific Compass
- SPREP Lanyard with USB containing SPREP resources and the pacific briefing documents

Item	Outcome and feedback
400 x Postcard flier on the 9th	→ ALL were distributed and handed out - Pacific

pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas *Interested partners and donors to raise interest and awareness of conference*	participants and SPREP delegates were requesting more to distribute. → Small piles of 15 were placed in three spots; all of these cards went instantly. Additional postcards were placed but had to be mindful that they were to be distributed by delegates and also saved for the Pacific side event → Numerous compliments on the postcard were received when distributing them and handing them out. Some people came back for more copies
300 x CBD COP11 Business Cards *People delegates met and networked with at the CBD COP11 were given these to raise attendance at Pacific side event and awareness of blogsite*	→ 30 of these business cards remain → The business cards were successfully distributed to many people; they contained our activity details on the back. → Feedback from delegates was they found the card very useful as they were small, could write personal info on them including their local cell numbers and they contained all the key information on them.
50 x CBD COP11 Pacific Compass *To help the Pacific delegates with their negotiations and messaging when networking at the CBD COP11*	→ These were extremely successful - positive feedback was received on a daily basis from the Pacific delegates as to how useful they found these. → Other groups and organisations were also keen to replicate these to use for their own delegations to future conferences. → Feedback was shared with the donor of the MEA project as to how the project supported the production of the Pacific Compass and how effective it has been for the Pacific delegates.
SPREP Lanyard with USB containing SPREP Resources *To raise visibility through use of the SPREP lanyard, to provide the Pacific delegates with electronic copies of materials*	→ Pacific delegates were pleased to receive these and utilised them to share documents and information amongst each other as the internet was not always working within the conference venue
USB Credit Cards containing USB resources *To raise visibility through electronic format of USB's, to be more paper conscious*	→ During the first week SPREP delegates were distributing them slower than we were during the second week. → Received positive comments from people that had opened the materials and were impressed with the range of work by SPREP. This occurred during and post conference.

through less use of paper and to be more economic by reducing the costs of transporting extra freight and baggage of goods	

Pacific delegates as communicators

During the preparatory session delegates were provided tips for networking skills and then presented with the challenge to seek and exchange business cards with COP11 delegates. Collected business cards would be added to the SPREP mailing list as proof.

This was slightly amended upon arrival into Hyderabad, India. Pacific delegates were provided with the Island Voyage Business cards as well as postcards on the 9th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas for which the role of Pacific delegates was to distribute to people they met.

This activity proved successful for several reasons:

- → All but one Pacific delegate distributed and shared all their postcards and had asked for more
- → All of the postcards on the 9th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and protected Areas were distributed
- → Achieved maximum attendance at the Pacific side event.
- → The majority of the Pacific delegates were seen having conversations and discussions with a wide range of other different delegates at the CBD COP.

www.bionesian.blogspot.com

News items and photos were uploaded to the SPREP blogsite as well as personal blog journals from the 9th Pacific Island Nature Conservation and Protected Areas Conference Coordinator and the delegate from Tonga. An interactive page was created for tributes to Tania Temata, a former CBD COP Bureau member that passed away during the COP.

- → From 7 to 31 October the blogsite received 2,745 hits.
- → The top three traffic sources were from google (India, UK, NZ, Australia and .com), the SPREP website and a website called trickip.net.
- → The top three countries that visited the blogsite over the month of October were from India, United States and the United Kingdom.

News reports and Daily blogs

A total of 22 news releases were produced and distributed via the SPREP media and non media mailing list and the GLISPA discuss group. Neil Walkinshaw and Seini Fotu provided personal daily blog journals to provide a personal account of events at the CBD COP. Some of the press releases were uploaded to the SPREP website with all the releases being posted to the Bionesian blog site. Some of our news was reproduced in

the Samoa Observer, Solomon Times Online, Scoop NZ, Talamua Online, PACNEWS and SIDS-L.

The Pacific Booth

This was part of the CEPA exhibit in the Conference Venue which showcased SPREP posters and materials including those of GLISPA. This was a successful booth as all SPREP materials would go on a daily basis, and were thus replenished constantly. The SPREP booth attracted a lot of interest, this was because the SPREP materials were colourful and bright compared to other booths that had loads of materials but did not go as fast.

The Pacific Voyage Side Event

The title of this Side Event was *The Pacific Voyage: Nature Protects if She is Protected* and was held on Thursday, 18 October from 6.15 – 7.45pm. The side event was moderated by the Director-General of SPREP, Mr. David Sheppard. The first presentation on the night was by the Col. Samuela Saumatua of Fiji who announced the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. He was followed by Mr. Joseph Brider of the Cook Islands who made a statement on the launch of the Cook Islands Marine Park. The following topic was innovative financing for protected areas and this was presented by Ms. Nenenteiti Teariki-Ruatu, her presentation focused on the Phoenix Island Protected Area. A presentation was also made on the Samoa Environment Outlook by Falefaga Toni Tipama'a and his talk was followed by a presentation by two youth from the Go4BioDiv on the role of Youth and Biodiversity. Catering was provided for the side event and entertainment took place during this time with a performance by the Go4BioDiv youth.

The Side event was promoted through the business cards and the Pacific delegates, fliers were distributed in the Working Group Halls and posters were displayed on boards around the venue as well as posted at the Documents distribution centre. Information about the side event was sent via the IISD SIDS-L and Biodiversity distribution lists as well as through the GLISPA discussion groups.

This Side Event was successful for the following reasons:

- → Catered for 50 people, but had an attendance of 63 with more people trying to enter the room but had to leave because there was no space
- → The side event was scheduled for 6.15pm we had people enter the room to wait at 5.15pm.
- → During the question and answer time we had interesting questions from potential partners who outlined their interest in the different subject areas for future follow up discussions
- → The CBD Secretariat coordinated a film crew to film the side event.
- → Local media in India attended the CBD side event.

Coordination Meetings

Meetings of the Pacific Group were held every morning at 8:00am and were co-chaired by Kiribati and Marshall Islands. Due to transport schedules, the meetings usually started late around 8:30am with few delegates attending. The daily meetings were useful to update the group on key issues arising from the negotiations and implications on the Pacific. Other SIDS joined the Pacific meetings at 8:45am to discuss SIDS issues and strategise on ways to raise SIDS issues in the negotiations. It was also a great opportunity for the group to be updated by Spenser Thomas of Grenada on COP Bureau matters especially on budget issues. The Asia Pacific group meetings were held at 9am each morning for a briefing on issues pertaining to the Asia Pacific group. One of the key issues that was discussed was the representation of two members from the Asia Pacific group in the COP Bureau. After consultations among the main sub-groups, Thailand and Fiji were elected to represent the Asia Pacific group.

SPREP Support to PICs

SPREP played a key role supporting Pacific Island Delegates with their preparations for COP11 and during COP meeting. SPREP's support was provided through the following:

- Pacific COP11 Preparatory meeting which was held in August in Rotorua, New Zealand. The meeting helped Pacific delegates to review key agenda items to be discussed at COP11 as well as developing strategies for effective engagement in the negotiations.

- A Pacific Brief for COP11 was prepared to guide and assist Pacific Island Delegates on selected issues of relevance to the Pacific including possible positions and recommendations to take. Delegates found the Brief to be one of the most useful guiding documents which had assisted with negotiations at COP11.

- Two Pacific Island delegates were partially funded by SPREP to attend COP11. Funding was made available under the EU ACP MEA Capacity Building project to sponsor participants.

- An additional two Pacific Island delegates were supported by SPREP as part of an overall capacity building initiative to support young delegates to further enhance knowledge and understanding of the CBD.

- Tools and information kits were produced and disseminated by SPREP to Pacific delegates to help navigate their ways through the negotiations.

COP11 Lessons Learnt

Pacific COP11 Preparatory Meetings

The preparatory meeting was extremely useful in setting out strategies and priorities for the Pacific for COP11. Several key strategies were discussed which included strategies for effective participation, coordination, communication and media, and coordinating input and support from partners.

A session on negotiation was conducted which was well received by participants. The training was conducted by Clark Peteru of SPREP on some of the very simple negotiation techniques to apply during negotiations.

It was fortunate to have David Duthie of the CBD Secretariat and Andrew Bignell who was the COP Bureau member from New Zealand providing strategic guidance to Pacific Island delegates during the preparatory meeting.

Preparatory meetings should continue in the future and ensure that key people attending should be the same ones going to the COP meeting. This is often a challenge however it was pleasing to see that the majority of those who attended the preparatory meeting were at COP11.

Participation at SBSTTA and WGRI Meetings

It is important that a strong Pacific Island delegation is represented in future SBSTTA and WGRI meetings to advocate for Pacific issues. Often, there is very little Pacific presence in these meetings thus making it difficult to push priority issues for the Pacific. SBSTTA and WGRI meetings are important to get a good feel of the issues and positions of the different groupings and parties. It is equally important that there is consistency in the level of participation and to ensure that information is widely shared even with those who are not able to attend.

Logistics

Logistics was very challenging in Hyderabad especially the transport arrangements and schedules which affected participation at the daily Pacific Group meetings. There was limited room and space available for meetings however the Pacific was fortunate to use the Asia Pacific room for our daily meetings. Communication through skype and emails was very effective and this helped the group to stay connected and updated on status of the negotiations. It was also a good way to provide moral support and encouragement to delegates.

Annex 1: List of Pacific Delegates and Participants to COP11

Country	Name	Designation	Contact
Cook Islands	Mr. Joseph Lawrence Brider	Head of Delegation	Senior Environment Office Island Futures Division Biodiversity Conservation Unit National Environment Services c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration Email:joseph@environment.org.ck joe@environment.org.ck
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Annex 2: SPREP Director General Statement at the High Level Segment

STATEMENT TO HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT

CBD COP11, Hyderabad, India

David Sheppard, Director General, SPREP,

17 October, 2012

Mr. President

Excellencies

Ladies and gentlemen

It is an honour to deliver this speech on behalf of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme or SPREP for short.

SPREP would like to sincerely thank the Government of India for the invitation to address this important gathering. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the people of Andhra Pradesh for their warm hospitality.

SPREP works in support our 26 government members, including all of the 21 countries and territories in the Pacific, as well as Australia, France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the USA, to ensure that a healthy environment and biodiversity is the cornerstone of sustainable development.

This is clearly articulated in the SPREP Vision as:

"The Pacific Environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures"

The Pacific is vast and within the SPREP region the territories and Exclusive Economic Zones of island nations cover 30 million square kilometres - or 8 per cent of the Earth's surface - clearly establishing that Pacific Island Countries are not only Small Island Developing States but indeed are Large Ocean States

Biodiversity conservation – both on land and at sea - is at the core of SPREP's work.

Mr. President, biodiversity is essential for life in the Pacific. It provides food, shelter, and underpins Pacific livelihoods.

Biodiversity in the Pacific is under threat as never before. The challenges facing biodiversity in our region are unique, immense and they are growing.

Extinction rates in the region, especially for birds, but also for other species, are among the highest in the world. Threats such as deforestation, overfishing, and invasive species are impacting biodiversity and human life in Pacific countries.

Climate change is compounding these threats and the island countries of the Pacific are the most vulnerable on Earth to the impacts of climate change.

In our region climate change is not just an environmental issue; it is a matter of national security.

The countries of the Pacific are responding to the challenges of biodiversity loss through tailored responses – referred to as Pacific Solutions to Pacific Problems.

Communities are in the driver's seat for biodiversity conservation in the Pacific. Protected areas are a vital tool for conservation in our region but they must be developed with and through local communities.

Initiatives such as Locally Managed Marine Areas provide an example for the world in how conservation can be both good for nature and good for people.

The Micronesia Challenge has established bold targets for terrestrial and marine conservation and is a leading global example of how governments and civil society can join hands to ensure effective conservation action.

Pacific Island Countries are at the forefront of global efforts for marine conservation under the Pacific Oceanscape Framework, an innovative regional vision adopted by Pacific island leaders in 2010, which recognizes the global significance of the Pacific Ocean and the urgent need for its protection, and improved management and governance.

Pacific Island Countries have acted decisively including through establishing the two largest marine World Heritage Sites in the world, the Phoenix Island Protected Area in Kiribati, the Papahānaumokuākea (pronounced PAPA – HANA – MOKU – A –KEA) Marine National Monument in Hawaii.

The Rock Islands of Palau has also be added to the World Heritage List this year and Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tonga and other Pacific Island Countries have set up sanctuaries for key marine species such as whales and sharks.

In effect these represent "gifts to the world" and we ask the global community to support these efforts by Pacific Island Countries, in particular by supporting capacity development for biodiversity conservation on land and at sea.

Pacific Island Countries are increasingly linking biodiversity to climate change. SPREP is working with Pacific Island Countries, such as the Solomon Islands, to implement natural solutions as a key tool for adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

Mr. President, SPREP calls on the international community to ensure a greater sense of urgency is injected into the biodiversity debate. The continuing loss of species in our region and worldwide represents a global crisis of the highest order.

We call on the International community and in particular the Multi Lateral Environment Agreements to work with a greater sense of urgency and to work much more effectively together, including through developing synergies and better joint programmes, to address biodiversity loss and to achieve the Aichi Targets.

The challenges of biodiversity loss are immense and require innovation and better partnerships. In this vein, SPREP is delighted to be signing MoUs this week with UNEP and the Secretariat of the CBD which will greatly increase support for biodiversity action in Pacific Island Countries

Mr. President, SPREP stands ready to cooperate with relevant partners who would like to support efforts by Pacific Island Countries to better protect and manage their precious biodiversity.
Thank you

Annex 3: Consolidated Responses to the COP11 Questionnaire

11th Conference of the Parties to the CBD, Hyderabad, India 8-19 October 2011

Consolidated Responses to the Questionnaire

Number of respondents: 6

The main objectives of the questionnaire were to:

(i) reflect on key successes at COP11,
(ii) take stock of key lessons learnt and
(iii) identify areas for further improvement for future COP meetings

Question 1: *Coordination*

Coordination at COP11 was one of the key elements of the One Pacific Voice approach.

1. *What is your assessment of the level of coordination at COP11?*

Highly satisfactory 2 *Satisfactory* 3 *Not satisfactory* 1

2. *Which aspects of the coordination that you found very useful at COP11?*

(i) Pacific preparatory meeting:

- Coordination for COP11 began at the Pre-COP meeting in Rotorua. I felt the Pre-COP was the best opportunity for the region to determine our regional position and strategise our approach from there.

- To strengthen the outcomes of the Pre-COP meeting, it would have been useful to have much more dialogue between countries following the Pre-COP and in the lead up to COP11.

- Everything from the PreCOP11 meeting in NZ, when the brief was circulated for countries to see and make sure the issues raised was delivered and voiced at the COP. The alertness of the SPREP staff in reminding everyone of the meeting schedules for contact group meetings, FOC meetings and updating the information for PICs to pick and choose on the relevant issues of concern.

(ii) Pacific Meetings at COP11

- The regular update of Pacific Delegates every morning reporting from different working groups and contact groups making those who were not present at the meeting become aware of what was discussed and presented at the meeting.

- Although delegations from the Pacific region were not accommodated together and disbursed all over the city of Hyderabad and very small (some with only one delegate) , the fact that some of us always tried to encourage each other to attend the meetings has been very encouraging.

- SPREP played a critical role in coordinating efforts between both working groups and their presence should be maintained at these negotiations. At some level I also feel that by having an organization such as SPREP at the meeting acts as a gelling agent, bringing countries together and to a certain degree ensures that countries actually attend the meeting. Without this type of 'watchdog' modality, I shudder to think what the levels of attendance from the Pacific would be without someone watching them, unofficially.

- PICs morning meeting,
- each country or more than one responsible to take lead on their own interest of item(s)
- SPREP assistance with statements
- Having PICs statement
- Joining together/align PIC statements with other SIDS and even seeking support from SIDS on common interest

(iii) Asia Pacific Meetings

- At COP11 the Pacific meetings were useful for day-to-day strategizing and should have feed into the Asia-Pacific dialogue, however I felt that the Asia-Pacific chair was not as informative as a chair should be.

3. Identify key areas that you would like to further strengthen in the future

- To get all the Pacific Delegates to be committed to working together as One Pacific Voice. There were some delegates who were not much involved but it is good to have them committed and provide their inputs into the discussions.

- If a country delegate plans to make an intervention or statement, it would be good to make the rest of the Pacific delegates aware a day before he/she makes the statement, that way it would leave time for the rest of the delegates to have an input IF he/she plans to represent the rest of the Pacific. Some

statements made by 1 person can relate to issues in 1 or 2 countries and it will be good to make joint statements/interventions instead of repeating the same thing.

- Encourage more participation to morning pacific meetings,
- Actually carry out what was agreed upon at the precop,
- Mentorship to be at its best at COP.
- Coordination between other island groups (SIDS) can be improved.
- I really think that the Pacific is a smart bunch of people but we often times do not speak up and make our issues known. Maybe we have difficulty understanding the issues as they develop while the negotiations are taking place, or maybe we do not think our issues are relevant to the discussions, or when the right time to raise our issues is or perhaps we are just too shy, I really do not know. We really need to build the up confidence in Pacific parties to speak up, we need to encourage each other and even participate in preparing good statements for each other to inspire everyone to speak up. Perhaps specific individuals who show potential in this field could be targeted to further build their confidence through more exposure to similar meetings?
- The Side event was well organized however, to have a bigger room is much appreciated. Also, we should invite more the countries with similar concerns and those countries whom PICs are partnership with various programmes, for them to understand the situation and pros and cons of the island countries.
- Communication among PIC when internet become a problem
- Statements for PIC – would be good to be done/completed a day before delivered so everyone does have enough time to comment/inputs
- SPREP should help in drafting of interventions on particular issues commonly found across the Pacific region.
- There are certain agenda items that are not common to our region and it is best for country delegates/Party States to make interventions on such issues.
- Member countries should be encouraged to participate more in the region's public display of its activities and programmes to implement the convention.

Question 2: *Effective participation in negotiations*

1. Did you participate in the negotiations process? If yes, which parts of the negotiations did you participate in? (Circle or Bold answer(s))

Working Groups 5 *Contact Groups* 1 *Friends of the Chair Informal Consultative Groups*

2. What were the key highlights from the negotiations that you found very effective and useful from your own experience?

- I contributed to a joint statement made by the Pacific delegates. Since it was my first experience, I find COP11 a lot of work. I've learnt that I needed to be more prepared and ready in my home country before I leave for COP11. Making interventions and negotiations is something that needs to be well prepared and to be sure everything you say reflects the needs and issues of the country you presented. It is important to voice out your country's concerns and issues for it may be heard and supported by other developed countries in the world. I was fortunate to have the other Pacific Delegate's supports and assistance when I needed it and for them to regularly update and discuss during plenary the issues that the Pacific needs to address etc.

- Learned a great deal from the financial mechanism contact group my very first contact group, very intense and filled with very stubborn people.

- Establish contact with parties of the same stand way before hand in order to discuss talking grounds.

- Gather support of SIDS AOSIS members or other subgroups with similar stand on issues to be discussed.

- Know the content to be discussed thoroughly before entering the room.

- It is always a learning process, attending any negotiation. Those who have been in the game for a long time are an inspiration and something to aspire to. Since the SBSTTA 16, the partnership building that I have experienced with Caribbean and Indian Ocean islands has always been a highlight and source of encouragement, to see them negotiate amongst themselves and voice those concerns so actively in the WG and plenary is something I hope the Pacific will replicate in the near future.

- The manner whereby the Chair controlled and presided over the proceedings was found to be very useful. Instead of reopening texts already negotiated and adopted in earlier meetings of the SBSTTA, which would unnecessary complicate issues, the Chair was more authoritative in directing the negotiations.

Question 3: *Support from SPREP*

1. *Were you satisfied with the overall support provided by SPREP (pre-COP and during COP11)?*

Highly satisfactory 3 *Satisfactory* 3 *Not satisfied*

2. *Which aspects of the support by SPREP that you found very useful?*

- The regular morning update they organized for the Pacific Delegates before we break out and joined the plenary sessions. This was very useful for us to be aware

what is being discussed in different plenary sessions and it directs us on where to go next.

- Keeping Pacific delegates in communication with each other through emails and skype during/after/before plenary sessions
- Assistance made to Pacific delegates when making statements/interventions in the plenary sessions
- Organizing of Side Events for the Pacific was the highlight of it all getting a lot of support and interest from other countries and different organisations.
- Keeping everyone in the loop with all relevant issues and side events through the usage of Skype
- Being present in the morning Pacific meetings and encouragement and mentorship.
- The support for the Pre-COP, in my view, was very beneficial and I think the region gained many benefits from it.
- The regional brief document is useful as a foundation for countries to build their national brief upon, and in cases where a national brief has not been prepared I think the regional brief can still suffice (although not encouraged) for many countries as a national brief.
- As an organization with experience staff, it is good to have people like Easter where we can go to for advice on the negotiation topics
- Staff assistance through SKYPE , informing us of the issues and what step to take
- Discussion with SPREP staff, on important matters that highlights points for interventions
- Their smile and cheerful faces
- Explanation and assist on issues where it not clear or need assistance with
- Statement preparation
- Setting up meetings e.g. breakfast meeting with GEF
- Side event to promote successful stories from PICs especially donors, etc.
- Organisation of pre-COP meetings by SPREP has been a strong aspect of its technical assistance to its member states. For new comers to the scene, it is very useful for them and even the seasoned negotiators. SPREP is strongly encouraged to continue offering this support.

- Involvement of SPREP staff in ensuring PIC delegates were in respective working groups for issues or agenda items affecting and relevant to the Pacific region. SPREP's participation in regional/subregional meetings was seen as important for our region.

3. *Additional comments (Optional)*

- More work in post cop meeting and precop meeting could be done to better the outcome and results at the actual COP.

- Ideas should be voiced through survey like these or even through the online forums or actual workshops on how best to move forward to better outcomes of COP if we are serious about our work on biodiversity.

- Send participants to Pre-COP at least one of them to be at the actual COP so he /she knows whats going on and has no excuse that they weren't at the Pre-COP.etc.

- Establish preferably before Pre-COP otherwise at Pre-COP country relevant issues to follow at the Pre-COP and the COP.

- Come to Pre-COP with prepared country statements in order to incorporate with all other party statements and create a pacific statement , also agree at Pre-COP who will deliver speech --> after Pre-COP disseminate Pacific statement to SIDS group in order to incorporate and create a SIDS statement and no more last minute work just before speech delivery.

- I appreciated the opportunity to meet the GEF CEO, although time was unfortunately brief and not all issues were provided a satisfactory response

- Great Team work

- Appreciate kind assistance and presence of SPREP team at the last COP especially support provided during the COP

- SPREP should try and secure funding support for PIC countries for future COP meetings to ensure members are represented by more than one delegate

Question 4: *Communication and media*

1. Which communication tools did you find useful to keep in contact with the rest of the Pacific group during COP11?
   i. Skype 6
   ii. Email 3
   iii. Group meetings 4
   iv. Other

***Question 5**: The Pacific Voyage at COP11 featured the Pacific Voyage Side event, SPREP organized meetings, media releases and communication through our blogsite.*

i. Side events
ii. GEF CEO Meeting
iii. Pacific Media releases
iv. Pacific Bionesian [biodiversity] Blog

Did you find these useful and effective?

- It was very useful indeed
- I found these all very useful, I participated in a side event and it was a good opportunity to showcase the activities occurring in my country
- The media releases and the blog were very useful, I didn't get to read the blog as often as I would have liked, but its impact on people back home and outside of the meeting were particularly important.
- Yes, very useful, effective and efficient, very informative
- Very useful and effective in bringing our issues and needs to global attention.

***Question 6**: How would you rate the overall delivery of our Pacific Voyage activities?*

Highly satisfactory 5 *Satisfactory* 1 *Not satisfactory*

***Question 7**: What are your plans to implement decisions adopted at COP11?*

- Make a report of the outcome of the COP11 and submit to CEO & Minister & get their feedback
- Consultations with key relevant stakeholders and report to them the outcome of COP11 and their feedback for way forward
- Work closely with relevant stakeholders in implementing decisions adopted at COP11
- Given NBSAP group is already established I can only hope and give my full support to their cause and the eventual implementation of the decisions adopted at Cop11
- At this stage we are reviewing our NBSAP and it is there that we will reflect we will reflect the COP decisions. Implementing the decisions is another question and something based on available funding. The GEF seems like the mostly source of funding and something we will consider with our GEF 4, 5 and hopefully 6

allocations. Innovative Financing and Trust Funds could be another mechanism for implementing the decisions and something we will consider in the near future.

- To communicate with SPREP staff, on the times and dates for implementation of activities of organize activities together that needed assistance

- Well, will leave this to my Acting Director but the implementation is not a problem if the funding available to support us with implementation of decisions adopted in the last COP

- New decisions adopted at COP11 will be incorporated with existing work programme of my agency, where appropriate and necessary, mainly to fill gaps. For example, decisions relating to the PoWPA will be integrated with our activities on PoWPA. Our partner non-government conservation organizations are important for realizing some of the activities. Hence their involvement and participation in the programmes is equally important.

- The main difficulty in implementing our programmes on biodiversity is lack of or inadequate financial support. Soliciting necessary support in this area is as important as identifying technical assistance to assist with certain programmes under the division.

Question 8: *What areas of support that you would like SPREP to provide post-COP11?*

- The Complete Report of SPREP from COP11 would be appreciated so that I can compare my report to it.

- Technical Assistance will be needed regarding decisions that were adopted from COP11. It would be useful to get in touch with SPREP during implementation of decisions of COP11 to guide us and ensure we are not missing anything.

- For Nauru it would be very much appreciated if a visit from SPREP could be arranged **:**

    - √ To assist us with aligning our National Sustainable Development Strategy and initial NBSAP with the Aichi Targets.

    - √ Assist us with identifying indicators for our set targets

    - √ Assist us with our stakeholder engagement and workplan strategy.

    - √ Basically we will hold a national workshop to introduce the NBSAP revision project and also hold two stakeholder committee meetings

- I would automatically say a Post-COP meeting but perhaps there are other means. I think there is still a need to fully substantiate to the region what the COP decisions actually mean to us and what are our obligations to these decisions.

- Funding is going to be a particularly useful issue to discuss as Donors are becoming more and more selective, not to mention poorer and poorer, as to who and what they will fund and how much funding is available. Perhaps we need to be more proactive in planning for GEF 6 and have a plan in place before the GEF 6 cycle. Perhaps we need to be more aware of other potential donors and what we need from a country side to encourage those other donors to work with us?

- Technical and Financial, We are yet to do the Review of our NBSAP, and also review our NISAP so we would like SPREP to partnership on these activities.

- Our ABS protocol has not been signed, so the process after signing for ratification is where SPREP advice is most appreciated.

- Not sure but may be the usual, project development and provision of technical assistance plus securing project funding. Workshops or trainings where needed as prep start before the doing the actual work at national level

- While SPREP may not have the financial capacity to directly assist all its member countries, it is particularly important if its technical expertise would be made available to member countries as technical assistants in relevant areas of work

Question 9: *Key Take Home Messages and Lessons Learnt*

1. Highlight key take home messages from COP11

- Be more prepared from home before attending COP11. Consult with key relevant stakeholders, CEO and Minister before leaving for COP11. Get as much information needed for negotiations, statements and interventions.

- Be more aware and keep your ears open when other countries make interventions/negotiations for it may affect or oppose issues & concerns of your country and be ready to defend it.

- Try to make consensus and support of other developing countries especially regarding "financial resource mobilization."

- The world at large is interested in conserving biodiversity but not at the expense of development

- Remember "conservation without money is merely a conversation"

- COP is not something that you can just show up to and expect to get your way, there is a lot of prior groundwork that needs to take place beforehand. One-person country representation is not ideal and if it cannot be addressed then we need to be more cohesive as a region.

- Skype can be a much more powerful tool for engaging more people back home in the negotiations. I understand that internet costs may be prohibitive in

the islands, so we need to see where these costs can be addressed, perhaps through projects?

- The Pacific is not small, we can be just as powerful as the EU if we speak up, the SIDS is a greater extension of ourselves and we need to capitalize on this much more.
- Continue the communication with PIC reps who attended the COP and also SPREP staff.
- Share ideas for implementing COP endorsed activities, resolution etc
- PICs should be seen as one team.
- Communication and cooperation are the best tools to make things easier or successfully achieved goals set from the Pre-COP.
- Need to complete outstanding tasks especially projects that soon to be wrap up or reports e.g. 4th National Report, etc
- Adequate advance preparations;
- Additional capacity needed (delegation composition);
- Opportunities available to get support from CBD and supporting organisations;
- Opportunities available for bilateral discussions with potential partners;

2. *Highlight key lessons learnt*
    - Tough world of negotiation awaits us; take on a more aggressive approach if you want to be heard.
    - At Pre-COP also discuss SBBSTA, COP Bureau, Compliance and other membership of the secretariat or the Cop so we go with a unified voice in support of already agreed personnel or country to be part of above mentioned posts etc rather than wasting our time at the COP trying to negotiate who is best equipped etc and who has served and who has not etc.
    - Perhaps my take home messages are also the lessons that I have learnt
    - It important to make intervention(s) but good to align your intervention(s) with any PICs statements or other SIDS
    - Communication and cooperation are the best tools during the COP
    - PIC statements good to be completed before the real COP stated or drafted during the Pre-COP in order to get everyone to have time to comment/inputs. Just to avoid last minute draft disseminated around so it will not be possible to deliver statement if it agreed during the Pre-COP as PIC statement.

- Try to be remain engaged in negotiations
- Consultation is indispensable in negotiations
- Always go with open mind to negotiations

Additional Final Remarks and Comments:

- Thank you all COPERs SPREP included for all the support funtimes and productive work put together by all in representing our region in the face of the world.
- I take this opportunity to thank, the Director of SPREP and his staff for the effortless assistance during the COP11 period. Thank also to all those who coordinated key areas for our interventions.
- Faafetai faafetai tele lava.
- A big ko bati n rabwa to SPREP for constant assistance during the COP and especially approval in co-financing my participation during the COP11. Without this, I may not be able to attend COP11. So thanks very much for this and hope this kind of assistance especially with full sponsor to all PICs since we all need to have more than 1 Country rep to COPs beside what CBD secretariat offer to sponsor 1 from each country.