Forestry Department

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Forest Genetic Resources Working Papers

Report of the Regional Training Workshop to support the preparation of The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources in the Pacific

19-21 January 2011, Nadi, Fiji Islands

Prepared by

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Foreword



Forest Genetic Resources remains among the most valuable assets that a country possesses and, therefore, it is imperative throughout the Pacific region, especially in the Melanesian countries, to promote sustainable forest management and to ensure a more sustainable use of forest and tree genetic resources.

In order to restore it green forest landscape, reforestation and tree planting programs using indigenous and introduced tree species need to be further optimised and developed in the region. Planting an area with trees not only will assist in bringing more greenery to the site but also become an important source of other socio-economic benefits to all.

With the support and collaboration of FAO and CBD, a regional training workshop was organized by the Land Resources Division of SPC to assist Pacific countries in the elaboration of country reports on forest genetic resources as a basis for the preparation of global report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources. National Focal Points and delegates from 11 countries in the Pacific attended the 3 day workshop held from the 19th to 21st of January 2011 in Nadi Fiji whose active participation has contributed to the success of the workshop.

We take this opportunity to thank FAO and CBD for their support in organising this training workshop and the regional participants for their active participations and contribution to the discussions. We hope that this forum provided an ideal platform for technical discussions and exchange of information and experiences for the benefit of the forest and tree sector in the Pacific.

Mr. Sairusi Bulai

Coordinator,
Forests and Trees / Forestry and Agriculture Diversification Group
Land Resources Division
Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Executive Summary

The Land Resources Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture (FAO) of the United Nations and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), organized the "Regional Training Workshop to Support the Preparation of the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources in the Pacific", held from the 19th to 21st of January 2011, at the Tanoa International Hotel in Fiji Islands. The Workshop was attended by national focal points on forest genetic resources (NFP FGR) from 11 countries (Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The workshop aimed to support the NFP FGRs in the preparation of their respective country reports for the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (SOW FGR). It also aimed to provide the opportunity for participants to discuss and exchange information on their current programme with regards to conservation, management and utilization of forest genetic resources.

The workshop was facilitated by SPC and FAO staff and designed to allow NFPs presents that main issues and constraints in compiling the Country Reports. Some of the common limitations in compiling the reports are: difficulties in accessing the data on FGR, lack of staff and expertise to retrieve the information, unavailability of financial resources to support the process. NFPs and delegates prepared draft work plans and budgets to serve as basis for proposals to support the preparation of country reports on FGR, discussed about institutional arrangements and time frames, presented their work plans, and received comments and feedback from other participants and facilitators.

On their final discussions, the participants agreed to take a regional approach with SPC to facilitate submission of a regional proposal for funding support under the Technical Cooperation Programme Facility (TCPf) of FAO.

Introduction

Genetic resources, including forest genetic resources, are among the most valuable assets that a country possesses. Throughout the Pacific Islands, and especially in the Melanesian countries, there is a need to improve forest management to ensure a more sustainable use of forest and tree genetic resources. Reforestation and tree planting programs using both indigenous and introduced tree species need to be further encouraged and developed in the Pacific Islands.

The regional "Strategies and Action Plan for the Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use of Forest and Tree Genetic Resources in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), 2007-2015 was formally endorsed by Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services and approved by Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry at their regional meeting in Apia, Samoa in September 2008. The Action Plan presently serves as a framework for

planning and implementing the conservation, management and sustainable use of forest and tree genetic resources within the PICTs.

At its Eleventh Session in June 2007, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) acknowledged the urgency to conserve and sustainably utilize forest genetic resources. The Commission requested that a *State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (SOW-FGR) report be prepared and presented to the Commission in 2013. At its Nineteenth Session (March 2009), the Committee on Forestry discussed and supported the preparation of the SOW-FGR, urging member countries to collaborate with FAO and partner organizations in producing the Report.

COP 10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, meeting in October 2010, recognized the importance of forest genetic diversity for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, including in the context of addressing climate change and maintaining the resilience of forest ecosystems.

It also welcomes the preparation by the FAO of the United Nations of the country driven report The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources; and invites Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to support the preparation of the country-driven first report The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources, including with the aim of ensuring the quality of national reports.

The workshop was organised in direct response to the recommendation of the 2009 Heads of Forestry Meeting 'that PICTs contribute and participate in the process of developing the "State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report" to be presented to the fourteenth session of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in 2013'

Objectives and Activities

The workshop aimed to support the Pacific Countries National Focal Points on Forest Genetic Resources (NFP FGR) in the preparation of their respective country reports for the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (SOW-FGR). It also aimed to provide the opportunity for participants to discuss and exchange information on their current programme with regards to conservation, management and utilization of forest genetic resources.

The training workshop, organized by SPC in collaboration with FAO and CBD, was held from 19th to 21st January 2011 at the Tanoa International Hotel in Nadi, Fiji Islands. It was attended by the national focal points (NFPs) and delegates from 11 Pacific Island Countries: Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Representatives from Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Office (Rome) and Sub-Regional Office (Samoa) were also present together with Forests and Trees Team of SPC's Land Resource Division. The list of participants and the programme are detailed in Annex 1 and 2.

The workshop was facilitated by SPC and FAO staff and designed to allow NFPs presents that main issues and constraints in compiling the Country Reports. Some of the common limitations in compiling the reports are: difficulties in accessing the data on FGR, lack of staff and expertise to retrieve the information, unavailability of financial resources to support the process. Some participants took the opportunity to discuss about current threats and challenges in the promotion and conservation of FGR in their countries; these include current forest ownership systems in Fiji, the impact of climate change, fires, presence of non native invasive species in Cook Islands and Papua New Guinea. NFPs and delegates prepared draft work plans and budgets to serve as basis for proposals to support the preparation of country reports on FGR. NFPs discussed about institutional arrangements and time frames, presented their work plans, and received comments and feedback from other participants and facilitators. Throughout this process, they were able to define the necessary activities and related outputs to produce a good quality country report.

Day One

Opening Ceremony

The workshop begun with prayer by Rev. Laisiasa Tora followed by welcome remarks from the Regional Forest Genetic Resources Officer of SPC (Cenon Padolina). In his welcome address, he acknowledged the presence of Mr Oudara Souvannavong and Mr Aru Mathias of FAO together with the support extended by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Mr Padolina also explained the objectives of the workshop as well as the economic, environmental, social and cultural importance of FGR to the Pacific Islanders. He also added that SPC considered this workshop as a great step towards the sound management of the forest genetic resources in the region and create a greater awareness of its economic social and cultural values to them.



Mr Oudara Souvannavong, FAO Senior Forestry Officer on Biological Diversity and Conservation, also delivered a brief statement to the participants. In his welcome address, he mentioned that the preparation of the first report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources is one of the priority activities of FAO for the coming years in the forestry and biodiversity sectors. He also thanked the Government of Fiji Islands and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community for their cooperation in organizing this meeting.

A statement of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr Ahmed Djoghlaf, although unable to attend this meeting, was read out by SPC Staff, Mr Jalesi Mateboto. In his statement, he mentioned that key findings from the Global Forest Resources Assessment (2010) show that while deforestation has slowed in recent years as compared to the 1990s, it is still high resulting in increased carbon emissions, shortages in water and food supply, and in an unprecedented loss of forest biodiversity and genetic resources.

He stressed that this workshop comes at a critical time when the world's forests are facing immense pressures and challenges. He added, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its tenth meeting, held in Nagoya, Japan, in 2010, explicitly *recognized* the importance of forest genetic diversity for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, including in the context of addressing climate change and maintaining the resilience of forest ecosystems.

In his official opening remark, Mr. Wainiqolo, the Conservator and the Head of Fiji's Forestry Department, highlighted countless economic, ecosystems, and social services that forests provide. These services include the provision of: fibre; timber; water catchment protection; water production for agriculture; non-wood forest products; fuel wood; and social recreation.



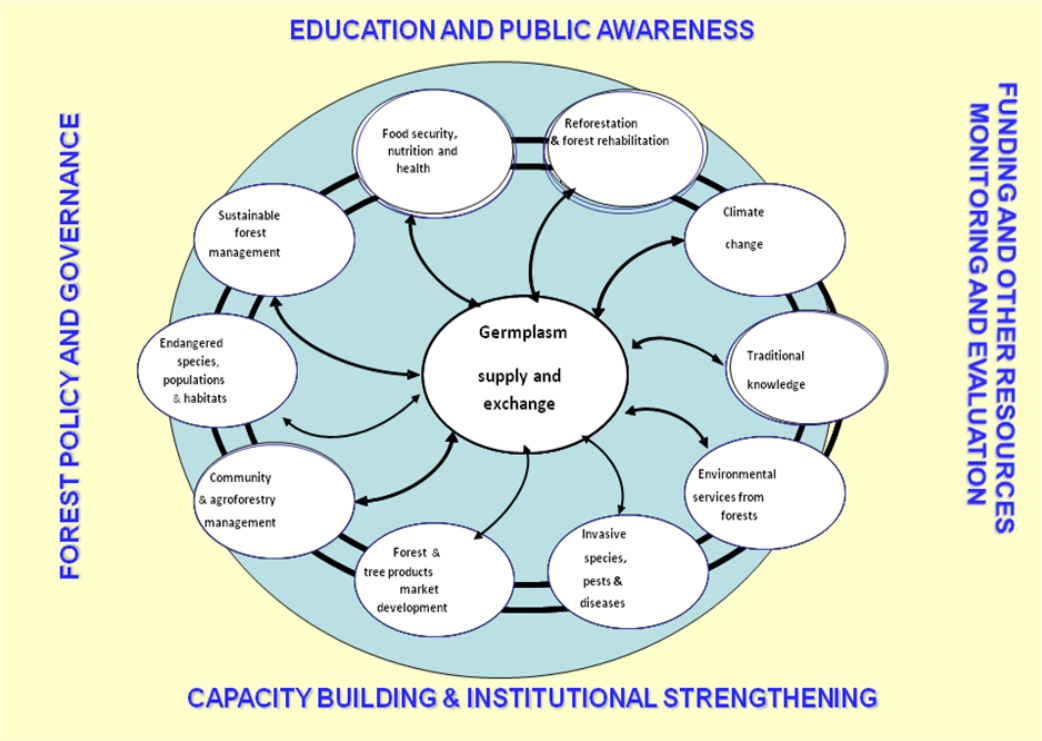
Session One (Highlights only)

1. Mr. Cenon Padolina of SPC begun the workshop proceeding by going through the background information on FGR and the need for having the report submitted to FAO on time. SPC's role and involvement in facilitation of the report was also mentioned. He focused on the following issues on his presentation.



Regional FGR Strategies and Action Plan in the Pacific – SPC:

- The idea of conserving forest genetic materials started from the SPRIG project (1997 – 2006)
- The first strategy & action plan developed in 1999, A revised strategy & action plan developed in 2007 (2007 – 2015)
- Regional body to facilitate germplasm exchange (CePaCT). This is the state of the art set-up of SPC
- Follow up Activities on FGR
- International Year of the Forest to be celebrated in 2011 which LRD-SPC is taking the lead role as per recommendation from last year's Regional Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Meeting.



2. Presentation by Mr Oudara Souvannavong - the FAO Senior Forestry Officer (Biological Diversity and Conservation)



- Genetic resources: essential component of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)
- Forest genetic resources are an integral part of the FAO Forestry Programme as it contributes to other programme components, including SFM, tree breeding and plantation development, and protected area management.
- FGR: support economic and social functions of forests
- Genetic diversity and processes: basis for evolution and adaptation to changes
- FGR: underutilised, poorly known, under threat
- Lack of knowledge and information to define and implement policies and programmes in conservation and use of FGR

SCOPE: SOW – FGR

- Broad understanding of FGR taking into account diversity of uses, conditions and management systems
- Scope will be defined by national reports
- Focus on FGR important for SFM, food security, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability
- APPROACH – Country driven process

SOW – FGR Guidelines for Country Reports

- The preparatory process should be considered a strategic planning exercise and the report itself a tool for the better assessment and sustainable management of forest genetic resources at the national level and contribute to regional and global actions
- STEPS
- Nomination of National Focal Points (NFP)
- National Committee
- Working Group(s) to draft the report, could work on different chapters
- Draft report reviewed by stakeholders
- Finalization by the National Committee (endorsement)

STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT OF THE COUNTRY REPORT FOR SOW- FGR

- Chapter 1: Current state of the Forest Genetic Resources
- Chapter 2: In situ Conservation
- Chapter 3: ex situ Conservation
- Chapter 4: Use and sustainable management of FGR
- Chapter 5: Institution and Policy framework
- Chapter 6: Regional and International Collaboration
- Chapter 7: access to FGR and sharing of benefits arising from their use
- Chapter 8: Contribution of FGR to food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

Session Two (Country Presentations)

"Issues, Threats & Challenges to the Conservation of FGR, & the Compilation of the Draft Country Report"

a. Cook Islands (Mr. Nooroa Tokari)

Cook Islands Comprise of 15 islands (volcanic/raised islands/atolls) and is spread over 2 million square kilometres of ocean. It has a total land area of 240km² and a forest cover of 68%. The total population is 22,970 (2010 estimate). The main issues that Cook Island is faced with in compiling the report are:



- Lack of Forestry Department
- No Forestry Act and Regulation and also no Forest Policy
- No Land Use Policy
- Climate change e.g. in 2005, 5 cyclones hit the Cook Islands (one after the other), a lot of foreshore trees lost due to these cyclones (pandanus sp, coconut trees
- Bush fires

- Invasive species
- Sand mining



b. Kiribati (Ms. Teaaro Otiuea)

Kiribati is another atoll island with Forest cover of 34 percent. The total population is 82,000 (1999 estimate). The main issues that Kiribati is faced with in compiling the report are:

- In the process of collecting information and drafting the first part
- Difficulties in collecting information due to either the lack of it or difficulties in accessing it.
- Future activities - conducting community consultation to collect more information, establishing national committee and working group to work on different chapters of the report.
- Need financial and technical assistance, requested if deadline could be extended

c. Marshall Islands (Mr. Karness Kusto)



The main issues that Marshall Island is faced with in compiling the report are:

- SWARS as the main source of information,
- In the process of completing the first draft constraints:
    - No stand alone FD,
    - no working committee
    - No forest policy in place
    - One man army

d. Niue (Mr. Brandon Tauasi)

The main issues that Niue is faced with in compiling the report are:

- Niue has not made an official start on the report, however some information needed to complete the relevant component is available
- Have completed the Forest Inventory and currently collaborating with SPC on the Forest Management Plan (FMP).
- The Focal point for FRA is also the FP for FGR
- Confident the report will be completed by the due date
- Some components of the report may not be answered due to lack of information



e. Papua New Guinea (Prof. Simon Saulei)

Challenges faced by PNG:

- Genetic erosion
    - Isolation
    - Selection & Breeding
    - Policy Change

- Threats
  - Fire
  - Insect and pathogenic attacks
  - Invasion by non native invasive
- Impacts of Climate Change
  - Adaptation Options
  - Mitigative measures



ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

1. Protect as much area of intact ecosystems and natural habitats as possible
   - Healthy, intact ecosystems will be more resilient (or less vulnerable) to climate change because they:
   - Harbor large and viable populations of plant and animal species which are unlikely to go extinct during extreme events
   - Serve as sources of individuals and genes to colonize new areas
   - Have genetically diverse plant and animal populations with the genetic potential to acclimatize to climate change
   - Maintain natural processes (e.g., migration, predation, seed dispersal) which are necessary for ecosystem function

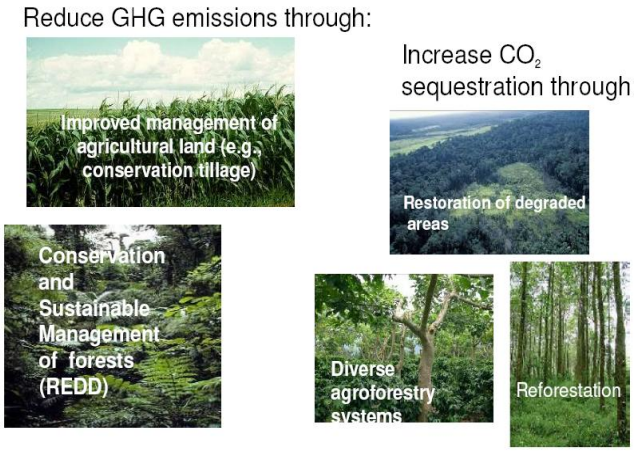
2. Reduce other (non-climate) threats to biodiversity (e.g., hunting, fires, pollution, etc.)
3. Avoid fragmentation of ecosystems and natural habitats
4. Where possible, maintain or re-establish landscape connectivity to allow movement of species
5. Promote sustainable agriculture and forestry as a means of conserving biodiversity in fragmented landscapes.

   For species that are particularly vulnerable to climate change, ex situ conservation or translocation may be necessary

MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Through implementation of CDM & REDD projects aimed at reducing GHG emissions

- Agricultural and forestry options:



f. Samoa (Mr. Tolusina Pouli)

Samoa is a total land mass of 282,000 ha and Forest coverage of 32 percentage. The main issues that Samoa is faced with in compiling the report are:



- Forestry is under the MNRE and not MAF
- Four Sections of the division
    a. Forest Conservation
    b. Forest Development
    c. Forest Research and Development
    d. Forest Policy and Planning
- Constraints:
    a. Absent of Specialist on FGR (genetic base research)
    b. Lack of staff/Staff turn over
    c. Fund unavailability

g. Fiji Islands (Ms. Sanjana Lal and Mr. Binesh Dayal)

Fiji has a total 1,827,000 hectares of land mass with forest coverage of 44%. It has 4 governmental organisations, 23non-government organisations and 6 community based groups working on conservation outcomes with over FJ$13 million spent annually, Fiji is also party to 28 international agreements, conventions and treaties. For Fiji, partnership with SPRIG and GTZ projects enhanced the FGR Conservation work.

The main issues that Fiji is faced with in compiling the report are:

- The strategies are not adequately implemented due to forest ownership systems which place a unique challenge and opportunity on forest genetic conservation in Fiji.
- Clarification on which Forest type definition to use, NFI or FRA
- Lack some scientific information
- Funding to support the process of compiling the report

h. Solomon Islands (Mr. Richardson Raomae)

The main issues that Solomon Island highlighted in regards to their report was:

- Draft report is in progress, however information are still missing
- Constraints/draw backs: teak workshop, corporate plans and budget, policy translation, Minister's report that also needs to be completed

Next Steps

- January set up Task Force
- February (3 days workshop) stake holder consultation
- March- draft report formulated and circulated
- April-June- Final Report Compilation
- July- Official Submission if the deadline is not extended.



i. Tonga (Mr. Heimuli Likiafu)



The main issues that Tonga highlighted in regards to their report was:

- Not well informed of the training workshop and the reporting requirement.
- Learn from the others
- Report on the State of the forest should be available with SPC as it was presented in the last HOFS meeting.

j. Tuvalu (Mr. Itaia Lausaveve)

Similarly to Tonga's case, the country representative was here to learn from the others, information on Tuvalu forestry is also on previous reports but may need to get more detail information.



- Forest/Trees is food security to Tuvalu, e.g., Coconut & breadfruit
- Challenges; Forestry is an ad-hoc programme dealing with small projects like mangroves planting and management
- Collecting real data could be challenge, e.g., on the volumes of Coconut wood, varieties and species available
- Forestry Focal point is away in Taiwan for two years.

k. Vanuatu (Mr. Tate Hanington Tamla)

Vanuatu has been working on the report and following this meeting they will look into



- Set up of Core Group (if necessary)
- Draft TOR for consultant
- Select consultant
- Possible consultation workshop

Why workshop is important;

- A. Learn from others re- preparatory process of their country reports;
- B. Get more explanation re- the questionnaire – garbage/irrelevance out;
- C. Get information on where to get help;
- Where and how to get financial assistance.

Session Three (General Discussions)

After hearing from all the participants, the workshop facilitators responded with following comments:

- Use the template provided as the guideline

- Minimum result at the end of the workshop is to have a clear work plan on how you will compile your report, more specific planning
- Guidelines on conservation, example, forest parks – conservation of ecosystems and is different from genetic conservation
- For Data/information that are not available should be highlighted as such,
- NFP should have good overall view of the sources of information and on the second stage is to collect those information, countries are not asked to do research but to report on what is available
- Small island nations should not be discourage, forest and trees are just as important to you as to the bigger island countries



Day Two

A recap of Day One activities and outcomes was presented by Jalesi Mateboto, SPC Staff.

Session one (Technical Presentation)

Following the recap, Dr Lex Thomson presented the South Pacific Initiatives on Forest Genetics (SPRIG) Project. He focused on its implementation and impact on the management of FGR in the Pacific.



Main highlights of his presentations were:

- Project life was from 1996-2006, with Funding of US$4.5M

- Project was implemented in 2 phases
- Threats to FGR – overexploitation, land-use change & agro-deforestation, exotic invasive weeds, climate extremes and sea-level rise plus their interactions
- Conservation – community /RRR surveys, development of tree species and conservation, collaboration with SPREP, and increase awareness and capacity at all levels
- FGR now included into the SPC Regional Forestry Programme (AusAID supported)
- Contact Dr Lex (lext@spc.int), Cenon (cenonp@spc.int) or Vinesh (vineshp@spc.int) for previous reports that may not be available in the countries.

Following the presentation, Mr. Oudara commented that the presentation was very informative and a good illustration that much information is available throughout the region and is a matter of reviewing and updating the information, especially on certain species e.g. sandalwood, whitewood, etc. The region could include some case studies into the thematic studies.

Session two (Group Work)

Before the group discussion, Mr. Oudara brought up a case study for the participants to get more familiar with the format.

- Countries may use this example from the case study to suit their national programmes
- Further suggestions
    - 3 or 4 elements i.e. – National Committee
        - Working Group
        - List of Stakeholders
        - Timelines and Budget
- Funding agencies are available, e.g. Samoa has an Australian project and a GEF-PAS project and also FAO
- FAO – has the TCPF (Technical Cooperation Programme Facility) which is US$200,000 for each country.
- Experience has shown that countries do not use entirely exhaust these funds. This is available for projects such as information gathering (such as SOW-FGR) and consultancy, etc.
- On the question from Samoa on the Classification of coconut, breadfruit, bamboo, etc - Dr Oudara noted that coconut is a crop however the countries need to be realistic and propose what they want
- On the 'Outlook 2020 for the Pacific' Aru Mathias informed that countries carefully way the reporting requirements and be fully acquainted with the steps and processes involved – that it is very clear.

Session Three (Country Presentations on Proposed Action Plan and Budgets)

Following the group work, country representatives came up with their draft proposal and also estimated budget request that will be needed to complete the FGR report. Country reps also presented their proposed action plans, institutional arrangements and time frames

1. **Papua New Guinea**
    - Work to start in January and report to be submitted to FAO by mid-June 2011 costing around US$60,500 for five activities. Ownership – PNG national officers and also external consultants.
2. **Fiji Islands**
    - Start work in February with a budget of $11,000 and report to be submitted to FAO in July 2011.
3. **Marshall Islands**
    - Proposed National Committee known as the Coastal Management Advisory Council
    - Working Group – from four organisations
    - Work plans and Budget – 7 activities and budget of US$23,000 including a consultant
    - Report to be submitted to FAO in August 2011.
4. **Niue**
    - Work to start in February with a proposed budget of US$12,300. Report to be submitted to FAO in July 2011.
5. **Cook Islands**
    - Budget – US$6,300.00
    - Timelines – project had started in November 2011 and will continue until April 2011 when the report on SOW-FGR is submitted to FAO
6. **Vanuatu**
    - Budget – US$16,000
    - Implementation - January to July 2011 when the report is submitted to FAO.
7. **Kiribati**
    - Proposed work plan & budget – starts in January 2011 and finishes in November 2011 with a budget of US$11,120. Submit report to FAO in Nov or earlier.
8. **Samoa**
    - National Committee – 6 persons including Aru Mathias of FAO. Key Stakeholders – universities, international NGOs, Government, national NGOs, METI, SUNGO, WIBD, etc
    - Timeframe & activities – 9 activities

- Budget/Timeline – US$6,800 and work will start in February and report to be tabled with FAO Mid-July 2011. Note from Samoa – this is a draft only.

9. **Solomon Islands**
    - Covered most of the topics as discussed already. Stakeholders – 16 from various organisations. Timeframe – February to June 2011 for six activities
    - Budget – SBD40,500 (equivalent to US$5Ks)
    - Date of Report submission to FAO – July 2011.
10. **Tonga**
    - Work plan – Jan to July 2011
    - Budget – US$15,800.00 and report to be submitted to FAO, Rome at end July 2011.
11. **Tuvalu**
    - Draft work plan/estimate – work to start from Jan to July 20121 with a budget of AU$61,600
    - Submission to FAO Rome – expected to be done by end July 2011.

Session Four (Review and Comments on Country Proposals)

- Additional chapter on conclusions
- Integrate support in the framework of the Technical Cooperation Programme Facility (TCPF)
- National committees and working groups are proposed for all the countries in the world, use the most efficient arrangement in your country, national committee is at very high level, the working group is there to do the work, re-look at the proposal of including Directors at the Working Committee
- Reporting in Genetic Resources
- Extension of deadline, FAO is not in a position to confirm it now, it has to go through a committee, but would not refuse any report, even if it is submitted in 2012
- Objective is for you to plan according to your own situation and experience
- Good to see you putting in the effort to work on your proposal
- Kiribati would like to try to meet the deadline, July 2011
- Vanuatu will rely heavily on the submission to FAO for funding assistance, there is none. How fast can we get the funding from FAO so that work plan could be adjusted accordingly? – should have an indication by the end of the month
- Is it essential to have the national committee and working group? Most of the time the FP does most of the work; Guidelines are Guidelines and are not compulsory. Good to

have high powered committees as they will approve budget and allocate staff for reporting purposes

- Standing practice in Tuvalu is having that high level committee and they select the working group
- Solomon Islands collaborative efforts with EU and WWF? EU – Capacity building, training on SFM, translation of manuals, WWF currently working with communities, opportunity to work together in programmes that are of national interest
- Samoa GEF-PAS project, much information will be collected; ecosystem surveys, botanical surveys etc, 5 incoming projects with different areas to work on but will be complementing each other. Would be good to link up with Conservation International on the work they are doing.



Day three

Day three begun with the recap from Day 2 presented by Ms. Bale Wilikibau, SPC Staff.

Session one (Technical Presentation)

Mr Aru Mathias of FAO Sub-regional Office in the Pacific, made a presentation on the assistance FAO can provide to support the preparation of the country reports. Mr Mathias started with presentation on the various components of FAO's interest. FAO looks into Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Livestock.



- What does FAO does?
    - Provides Development Assistance
    - Provide Information
    - Provide Advice to Governments
    - Provide a Neutral Forum
    - Strengthen Institutions
    - Capacity Building
- FAO assistance & budget lines
    - Regular programme (RP) – regional officers like Aru Mathias have this allocation for workshops, consultants etc. small pool of fund for quick technical
    - Technical Co-operation Programme (TCP) – TCPf
    - Telefood Projects – Max for 10 – 15 000, for famers in food production and income generation
    - Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood Programmers (FSSLP) – Not only FAO money but from other donors as well, talk to you FAO national corresponded, umbrella programme
- TCP – USD$500 000.00, www.fao.org/tc/tcp/index_en.asp
    - Nature and purpose; small grants from FAO;s own budget
    - Funds available about US 105 million with 150 user countries (2008-2009
    - Access to FAO technical capacities
    - Direct response to country and regional needs for technical and emergency assistance
- TCPF – US$200 000.00 per country sub region or region biannually
    - Aims- rapidly solve a specific technical problem for which expertise may not be immediately available within government services
    - Formulate project proposals
    - Prepare background documents, or carry out small sector and sub sector related studies or assessments as required by government
    - Resources allocated under a TCPF in a given biennium can be carried over for expenditure in the following biennium in order to complete activities foreseen.
    - The FAO Rep / SRR assumes full responsibility for the operation of the TCPF through all stages

    - TCPF can be used for; national consultants (honorarium, DSA and in country travel), partnership consultant, international consultant
    - TCP Criteria – established by FAO governing bodies to regulate
    - Eligibility – support FAO strategic framework, national or regional priority, fills critical capacity, technical or knowledge gap, sustainable outcomes.
- How to apply –
    - Check issue that fits criteria
    - Ensure it is government priority
    - Send brief concept note to SAP for review/advise
    - If all in order – a government priority confirm
    - Send a formal request through official contact point (most PICs – MFA)
    - SAP will acknowledge receipt (SAP – MDT will review and advise for SRR endorsement
    - If ok with SAP, prepare proposal with country
    - Once finalized, submissions send to SAP including RAP/HQ for approval
- The aims of the technical assistance provided under the TCPF are to:
    - Rapidly solve a specific technical problem for which the expertise may not be immediately available within government services;
    - Formulate project proposals or documents in the areas of FAO's Mandate, required for submission to potential funding sources, including to the TCP;
    - Prepare background documents, or carry out small sector- and subsector-related studies or assessments as required by the government, including facilitating field programme development and participation in related UN processes.
    - The TCPF is not meant to fund bridging activities between projects or to implement activities foreseen under other TCP projects but not completed.
- TCP Criteria – what to look out for:-
    - Eligibility
    - Support FAO Strategic Framework
    - National or regional priority
    - Fills critical capacity, technical or knowledge gap
    - Sustainable outcomes - Acts as catalyst
    - Government commitment
    - Small scale and short duration
    - Capacity building
    - Gender sensitivity
    - Partnership and participation
- How to Apply for funds
    - Check issue that fits TCP criteria;
    - Ensure it is a Government priority (e.g. in NFP, NMTPF, FSSLP document)
    - Send brief concept note to SAP for review/advise;
    - IF all in order – a Government priority confirm
    - Send a formal request through official contact point (most PICs - MFA)

- SAP will acknowledge receipt (SAP-MDT will review and advise for SRR endorsement)
- IF okay, SAP work with country to prepare proposal
- Once finalized, Submissions send to SAP including to RAP/HQ for approval

- Inputs allowed under the TCPF
  - The TCPF can be used to provide the following inputs or services:
  - National consultants (honorarium, DSA and in-country travel);
  - Partnership consultants (TCDC/TCCT and retired experts) (honorarium, DSA, international and in-country travel);
  - International consultants (honorarium, DSA, international and in-country travel). In the interest of cost-efficiency, this type of consultant should be used only if no partnership consultant can be identified;
  - Technical Support Services (TSS) from decentralized offices or HQ (staff cost at established rates for TCP projects, DSA, international and in-country travel);
  - Contracts including LOAs with non-profit institutions, universities, civil society or non-governmental organizations, related to the provision of technical or advisory services;
- In-country training and workshops, including unavoidable costs related to transport and accommodation of participants. Training and workshops can only be funded if they are closely related to other activities implemented under the component[1].
- sub regional and regional training and workshops can be funded in the context of sub regional or regional TCPF projects, although attention is drawn to the cost of such events[2];
- GOE to cover communications, printing, renting of vehicles related to project implementation, etc. (the GOE should not exceed 5 percent of the total budget of the component [without the PSC]);
- Inclusion of PSC at the established rate (currently 7 percent) is mandatory.

The TCPF cannot be used to cover:

- *the establishment of posts;*
- *travel allowances for government staff (except for participation in workshops and training events as described above);*
- *study tours or other international travel except as indicated above;*
- *the procurement of expendable or non-expendable equipment and supplies;*

[1] The TCPF cannot be used for funding costs related to workshops, training events or any other meetings that are not organized by FAO in the specific context of the TCPF project.
[2] Idem



Session Two (General Discussions)

Tuvalu

Proposals are normally priorities of government, how long does it take to process an application?

FAO's response: TCPF is very fast as approval is done in Samoa, only 3 page templates, 2 months at the most, but sometimes it took longer when government is slow with their consultation

SPC's comment – Sairusi Bulai

Important point raised is that Funding covered agriculture, fisheries and forests, important for other sectors to work together, it's a good process to consult with other sectors, and while it's important for us to push for our issues it's important to consult other sectors

Kiribati

Clarification on the distribution of funds for each country?

FAO's response: Any sector (Forestry, Fisheries or Agriculture) can apply for this $200 000.

Vanuatu

Comment; country report is a priority, Vanuatu need assistance as they don't want to produce a desk top report. Decision on whether the proposal will be on a national or regional level?

SPC's comment - Cenon

SPC needs to have the decision made ASAP, regional or national proposal?

FAO's response: Will talk to SPC/FAO colleagues to discuss how best we can address this. But you need to get endorsement from your countries. Regional approach on this will be more acceptable.

Tuvalu

FSSLP – cannot guarantee it will be funding this project as proposal will submitted by April, support regional proposal but need to be aware that budgets are just draft only….

Tonga

Representative from Tonga suggest if criteria could be amended to include the safe guarding or protection of trees, there should be some mentioning of sustainable practice in the agreement or condition of approval.

PNG

They never knew any FAO rep exist in PNG. Can they submit through their country rep?

FAO's response: National Forest Correspondence – agreement with the government, could apply through NFC or directly to the Apia office. We should go on a regional TCPf proposal. Get endorsement from Forestry heads send to FAO or SPC to write to FAO or chair of the HOFs to send request to FAO via SPC

FOA - Mr Oudara

A regional TCPf would be viable and effective, needs a formal arrangement with FAO/SPC and countries. Also this gives an opportunity to rope in other agencies within the countries for a more collaborative approach. It is very important the schedule is drawn up and deadline is adhered in order for the final proposal to be considered.

SPC - Sairusi

It's already part of the HOFs recommendation. Please work on the proposal, tend to show a lot of commitment in the meetings, but hardly do any follow up work on their return

Fiji Islands

Fiji proposes for all countries to submit budgets to SPC by next week end

Tuvalu

Countries that could not make it to the workshop to be consulted and informed of the outcomes, SPC to keep in contact with the participants and send out reminders on urgent issues.

Cook Islands

Like Marshall Island, Cook Island too has 1 man section, currently writing a chapter on a forestry book and now with the SOW-FGR, with funding support, he would be allowed to finish both write ups before continuing with agriculture activities.

FAO – Aru Mathias

FAO will convene a meeting with SPC on the development of procedure for the draft country report

Workshop Outcomes and Conclusions

A general discussion on the outcome and conclusion of the workshop followed with the representatives of the 11 countries unanimously agreed on the set of outcomes that need to be followed for the completion of the report.

The following were the outcomes and conclusions from the workshop:

1. The participants agreed that the preparatory process is a strategic planning exercise and the report itself can be a tool for the better assessment and sustainable management of forest genetic resources at the national level and will contribute to regional and global assessment.

2. That the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report shall be a country-driven process and the "FAO guidelines for the preparation of the country reports" shall serve as reference.

- The country report should use available information that reflects the real situation and needs in the country. Each country should include in the report plant species that are considered important for the country's forestry sector and population.
- A variety of stakeholder organizations would need to provide information on forest genetic resources in each country. It will be very important for the focal points to bring stakeholders together at an early stage to ensure their involvement.
- A concluding chapter should be added to recapitulate the main findings, needs and priorities for action in forest genetic resources conservation, improvement and sustainable use in the country.

3. The institutional steps for preparation of the country report recommended in the guidelines will be followed; they can adopt their own country experience. Likewise, the establishment of national committees and working groups to facilitate the preparation of the country report, should be considered based on existing governmental structure in each country. Countries need to work in collaboration with their development partners and stakeholders, and should seek their support in the preparation of the country report.

4. There is considerable information available in the region on FGR, as a result of several regional initiatives and projects such as SPRIG, and is a matter of reviewing and updating the information, especially on certain priority species identified under the regional action plan. [The region could include some case studies on these species into the thematic studies.]

5. Participants agreed to take a regional approach and prepare a proposal to submit to FAO. Main steps are:

- National governments to support the finalization and endorsement of the work plan and budget for the preparation of FGR country report by end of January, 2011. The endorsed work plan and budgets are to be submitted to SPC.

- SPC to facilitate the submission of the regional proposal to FAO by mid February, 2011.

Closing Ceremony

.Mr Oudara of FAO thanked the participants for their active participation in the workshop and wished them success in their preparation of the country reports. He also reminded of the limited time left in submitting the country reports which is July.

On behalf of the participants, Mr. Karness Kusto of Marshall Islands thanked FAO and SPC for organizing the workshop. He also pledged that they will do their utmost to have the country reports ready by the submission deadline.

Mr Sairusi Bulai of LRD SPC officially closed the workshop. In his closing remarks, he acknowledged the support of FAO and CBD. He also thanked the country representatives for their tireless effort in making headway on the draft country report.

Annex 1 – List of Participants

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Annex 2 – Workshop Programme

Date	Time	ACTIVITIES	Responsible
DAY 1 **Wednesday, 19 January**	**08:00 – 09:00**	**Registration**	Organisers
	09:00 – 10:00	Opening Ceremony • Devotion • Welcome Address from SPC • Welcome Address from FAO • Statement from the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity • Keynote Address • Introduction of participants, Workshop Programme and Housekeeping	Rev. Laisiasa Tora, Assemblies of God Church, Lautoka Mr. Cenon Padolina, LRD SPC Mr. Oudara Souvannavong, FAO (Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf) Mr. Inoke Wainiqolo, Conservator of Forests, Fiji Islands. Mr. Cenon Padolina, LRD SPC
	10:00 – 10:30	**Group Photo, Coffee/Tea Break**	
	10:30 – 12:30	**Session 1. Technical Presentations** • Regional FGR Strategies and Action Plan in the Pacific • Update on SOW FGR Preparation Process including preparation of country reports and thematic studies, workshop objectives and programme, clarifications.	Mr. Cenon Padolina, LRD SPC Mr. Oudara Souvannavong, FAO
	12:30 – 13:30	**Lunch**	
	13:30 – 15:30	**Session 2. Presentation of progress in preparation of Country Reports** • Cook Islands (*Mr. Nooroa Tokari*) • Kiribati (*Ms. Teaaro Kaaro*) • Marshall Islands (*Mr. Karness Kusto*) • Niue (*Mr. Brandon Tuasi*) • Papua New Guinea (Dr. Simon Saluei)	Mr Cenon Padolina, LRD SPC, Workshop Facilitator
	15:30 – 16:00	**Coffee/Tea Break**	
	16:00 – 17:30 **17:30**	**Session 2. Presentation of Draft Country Reports:** • Samoa (*Mr. Tolusina Pouli*) • Fiji Islands (*Ms. Sanjana Lal*) • Solomon Is. (*Mr. Richardson Raomae*) • Tonga (*Mr. Heimuli Likiafu*) • Tuvalu (*Mr. Itaia Lausaveve*) • Vanuatu (*Mr. Hannington Tate*) **Session 3. Plenary Discussions on the preparation of country reports** **End of Day 1**	Mr Cenon Padolina, LRD SPC, Workshop Facilitator Mr. Oudara Souvannavong, FAO , Workshop Facilitator

DAY 2 Thursday, 20 January	**08:30 – 08:45**	Review of Activities on Wednesday 19 January Outline of Programme for the Day	Mr Jalesi Mateboto, Rapporteur
	08:45 – 09:10 **09:10- 10:30**	**Session 1 (Technical Presentation)** • The South Pacific Regional Initiatives on Forest Genetics (SPRIG) Project: its implementation and impact on the management of FGR in the Pacific **Session 2. Group Work: Preparation of Country Action Plan and Budgets**	Dr. Lex Thomson, LRD SPC Workshop Facilitators (FAO and SPC)
	10:30 – 11:00	**Coffee/Tea Break**	
	10:30 – 12:30	**Session 2. Group Work: Preparation of Country Action Plan and Budget**	Workshop Facilitators (FAO and SPC)
	12:30 – 13:30	**Lunch Break**	
	13:30 – 15:00	**Session 3. (Country Presentation on Proposed Action Plan and Budgets)**	Workshop Facilitators (FAO and SPC)
	15:00 – 15:30	**Coffee/Tea Break**	
	15:30 – 17:10	**Session 4. Review and Comments on Country Proposals**	Workshop Facilitators (FAO and SPC)
	17:10	**End of Day 2**	

DAY 3 Friday, 21 January	**08:30 – 08:45**	Review of Activities on Thursday, 20 January. Outline of Programme for the Day	Ms Bale Wilikibau - Rapporteur Workshop Facilitators
	08:45 – 10:15	**Session 1. Technical Presentation** • FAO Sub-Regional Office Assistance to the Preparation of the Country Reports **Session 2. General Discussions** • Next Steps/ Follow-up Actions on the Preparation of the Country Reports	Mr. Aru Mathias, FAO Sub-Regional Office Workshop Facilitators
	10:15 – 10:30	**Coffee/Tea Break**	
	10:30 – 12:45	• Final discussions and Outcomes and Conclusions of the Workshop • Evaluation of the Workshop • Closing Remarks	Workshop Facilitators : SPC Staff Mr Oudara Souvanavong, Mr Karness Kusto, RMI, Mr Sairusi Bulai, SPC
		End of the Workshop	

Annex 3.

Statement of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Ladies and Gentlemen,
I would like to convey my warm greetings to everyone gathered in Nadi, Fiji Islands, for the regional training workshop to support the preparation of the report on the *State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*.

The workshop comes at a critical time when the world's forests are facing immense pressures and challenges.

Key findings from the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 show that while deforestation has slowed somewhat in recent years as compared to the 1990s, it is still alarmingly high.

Continued deforestation has resulted in carbon emissions, shortages in water and food supply, and in an unprecedented loss of forest biodiversity and genetic resources.

Yet, the world is not standing idly by. Governments, international organisations, and forest stakeholder groups are taking action to find ways of conserving and sustainably managing forests and their genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

One such effort is the preparation of the report on the *State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* which will be the most comprehensive effort undertaken to date to map the genetic diversity of trees and other forest resources.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as you are aware, the diversity of forest genetic resources is of vital interest to us all. Conserving this diversity is an essential challenge as forest genetic resources are the basis for the capacity in forests to adapt to environmental change.

Yet, despite our vital interest in the conservation and sustainable use of these resources, we have been slow to inventory and understand them.

The Convention on Biological Diversity recognizes the need to do more in this regard and is fully supportive of increased scientific investigation.

This is why the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its tenth meeting, held in Nagoya, Japan, in 2010, explicitly *recognized* the importance of forest genetic diversity for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, including in the context of addressing climate change and maintaining the resilience of forest ecosystems.

In decision X/36, the Conference of the Parties *welcomed* the preparation by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization of the report on *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties *invited* Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to support the preparation of the report, and *requested* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with FAO in the preparation, including by participating in relevant sessions of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources.

Last, but not least, forest genetic resources also play a fundamental role in scientific research and in the development of commercial products in a variety of sectors, including pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and seed and crop industries.

Identifying useful properties of forest genetic resources – often following leads from the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities – has helped scientists to better understand biodiversity and can enable industries to develop new products for the benefit of humankind.

In this context, the Conference of the Parties adopted the new *Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization*.

The Protocol regulates the relationship between providers and users of genetic resources, including forest genetic resources, within and across scientific and economic sectors.

As we move into the future, this historic agreement may greatly affect the future use of forest genetic resources; ensure the sharing of benefits arising from their utilization with biodiversity-rich developing countries through technology transfer, research results, training and profits.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I regret that I am unable to be with you but I look forward to learning about the dialogue and ideas that emerge from this workshop.

The 2010 International Year of Biodiversity was a resounding success – it is now time to translate our achievements into an equally successful 2011 International Year of Forests. I thank you for your kind attention and wish you a fruitful meeting.

Annex 4.

Opening Address of the Conservator and Head of Forestry Department of Fiji

It is a great honour for me to be here today and to address you in this very important training workshop, marking the starting of another year of collaboration and achievement for us in the Pacific and between our Stakeholders and our Development partners.

To some of you in the region, attending meetings and workshops in Nadi is something that you do often as part of your work, thus some of your faces are familiar to me with a number of new ones as well.

But first, let me take this opportunity to thank the organizers of this training workshop: CBD; FAO; SPC; for the timely implementation on this very important component of the reporting process to the *"State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources"*.

Dear participants, it has been known for centuries that forests are factories that provide countless economic, ecosystems, and social services.

These services include the provision of: fibre; timber; water catchment protection; water production for agriculture; non-wood forest products; fuel wood; and social recreation.

Trees and Forests is amongst the few things that holds the key to our survival and also the survival of various other forms of life.

Forests have been providing an enormous amount of environmental, social and economic benefits since the beginning of time.

It provides the basis for socio-economic development, and provides the environment for the development of agriculture in rural areas through the provision of fertile land and water for the natural irrigation of vast areas of land.

Forests are a key component of our natural environment and play a central role in our national development and economic growth.

Lately, it has been increasingly recognized that the bulk of terrestrial genetic biodiversity are located in the forest. Knowing that genetic resources constitute the wealth of a country, our forests therefore plays a vital role in protecting the bulk of this national wealth.

But, the multiple roles of trees and forests at the national context is rapidly changing from that which is mainly on wood production to that which is much broader and encompassing to include: social; environmental; economic; and cultural dimensions, and the old "forest tangible and intangible benefits" now has a new name "forest goods and services".

The interests of forest stakeholders have also changed significantly and at the same time their range of interests have expanded and diversified.

Forest stakeholder now ranges from: simple land owners; forest dependent rural communities; to complex and sophisticated bio-prospectors, and a host of many others in between. Our perception on the role of forests will continue to change with more and more items added on to the already long list.

The new demand does not replace the old, but an additional to the already long list.

With those in mind, conserving forest genetic resources is vital, as it is the basis of evolution and the catalyst for species to adaptation to long term environmental changes.

When genetic variation is lost through destruction of habitat or through some intensive breeding, successive generation will be less adaptive to adverse environmental conditions.

As emphasized by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGFRA), protecting forest genetic resources is vital for food security, poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability.

The conservation and sustainable use of Forest Genetic Resources through Sustainable Forest Management is therefore vital.

A vital ingredient in the protection of forest biodiversity is information, we need to have very good information in order to identify forest genetic priority areas and take action accordingly.

In the past, the concern of the forest sector used to be on ensuring that there is always a sustained flow of timber from the forest for national development and the Trees in the forests are managed as such.

But now the key word is "sustainable development", Sustainable development of forests is now much broader and includes an integrated approach to forest management, maintaining forest genetic resources and the integrity of the forest ecosystems, and keeping future development options open.

Trees and Forests are a renewable resource, and with all the information that we know regarding the importance of our forests in protecting genetic resources, our forests continue to decline and significantly degraded over the years.

This is an indication on the degree of pressure exerted on our forests due to various reasons one of which is population increase, resulting in increased demands on forested land for growing food to settlements, and construction of infrastructure such as roads, water dams, and so forth.

On the other hand, it can be an indication that we have been taking our forests for granted leading to serious environmental challenges.

Forest therefore is not only the provider of products and services and aiding economic development but also holds great unexplored potential for example, in areas such medicine.

When forests are protected, we are not only ensuring the protection of national biodiversity but also ensuring the sustainability of all other products and services that are provided by forests.

A decline in forest area or increase in degraded forest areas poses a great threat to forest biodiversity as forest biodiversity is also related to such forest parameters.

I look forward to a productive three days ahead of you in which you are going to deliberate on the processes and activities that you are going to carry out in order to compile your country on the status of Forest Genetic Resources in your various countries.

With those words, I wish to declare this training workshop open.

Thank you!

Annex 5.

SPC teams up with FAO to organise forest genetic resources training workshop

Wednesday 12th, 2011, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Suva, Fiji Islands

The Land Resources Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), will organise a regional training workshop to support the preparation of contributions from Pacific countries to the

State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report.

This workshop is being organised in direct response to recommendation 6 ii of the 2009 Pacific Heads of Forestry Meeting: 'that PICTs contribute and participate in the process of developing the "State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report" to be presented to the fourteenth session of the FAO [Food and Agriculture Organization] Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in 2013'.

The workshop will be held at the Tanoa International Hotel in Nadi, Fiji Islands from 19 to 21 January 2011 and 20 participants from 13 countries are expected to attend the three-day meeting.

According to Mr Cenon Padolina, SPC's Regional Forest Genetic Resources Officer, genetic resources, including forest genetic resources, are among the most valuable assets that a country possesses.

He added that, throughout the Pacific Islands, especially in the Melanesian countries, there is a need to improve forest genetic resources management to ensure a more sustainable use of these resources.

'Reforestation and tree planting programmes, using both indigenous and commercially valuable introduced tree species, need to be further encouraged and developed in the Pacific Islands,' he said.

The regional action plan developed at SPC — Forest and Tree Genetic Resource Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use in Pacific Island Countries and Territories [PICTs]: Priorities, Strategies and Actions, 2007–2015 — was formally endorsed by Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services and Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry at their combined regional meeting held in Apia, Samoa in September 2008.

The plan presently serves as a framework for planning and implementing the conservation, management and sustainable use of forest and tree genetic resources in the Pacific region.

'One of the major recommendations in the plan is the establishment of a regional tree seed centre.

This is now being undertaken by SPC in order to facilitate the exchange of tree germplasm among PICTs,' Mr Padolina said.

Mr Padolina added that the main objectives of the training workshop are:

- *to support Pacific Island countries' national focal points on forest genetic resources (FGR) in the preparation of their respective country reports for* the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report*;*

- *to provide the opportunity for participants to discuss and exchange information on the importance of FGR and their current programmes on their conservation, management and use.*

The idea of compiling this world report began in June 2007, at FAO's meeting of its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA).

The meeting acknowledged the urgency to conserve and sustainably utilise forest genetic resources and requested that a *State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report* be prepared and presented to the Commission in 2013.

Two years later, at its March 2009 session, the FAO Committee on Forestry continued to discuss and support the preparation of the *State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report*, and urged member countries to collaborate with FAO and partner organisations to produce it.

It is envisaged that the report will be prepared through a country-driven approach: country reports and thematic studies with primary sources of data and information.

Annex 6.

Conserving forest genetic resources is imperative in the face of environmental change

Thursday 20th, 2011, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Suva, Fiji Islands

Forests play a multiple role; they are factories that produce fibre, timber and non-wood forest products; they provide water-catchment protection; they produce water for agriculture; and they are places for social recreation.

This comment was made by Mr Inoke Wainiqolo, Fiji's Conservator of Forests and Head of the Department of Forestry when he officially opened the regional training workshop held in Nadi from 19 to 21 January 2011 to support the preparation of the Pacific contribution to the *State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report*.

'Trees and forests are among the few things that hold the key to our survival and the survival of many other forms of life, and therefore it is fitting that their multiple roles are recognised.'

'The bulk of terrestrial genetic biodiversity is located in forests and knowing that genetic resources constitute the wealth of a country, our forests play a vital role in protecting this wealth,' Mr Wainiqolo said.

He also highlighted the fact that the role of trees and forests is rapidly changing from that of mainly providers of timber to a much broader role, with social, environmental, economic and cultural dimensions.

'With this in mind, conserving forest genetic resources is vital as it is the basis of evolution and the catalyst for species adaptation to long-term environmental change.

When genetic variations are lost through forest degradation or intensive breeding, successive generations will be less adaptative to adverse environmental conditions.'

'Forests not only protect natural biodiversity but also the sustainability of all other products and services that are provided by them.

Forests for People is the theme of the UN International Year of Forests that is being celebrated in 2011, but this can only be realised if biodiversity is protected,' he added.

While unable to attend the workshop in person, Mr Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), sent a statement that was read out to the meeting, in which he stated that key findings from the Global Forest Resources Assessment (2010) show that, while deforestation has slowed in recent years compared to the 1990s, it is still high.

This has resulted in increased carbon emissions, shortages in water and food supplies, and an unprecedented loss of forest biodiversity and genetic resources.

He stressed that the Pacific regional workshop comes at a critical time when the world's forests are facing immense pressures and challenges.

'However, the world is not sitting idle. Governments, international organisations, and forest stakeholder groups are taking action to find ways of conserving and sustainably managing forests and their genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations,' Mr Djoghlaf stated.

One such effort is the preparation of the *State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report* which will be the most comprehensive effort undertaken to date to map the genetic diversity of trees and other forest resources.

'Despite our vital interest in the conservation and sustainable use of these resources, we have been slow to inventory and understand them and the Convention on Biological Diversity recognises the need to do more in this regard and is fully supportive of increased scientific investigation.'

This is why, he added, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its tenth meeting held in Nagoya, Japan, in 2010, explicitly recognised the importance of forest genetic diversity for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity in the context of addressing climate change and maintaining the resilience of forest ecosystems.

'The Conference of the Parties welcomed the preparation by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report*,' Mr Djoghlaf stated.

Further, Mr Djoghlaf mentioned that forest genetic resources play a fundamental role in scientific research and in the development of commercial products in a variety of sectors, including pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and seed and crop industries.

'Therefore, identifying useful properties of forest genetic resources — often following leads from the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities — has helped scientists to better understand biodiversity and can enable industries to develop new products for the benefit of humankind.'

Twenty participants from 13 countries are attending the three-day meeting which is being organised by the Land Resources Division (LRD) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in collaboration with the FAO and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Annex 7. Acronyms

AusAID - Australian Aid for International Development

CBD - Convention on Biological Diversity

CePACT -Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees

FAO -Food and Agriculture Organisation

FMP -Forest Management Plan

FSSLP -Food Security & Sustainable Livelihood Programme

LRD -Land Resources Division

NFP -National Focal Point

SFM – Sustainable Forest Management

SPRIG –South Pacific Regional Initiative on Forest Genetic Resource

SOW FGR – State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources

SPC -Secretariat of the Pacific community

SWARS -State-Wide Assessment and Resource Strategy

TCPf -Technical Co-operation Programme facility