



Pacific
Community
Communauté
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SPC/APFNet Project on “Capacity Building Towards Effective Implementation of Sustainable Forest Management Practices in Fiji, Tonga and Niue”

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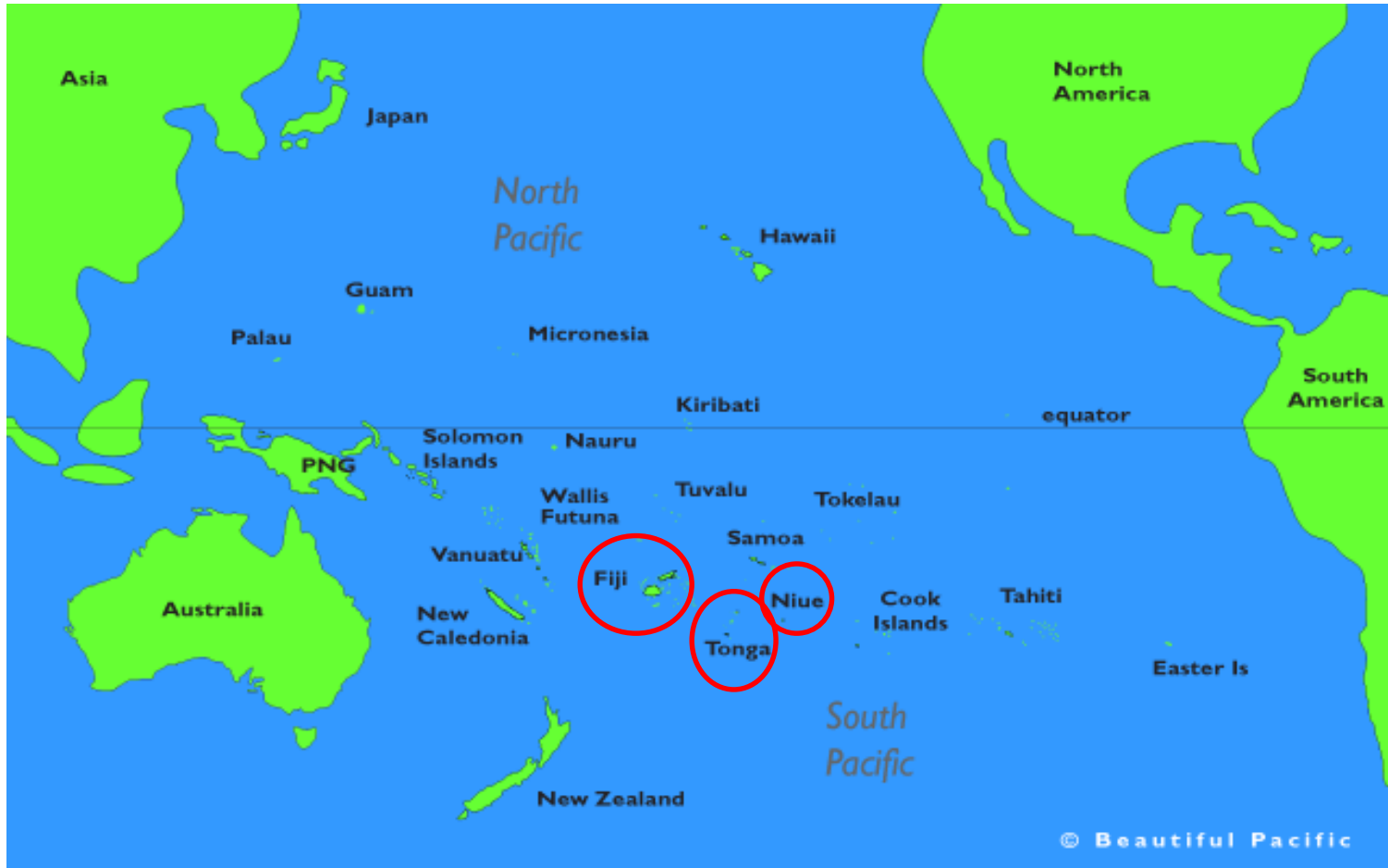




About the Pacific Community (SPC)

- **The Pacific Community is an international organisation established by treaty (the Canberra Agreement) in 1947.**
- **Owned and governed by its 26 members including 22 Pacific island countries and territories along with Australia, France, New Zealand and USA.**
- **It is the principal scientific and technical organisation supporting development in the Pacific region.**
- **More information on our website: www.spc.int**

The Pacific





Project Background

- **Forests and trees play important roles in the well-being of Pacific island communities**
- **Sustainable management of the resource is an issue, especially in the face of climate change**
- **Pacific island countries with the help of SPC and other partners are implementing measures towards improved capacities for the better management of their forest and tree resources**
- **Project countries of Fiji, Niue and Tonga have formulated forest policies, codes of forestry and forest harvesting and forest management plan – many of the important components of SFM are in place**
- **Effective implementation, enforcement and monitoring is a major challenge**

Project Goal and Objectives

Goal is for Fiji, Tonga and Niue to have enhanced capacity for sustainable forest management.

Objectives are to develop -

- a national forest management plan (FMP) for Tonga and to complete the national FMP for Niue
- strategies and mechanisms for effective implementation of the FMPs and codes of forest practices in Tonga, Fiji and Niue
- mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the FMPs and codes of forest practices in Tonga, Fiji and Niue.



Project Activities

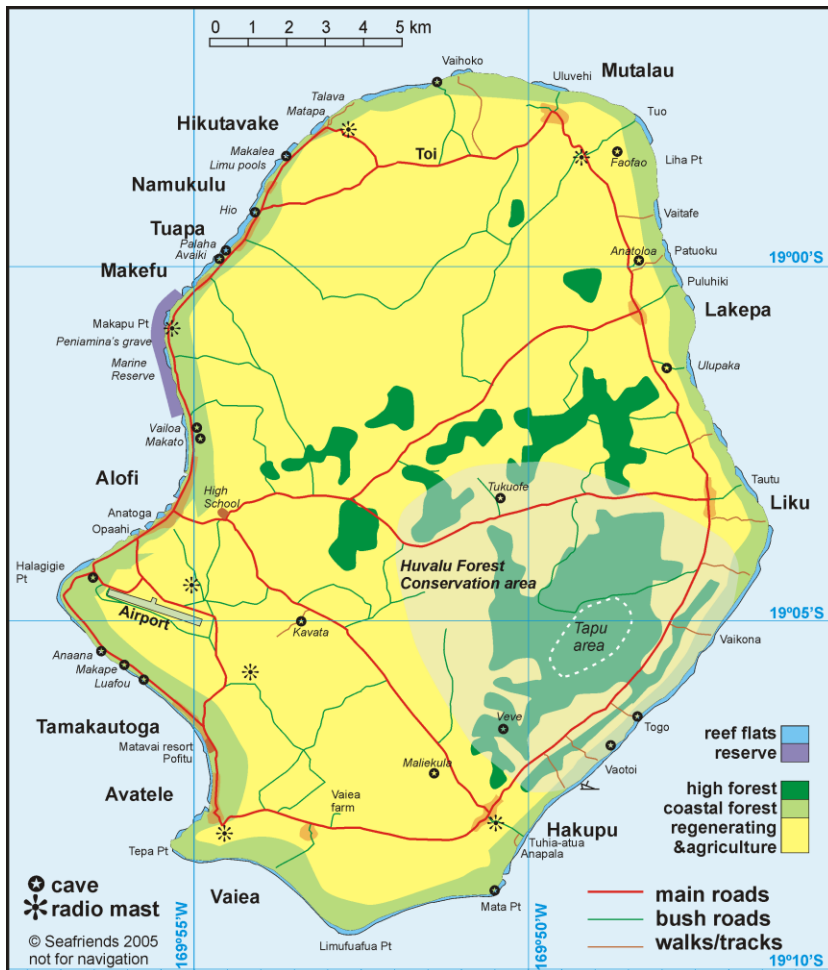
- **Key activities are to develop regulatory frameworks for each economy that are effective, practical and transparent.**
- **Emphasis on capacity building to sustain the outcomes into the future through the production of systematic, documented procedures and training packages, including a focus on establishing an ongoing capacity for on-the-job training through train-the-trainer programs.**

Project Strategy

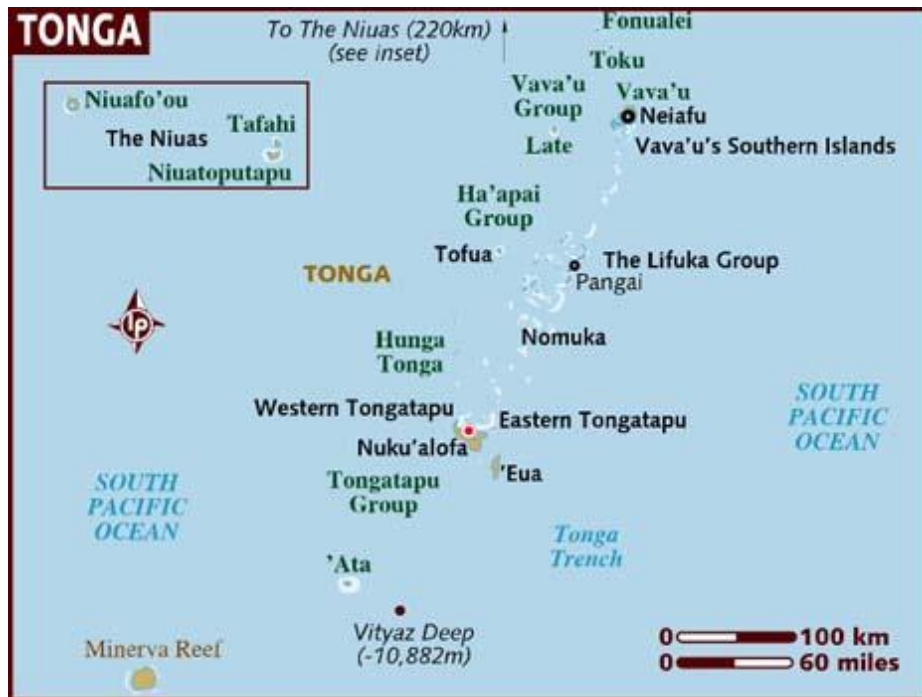
- **Reviewing the current status of regulatory mechanisms and addressing the key gaps and areas for potential improvements**
- **Use of local and international expertise to work collaboratively with governmental entities, landowners, forest industry bodies and other stakeholders to foster a partnership approach to improved forest management.**



- Comprises of more than 332 islands with a total land area of 18,300 km²
- Forest cover of almost 1.1 million hectare, about 56% of the total land mass
- Almost 90% of the land is communally owned by customary groups
- In 2015 the forestry sector contributed around 0.7% to GDP
- Assisted Fiji in the formulation of their 2007 forest policy and a revision of their forest harvesting code of practice
- APFNet support – implementation strategy for code, and mechanisms for monitoring



- Land area is 260 km² with population around 1,400
- Self-governing state in free association with New Zealand
- Area of native forest is about 19,000 hectares, approximately 70% of the land area
- Assisted Niue in formulating their forest policy, logging code and forest management plan
- APFNet support – finalisation of FMP, development of strategies for implementation and monitoring mechanisms



- Kingdom of Tonga, comprising 176 islands with a total area of about 750 km²
- 85% of Tonga's land mass is covered in trees but most of this cover does not meet the FAO's definition of 'forest' as **the land is** primarily used for agriculture under the traditional system of agro forestry
- Assisted Tonga in their forest policy, national code of forestry, code of logging for 'Eua and sandalwood regulations
- APFNet support – development of FMP, strategies for implementation of codes and FMP and monitoring mechanisms



Progress to Date

- Nadi, Fiji, 15 – 16th June 2015
- 15 participants from APFNet, SPC, Chinese Embassy in China, the workshop consultant, and two project countries -the Department of Forestry Fiji and the Division of Forestry Tonga.
- The Project's planned outputs and activities were reviewed and agreed.
- The Project Agreement was signed.



National Inception Workshops

- **Niue 21 September 2015; 26 participants**
- **Fiji 25 September 2015; attended by 24 participants**
- **Tonga 26-28 October 2015 – one workshop in each of three main island groups – Tongatapu, ‘Eua and Vava’u ; attended by 66 participants**



Consultation Workshop on National Forest Management Plan for Tonga

- **18-28 April 2016 – held in Vava’u, ‘Eua and Tongatapu; attended by 70 participants.**
- **12 – 22 Sept 2016 Consultation with Stakeholders (56 participants) and Training for Forestry Officers (12 trainees) on the draft Management Plan for the Forests and Tree Resources of Tonga and the Sandalwood Regulations.**



Key findings for Tonga

The forest values of highest importance across Tonga are-

- **carbon/climate change**
- **biodiversity,**
- **non-timber forest products (NTFPs)**
- **catchment protection**
- **shade and shelter for crops.**

Key findings for Tonga

The main threats to the sustainable management of the forests and tree resources were identified as-

- **lack of forestry inventory data**
- **unsustainable clearing for agriculture**
- **unsustainable cutting of sandalwood**
- **lack of appreciation regarding the values of forest and trees**

Three options to strengthen the regulatory framework were identified and of these, an enhanced co-regulatory approach was accepted as the most appropriate regime for Tonga.



Consultations for the implementation of the forest management plan for Niue



- 28 Nov – 2 Dec 2016 in Alofi with 21 participants



Key findings for Niue



- Lack of awareness on sustainable forest management
- There is a need to rehabilitate secondary forest that is not likely to be used for ongoing agriculture
- The forestry department has significant staffing constraints
- There is considerable interest in growing sandalwood
- Traditional knowledge about the attributes and use of the forest is not being handed down to younger generations

Consultations for the Regulatory frameworks for Fiji

- 6 – 17 March 2017 held in Lautoka (Western Division), Labasa (Northern Division), Nausori (Central/Eastern Division) with 73 participants attending





Key findings for Fiji



- The regulatory framework needs to cover a diversity of forests, including pine, mahogany and biomass plantations, native forests, and woodlots/agroforestry plantings of species such as sandalwood.
- priorities for improvement of the regulatory framework identified were-
 - Training and accreditation of operators and monitoring officers
 - Implement the Diameter Limit Table (DLT)
 - Develop separate codes of practice for plantations, woodlots and sandalwood
 - devolve regulatory responsibilities to the industry
 - Ensure that the legislation provides a range of enforcement options
 - Introduce regulations for sandalwood.
 - Planning and management provisions for the conservation of biodiversity
- Low impact logging has been done successfully in Fiji (Drawa & Nakavu projects)
- Level of compliance still needs improvement



1. Workshop reports



1. **Report on the Inception Workshop and First Steering Committee Meeting, Tanoa Skylodge Hotel, Nadi, Fiji, 15 – 16th June 2015**
2. **Report on the National Inception Workshops for Niue, 21 September, 2015**
3. **Report on the National Inception Workshops for Fiji, 25 September, 2015**
4. **Report on the National Inception Workshops for Tonga, 26-28 October, 2015**
5. **Report on the Consultations for the Formulation of a Management Plan for the Forests and Tree Resources of Tonga, 18-29 April, 2016**
6. **Report on the Consultations with stakeholders and training for Forestry Officers on the draft MP for F&T resources of Tonga and the Sandalwood regulation, September 2016**
7. **Report on the Consultations for the implementation of the FMP for Niue, Dec 2016**
8. **Report on the Consultations for the regulatory frameworks in Fiji (March 2017)**

2. Project reports

- 1. Report T1 - Background report for the formulation of a management plan for the forest and tree resources of Tonga. (*January 2016*)**
- 2. Report T2 - Options for strengthening the regulatory framework for the sustainable management of the forest and tree resources of Tonga. (*February 2016*)**
- 3. Report N1 - Options for strengthening the regulatory framework for the sustainable management of the forest in Niue (*October 2016*)**



3. Regulatory Frameworks



- FMP for Tonga developed and endorsed
- Sandalwood Regulation for Tonga enacted

Impacts

- The passing of the Sandalwood Regulations has already led to increased planting of sandalwood in Tonga
- Fiji has also requested for assistance on the formulation of Sandalwood policy and regulation
- The Niue Forest Management Plan has provided the safety net of the Niue forest resources and safeguards the interest of the people and government of Niue





Opportunities



- Sandalwood regulatory frameworks for other PICTs (Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Tahiti, Samoa)
- Regional Framework for Sandalwood
- Rehabilitation of degraded areas using Agro Forestry systems (Sandalwood, fruit trees and crops)

Challenges

- **Land ownership in both Tonga and Niue.**
- **Niue with no trained forester**
- **Geographical locations – islands are scattered, expensive to travel around the divisions**
- **Government process – takes time to get things approved by government**



Acknowledge with thanks the support of APFNet

THANK YOU