1.1 – Présentation général de votre pays en terme de biodiversité

Your country's presentation on the state of biodiversity overall

COUNTRY PRESENTATION

SAMOA

NBSAP REVIEW WORKSHOP

3RD – 7TH October, 2011

Nadi, Fiji

Overall Status of Samoa's Biodiversity

- Samoa's NBSAP officially launched in 2001
- To date, 70 to 80% of NBSAP actions directly addressing various ARTICLES of the Convention of Biological Diversity have been implemented or in the process of implementation. These mostly in open-ended and therefore continue to be relevant and in need of ongoing implementation.
- Other 20% remains to be implemented.
- Since the establishment of the NBSAP, there is good evidence of effectiveness based on the number of conservation actions have been implemented.
- Progress made in protected areas and species conservation studies and surveys have been completed and high profile now enjoyed by ecological sites .
- NBSAP has also been catalytic in progress made in the formulation of several biodiversity related policies.

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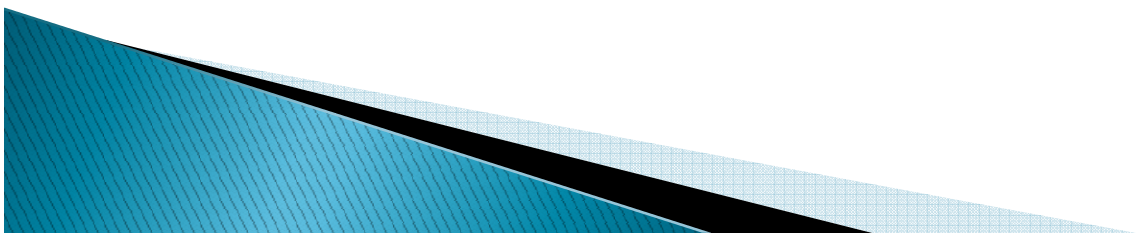
- Furthermore, at the sector level, mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations is more advanced at the level of legislation and policies.
  - highlights the importance of biodiversity and environmental sustainability in their master plans.



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- Samoa's environment, due to its smallness and isolation, is thus characterized by extreme levels of social, economic and environmental vulnerability.
- it has limited land and marine resources, and a fragile and vulnerable environment that demands the most committed of management and conservation efforts.
- Many of its endemic and native species are endangered, some critically. Similarly ecosystems of global and national significance are being degraded, some critically and needing immediate interventions.
- Others have in the course of the last two decades, have been completely destroyed as a result of human activities and by cyclones.

Terrestrial Ecosystems

- High altitude and varied terrain create different microclimatic conditions contribute to the evolution of a range of plant communities and ecosystems.
- Samoa's vegetation – divided into five plant communities, namely littoral vegetation, wetland vegetation, rainforest, volcanic scrub and disturbed vegetation.
- 21 distinct ecosystem types has been identified.
- Many of these are globally common such as mangrove forests and mixed lowland species swamp forest

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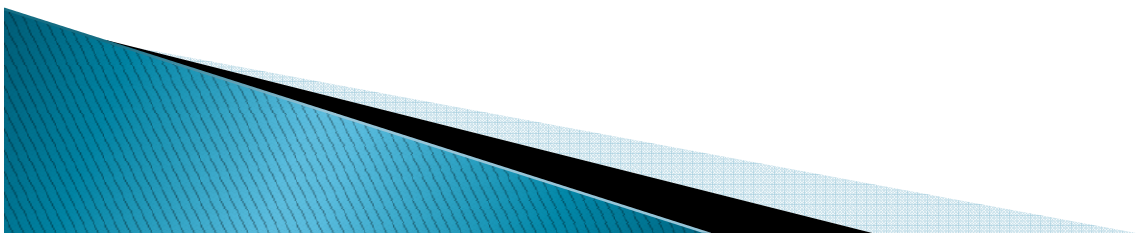
- Based on the rarity and threat – 14 highest priority ecosystems has been identified, included 12 that were assessed as being of global significance because of world rarity, endangered status or the concentration of species found only in Samoa.

These 12 ecosystems are –

- i. Coastal rainforest
- ii. Metrosideros montane rainforest
- iii. Cyathea disclimax montane rainforest
- iv. Montane rainforest
- v. Cyathea disclimax lowland rainforest



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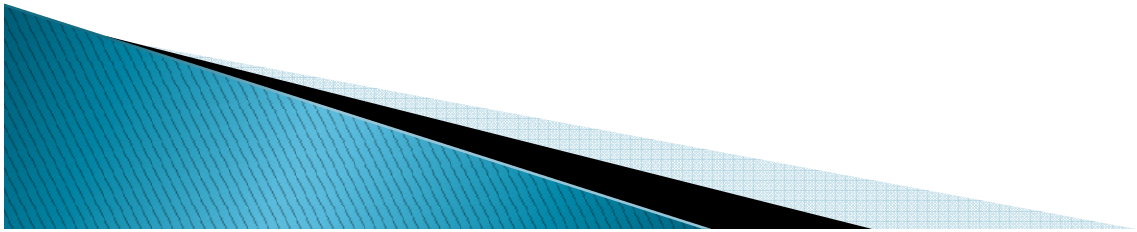
- vi. Lowland rainforest
- vii. Cloud forest
- viii. Mixed Upland Species Swamp forest
- ix. Ridge rain forest
- x. Pandanus turritus swamp forest
- xi. Mixed Lowland Species Swamp Forest
- xii. Herbaceous Marsh.



Terrestrial Species

Terrestrial Flora

- Samoa's flora comprises
  - 500 species of native flowering plants
  - about 220 species of ferns in 96 families and 298 genera, making it one of the most diverse floras in Polynesia.

Twenty five (25%) percent of plant species are endemic and 32% are endemic to the Samoan archipelago.

There is one endemic genus. with two species. of which 136 of these species listed as threatened or endangered.

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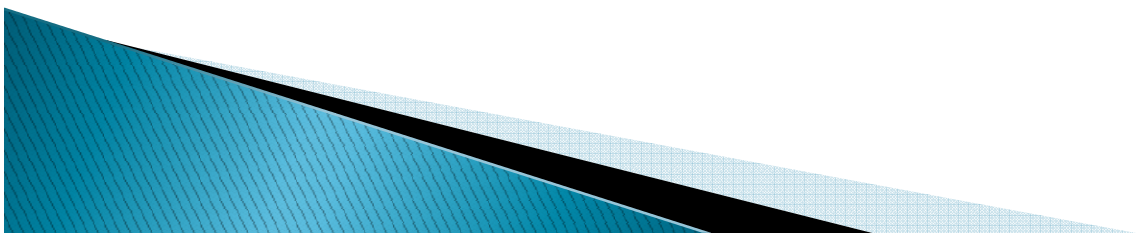
- A further 500 or so species of plants have been introduced since the arrival of humans 3,000 years ago,

- most of which are beneficial but others have since become highly invasive.



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Terrestrial Fauna –

- Samoa's faunal diversity –
  - 13 species of terrestrial mammals including 3 natives – two flying foxes (*Pteropus s samoensis and P. tonganus) and a small insectivorous* bat, the Sheath-tailed bat *Emballonura semicaudata).*

Land birds are represented by 44 species

- including 8 endemic species,
- 21 seabirds nine of which breed in Samoa (20 in American Samoa). Several species of wading
- birds visit Samoa on migration and several new species have visited the islands in recent years.

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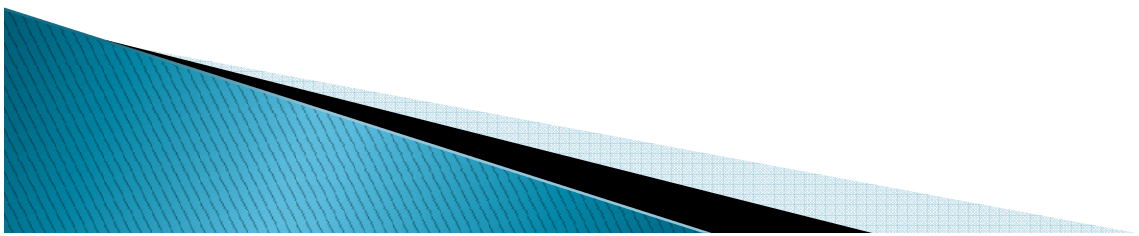
- The 15 reptiles consist of 14 species of lizards and one snake (Pacific Boa *Candoia bibroni).*
- *The lizards* – are well represented and only one, the Samoan skink (*Emoia samoensis) is endemic.*
- *Insects are* – represented by 59 species of which 12 are endemic. Another report placed insect species diversity at 79 species.
- Land snails – 64 species
- Butterflies are represented by 28 species and there are approximately 170 species of moths



Forest Cover

- Samoa's forest cover has been declining steadily since the first aerial photos (1954) were taken.
- The rate of loss reached its highest in the early 1970's to the early 1990's when commercial logging were at their peak.
- The impact of the Cyclones Ofa (1990), Cyclone Valerie (1991) and Cyclone Heta (2004) further severely degraded the remaining forests, and most of the secondary regrowth areas.

Status of Samoa's Terrestrial Protected Area Network

- Efforts by the Government of Samoa to protect key areas and to stem the loss of forest cover, including setting aside areas for national parks and reserves.
- The significant growth from 1996 to 2005 is attributed to the establishment of two new national parks
- – the Lake Lanuto'o National Park (1050 ha) – Mauga-o-Salafai National Park (6,944 ha)
- Total terrestrial protected area network – 13,751.4ha
- Have identified KBAs (Key Biodiversity Areas)

Marine Conservation Areas

Samoa's Marine Protected Area Network

MARINE PROTECTED AREA NETWORK	Year established	Area (ha)
Palolo Deep MR	1979	22
Aleipata Is MPA	2000	6,370
Safata MPA	2000	5,045
71 village based marine reserves	1995-2008	NA
Samoa's EEZ – declared sanctuary for whales, turtles and sharks	2002	12,000,000
TOTAL MARINE PROTECTED AREA		12,011,437 ha

- More sites may be added to the list of marine protected areas with the continuing community interest in funding support for marine conservation projects under GEF-SGP, which will see the number of community reserves increasing.

Coral Reefs

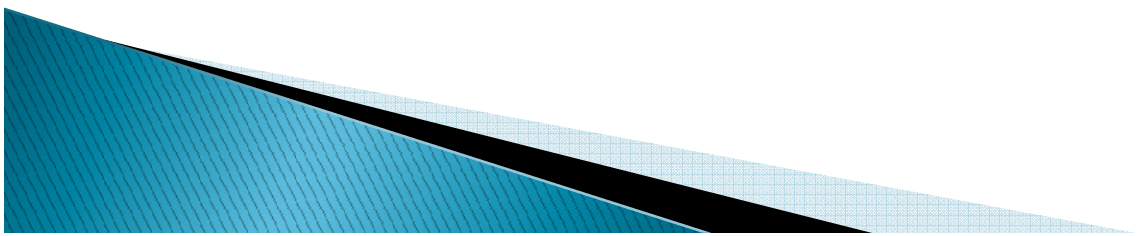
- Samoa's reefs cover an estimated area of 490km^2 ;
- remarkable natural recovery of corals following devastation by previous cyclones and tsunamis;
- threats of overfishing, land based pollution, use of unsustainable practices are increasingly being brought under control as more and more villages participate in marine conservation/fisheries reserves projects;
- The uncertainties of cyclones, and climate change related factors are therefore the main factors in the way of improving coral reef health;

Endangered/threatened Marine Species

- Samoa has listed marine species of national conservation concern (e.g. turtles, cetaceans, giant clams, mangrove crab, grey mullet, etc.;
- Overall status of conservation are not yet known (as changes don't happen overnight) but there is an indication of improvement with the involvement of the local communities and traditional chiefly systems (eg. Marine turtles protection in MPAs)

2.1- Quels sont les éléments majeurs de votre précédent SPANB?
What are the major elements of your previous NBSAP?

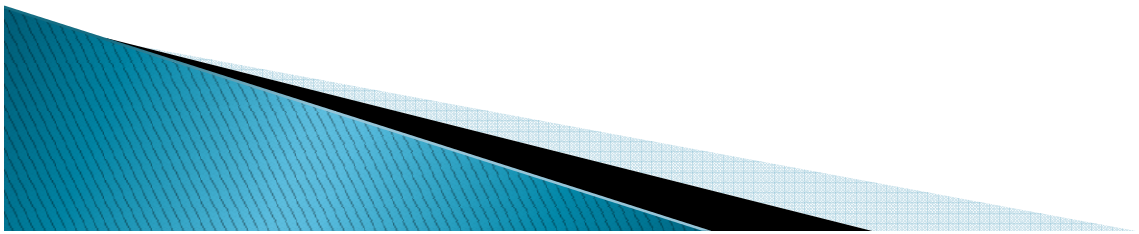
- There are 8 theme areas of the NBSAP
- Good progress have been made in the implementation of 6 theme areas.
- There is limited progress in the theme area on Access and Benefit Sharing, and in Finances.



2.2 – Quelle est la méthodologie utilisée pour la mise en œuvre de votre précédent SPANB?

What is the methodology used for implementing your previous NBSAP?

- Development and implementation of related Policies, strategies and Plans
- Held community consultations and meetings;
- National celebrations for awareness and information sharing;
- Field activities with involvement of communities and students;
- Research and monitoring surveys



2.3 – Quelles sont les leçons tirées de votre expérience avec le précédent SPANB?

What are the lessons learned from your previous NBSAP experience?

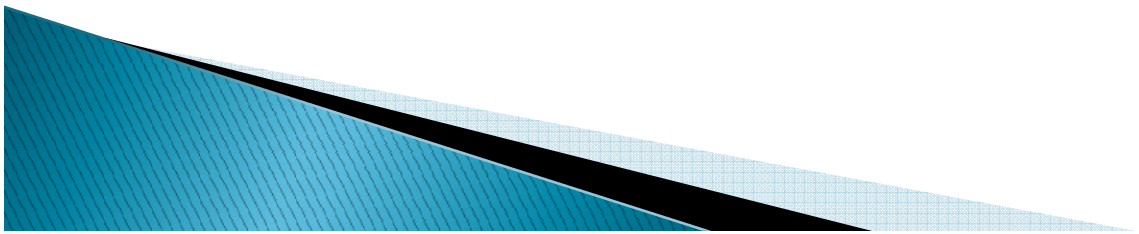
- Poor coordination of key stakeholders involved to conduct consistent monitoring of implementation;
- Lack of indicators for monitoring;
- Uncoordinated (different NBSAP stakeholders) and inconsistency of reporting in the absence of a proper reporting template;

3.1- Comment vous prévoyez la révision de votre SPANB?

What are your plans for the revision of your NBSAP?

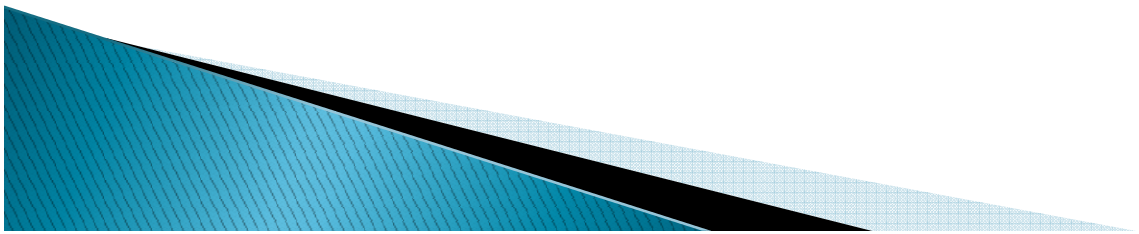
- Undertake the stakeholder consultation process to identify, gaps issues and decide actions in the various biodiversity themes/areas of priority;

- Involve communities in the planning and development process;



3.2 – Citez les différentes étapes du processus de révision.
Outline the different stages of your revision process.

- Select review committee
- Planning meetings
- Literature review
- Drafting – Stakeholder consultations to identify and/or confirm issues
- Stakeholder meeting – Presentation of first draft
- Incorporation of comments
- Stakeholder meeting – Presentation of final draft
- Finalization and endorsement of new NBSAP



3.3 – Quelles sont les opportunités offert par le nouveau SPANB?

What are the benefits of the new NBSAP?

- Updated document (with major emerging issues included) to guide way forward with conservation and protection of biodiversity;
- Will be one of the key reference and planning documents in relation to Samoa's environment protection;
- It will be one of the main national obligation deliverables under the CBD by Samoa as a party;
- Fill gaps and address unresolved issues encountered in the past;

3.4 – Quelles sont les contraintes?
What are the constraints?

- Key constraint will be funds unavailability or limitation to implement the NBSAP;
- Limited technical capacity in Samoa;
- Insignificant participation of communities in the process outlined;

4.1 – Conclusions.

- The implementation of the CBD through the NBSAP has been a major catalyst to the conservation of biodiversity in Samoa. In the three main areas of the CBD, – conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of resources, and access to and benefit sharing –
- the most progress was observed in the former two – conservation and sustainable use.
- To an extent, this is because both

directly relates to livelihoods

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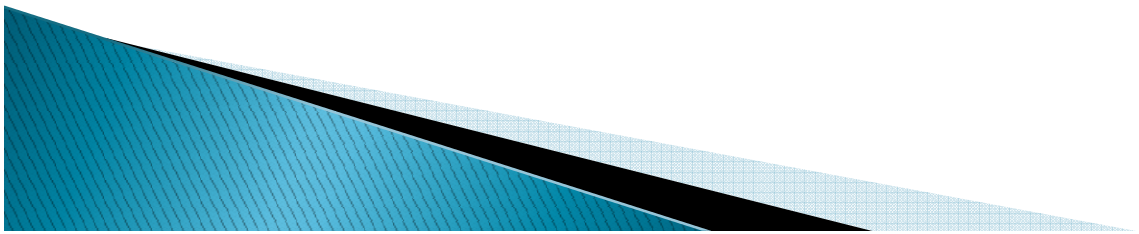
- . Communities were already feeling the impact of past unsustainable practices with the depletion of livelihood resources such as near shore fisheries.
- Consequently the concept of sustainable use was introduced at a time when it was most relevant and needed.
- Community buy-in and support to initiatives aimed at replenishing resources, and curbing unsustainable practices was immediate because people could relate to them.
- Samoa NBSAP review 2011



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION