

Regional Reality: Do we have a role to play?

Capacity Building for Oceania:

Plan(et) Priority: Regional Reality

**Absolutely
POSITIVELY**
We Mean It Positive
Wellington City Council

People and Polynesia

- Colonisation
- Fragile landforms
- Early pressure on resources



<http://www.environment.org.ck/nlsa.htm>

**Absolutely
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We Mean It Positive
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Modern influences

- Arrival of Europeans
- WWII
- Technology
- Production/harvest techniques
- Improved medicines
- Access to first world countries



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- Over use of land
- Over harvesting
- Short term gain
- Using land for purposes it can't sustain



http://www.melanesiangeo.org/resources/SI_logging_Vavanga.pdf

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Desktop survey of Existing work

- Reasonably large body of work exists
- Much of it funded by IUCN to meet CBD objectives
- Also from Europe, France, New Zealand, Australia, United States
- Most will not meet their reporting targets
- Don't have further resources for monitoring and action

NB. Paper does not include better resourced islands such as Noumea, Tahiti, New Caledonia, American Samoa

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Trigger for programme concept

- 2005 Congress capacity building workshop
- Roy Banka and Dr David Given
- How do we sustainably deliver on GSPC target 15



<http://www.royalsociety.org.nz>

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- Dr David Given acutely aware of the issues in the Solomon Islands
- logging
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Civil war
- Neglect
- Had a strong belief in the role NZ BGs could play

WBG pilot programme

- Strong in hort practice
- Part of a wider Parks unit
- Biodiversity restoration high on the city's agenda
- We grow, we monitor
- We protect
- We advocate
- We train
- City additionally has a strong migrant community ethic

NZ Volunteer Service Abroad

- Primarily provides onsite assistance through volunteer programmes
- Has established relationships



Are the assumptions valid

- That we do have role to play in capacity building through an off site programme
- That it was feasible and realistic to externally fund the programme
- That ex pat Pacific communities in New Zealand could assist with supporting trainees
- That suitable partners can be found.
- That NZ and Pacific governments would be receptive
- That we could genuinely add sustainable value from such a programme



- There are precedents for short course specific off site training
- There maybe options for funding through NZAID
- Ex pat communities would struggle to support the programme other than in spirit
- Trainees would need a lot of support
- Partnering potentially allows short cuts to process
- Pacific governments would be supportive as long as there is no cost to them and they could see benefit for their communities

Honiara Botanic garden

- SEB restoration programme for town and now the botanic garden
- Have a nursery established
- VSA has a NZ volunteer in the garden
- Two staff would like to undertake further training esp in nursery work
- Garden very keen to establish relationships with existing established botanic gardens.



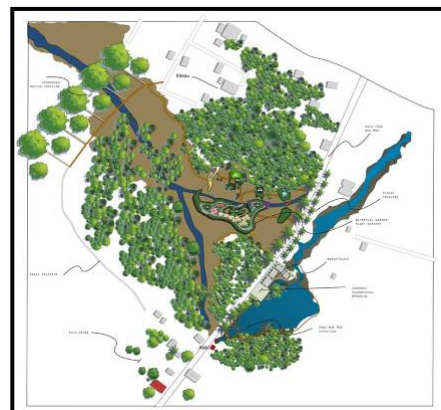
Hofoa Village, Tonga

- Anahilia Fafoa
- Lagoon closed off for rice cropping
- Access to the seas lost
- Project failed
- Road to the sea created
- Waste



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- Seeking restoration of the land to the village
- Garden representative of Tonga's flora
- Want to develop a skills base



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How would the programme work

- Customised training programme for each trainee based around a core generic programme
- 4-6 weeks
- Externally funded
- Strong focus on operational concepts of BGs
- Biodiversity restoration
- Pest management
- In first instance will seek to reaffirm existing and traditional knowledge
- Engage with local communities for pastoral support
- Open minds to the importance of biodiversity and potential wider roles in the community

Risks

- Perceived neo colonialism
- Tribalism and patriarchies
- Correctly tailoring the programme
- Establishing effective relationships with communities
- Keeping within scope
- Sourcing funding
- Must be sustainable

Capacity Building...

'the actions needed to enhance the ability of individuals, institutions and systems to make and implement decisions and perform functions in an effective, efficient and sustainable manner'

<http://www.environment.org.ck/ncsa.htm>



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Where to from here?

- Wellington Botanic Garden Can deliver operational capacity building
- There is a genuine desire to contribute – to meaningfully deliver Target 15 of GSPC
- A time to create opportunities
- Will now start to assemble the programme framework and building the partnerships and commit to capacity building for Pacific island Botanic Gardens.

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