



NAURU NATIONAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

FOR THE

**THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING
STATES (SIDS)**

17 May 2013

Acknowledgements

This report is primarily based on the National Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Meeting held from the 16-18 April 2013 at the Anibare Restaurant, Meneng Hotel.

This report has been compiled by the Government of Nauru under the guidance of Ms. Margo Deiye, Mr. John Limen and Ms. Josie-Ann Jacob who have provided substantive support in compiling the report and Ms. Jillian Campbell, UNESCAP, assisted with the drafting and editing of the report.

The Government of the Republic of Nauru conveys its appreciation to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and to the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Country Teams in supporting its national consultation with a special acknowledgement to Ms. Jillian Campbell, UNESCAP Fiji for her in-country assistance.

A special word of thanks to the national team; Mr. John Limen, Ms. Josie-Ann Jacob, Mr. Monte Depaune, Mr. Berrick Dowiyogo Mr. Langer Wharton, Mr. Wanganeen Emiu, Mr. Itema Moses and Ms. Elsie Deidenang.

Further extend our gratitude to the Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment (CIE), Mr. Russ Kun and his team of technical experts, Mr. Bryan Star, Ms. Mavis Depaune, and Mr. Nodel Neneiya including Mr. Ipia Gadabu from the Bureau Statistics Office for his presentation on the National MDG progress report (2011).

Appreciation is also extended to all those mentioned in Annex 1, which includes Heads and representatives of Departments, State-owned Entities (SOE), Non-government organization and civil society representatives for their collaborative efforts, active participation and contribution to the report.

ACRONYMS

AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
BPoA	Barbados Plan of Action
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority – Australia
CO2	Carbon dioxide
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
LDC	Least Developed Country
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MLUP	Master Land Use Plan
MSI	Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of SIDS
MSI+5	Review of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy (2010)
NCD	Non Communicable Diseases
NFMRA	Nauru Fisheries & Marine Resources Authority
NRC	Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
RIO+20	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (2012) or The Future We Want
RRRT	Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team
SAR	Search and Rescue
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
UNDAF	United Nations Development Action Framework
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission Asia and the Pacific
WHO	World Health Organisation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

1. BACKGROUND	6
2. INTRODUCTION.....	7
3. CROSS CUTTING, OVERARCHING ISSUES	8
3.1 Environmental disasters and rehabilitation.....	8
3.2 Climate change and natural disasters	9
3.3 Preserving the natural environment and biodiversity	10
3.4 Food Security	11
4 SECTORAL ISSUES - THEMES	12
4.1 Freshwater	12
4.2 Land resources.....	13
4.3 Energy.....	14
4.4 Coastal and marine resources	15
4.5 Health	16
4.6 Culture.....	17
4.7 Education	18
4.8 Wastes.....	19
4.9 Trade: imports, exports and temporary labour mobility	20
4.10 Tourism	21
4.11 ICT and Communication	22
4.12 Transport	22
5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION	23
5.1 Governance – national and regional institutions.....	23
5.2 Capacity building	23
5.3 Science and technology	24
5.4 Finance	24
5.5 Partnerships	24
5.6 Monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management for informed decision making	24
6 CONCLUSION.....	25

1. BACKGROUND

In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (aka the Earth Summit or Rio Conference) formally recognized, for the first time, the ‘special case’ faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in achieving development outcomes. This recognition led to the first United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Barbados in 1994. The Barbados conference adopted the Barbados Declaration and the Global Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (BPoA).

The Barbados Declaration and the BPoA highlighted to the global community the unique challenges and vulnerability of SIDS. The BPoA identified 5 cross cutting and 14 thematic priority areas. The cross-cutting areas: capacity-building; institutional development at the national and regional and international levels; cooperation in the transfer of environmentally sound technologies; trade and economic diversification. The thematic priority areas included: climate change and sea-level rise, natural and environmental disasters, management of wastes, coastal and marine resources, freshwater resource, land resources, energy resources, tourism resources, biodiversity resources, national institutions and administrative capacity, regional institutions and technical cooperation, transport and communication, science and technology and human resource development.

The United Nations General Assembly decided to hold the second international SIDS Conference in Mauritius in 2005¹. The Mauritius conference reviewed the BPoA with aim to renew political commitment, assess implementation and address constraints in implementation. The Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action (MSI) was adopted in 2005. The MSI identified 19 key priority areas for SIDS; these include: (1) Climate change and sea-level rise; (2) Natural and environmental disasters; (3) Management of wastes; (4) Coastal and marine resources; (5) Freshwater resources; (6) Land resources; (7) Energy resources; (8) Tourism resources; (9) Biodiversity resources; (10) Transport and communication; (11) Science and technology; (12) Graduation from least developed country status; (13) Trade: globalization and trade liberalization; (14) Sustainable capacity development and education for sustainable development; (15) Sustainable production and consumption; (16) National and regional enabling environments; (17) Health; (18) Knowledge management and information for decision-making; and (19) Culture.

In 2010 during the high-level segment of 65th session, a 5-year of review of the MSI (aka MSI+5) member States identified a number of key issues related to the challenges in furthering the implementation of the BPoA: (1) Monitoring and evaluation; (2) Strategic partnerships; (3) UN system support to SIDS, (4) Results-oriented approach and improved measures to effectively address SIDS’ vulnerabilities.

The 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) reaffirmed the ‘special case’ of SIDS. The Rio+20 provided strong political support for this ‘special case’, particularly the effects of climate change on SIDS, and supported a Third International SIDS Conference.

For the last decade the Millennium Declaration, as measured by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), has been the cornerstone of the global development agenda. In 2015, the Millennium Declaration will expire and the global community will agree on a new development framework (commonly referred to as the post 2015 agenda) and new developmental goals (the Rio+20 stated

¹ The Mauritius should have been held in 2004 but was delayed due to the natural disaster that struck. SIDS sustainable development meetings were being held every 10 years since Rio 1992 aka the Earth Summit.

that the post 2015 agenda should include a set of goals called the Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs).

The Third International SIDS Conference, which will be held in Samoa in 2014, will review the gaps in the BPoA and MSI and identify new and emerging challenges with the aim to identify priorities to integrate the SIDS development agenda within the global development agenda framework beyond 2015. To ensure the success of the 2014 SIDS Conference, the United Nations General Assembly set an ambitious agenda and timeline for the upcoming SIDS conference in a modality resolution. The United Nations decided that the Conference should:

- a) assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the BPOA and the MSI building on, inter alia, existing reports and relevant processes;
- b) seek a renewed political commitment by all countries to effectively address the special needs and vulnerabilities of SIDS by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the BPOA and MSI, inter alia, through mobilization of resources and assistance for small island developing States;
- c) identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS and ways and means to address them including through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships between small island developing States and the international community;
- d) identify priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS for consideration, as appropriate, in the elaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda.

The United Nations General Assembly decided that in order to have an effective SIDS conference there would be three regional SIDS preparatory conferences (Pacific; Caribbean; and Africa, India Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea) and an interregional preparatory conference in 2013.

The Government of Nauru is fully committed to engaging in the 2014 SIDS Conference and in the development of the post 2015 development agenda. Nauru has demonstrated this commitment through their current Chairmanship of Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS) and their position on the United Nations Open Working Group on the SDGs.

2. INTRODUCTION

This report serves as a national input for Nauru for the 2014 SIDS Conference, the Pacific regional preparatory meeting and the Interregional preparatory meeting. The assessment includes a review of progress and gaps in the implementation of the BPoA and MSI, new and emerging challenges and national policy concerns. This report also includes a brief discussion on linking with global initiatives such as the post-2015 development agenda.

In order to provide useful input of the upcoming SIDS meetings and to assess developmental progress as per the BPoA and MSI, the assessment has used the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) for 2005 to 2025 as the benchmark for assessing sustainable development progress in Nauru. The NSDS was developed using the BPoA as a blueprint. The NSDS includes specific national goals and milestones for tracking developmental progress. The NSDS was developed via an inclusive process, which involved broad consultations of government agencies, community

leaders, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. The NSDS first review was in 2009.

This assessment included a national consultative meeting held on 16-18 April 2010 to discuss NSDS progress and new and emerging challenges. The consultative meeting involved stakeholders from government, communities, private entities, non-governmental organizations and others. The inputs from the consultative meeting have been supplemented with information from previous NSDS assessments, the MSI+5 assessment of Nauru, the UNDAF framework for Nauru, the 2012 Nauru MDG report, the Nauru census analysis and interviews with key stakeholders.

Progress and gaps in the implementation of the BPoA and MSI were primarily assessed based on the 19 priority themes and means of implementation in the MSI. However, as this assessment is based on national priorities there is not a complete overlap between the MSI themes and the current report. The report highlights a few key achievements and gaps for each sector; it is not an exhaustive list of achievements or gaps.

Although sectors, such as land, energy and water, are presented separately, sectors also do not exist in isolation. All sectors are part of a single ecosystem and the issues in each sector are intertwined with other sectors. Sustainable development must be viewed as a holistic goal, which involves coordinated development of across sectors. Therefore issues are presented as follows:

- (1) cross-cutting, overarching issues which either threaten or provide opportunities for development across sectors;
- (2) sectoral issues or themes for sustainable development; and
- (3) means of implementation, which are required for working towards sustainable development.

3. CROSS CUTTING, OVERARCHING ISSUES

Four crosscutting issues were identified at the national consultative meeting. Consideration of these issues is necessary to have sustainable development across sectors.

3.1 Environmental damage and Rehabilitation

3.1.1 Summary of issue

About 80% of the land in Nauru has been subject to strip mining to extract phosphate soil. After the soil is extracted there are exposed tall coral pinnacles up to 30 metres in some areas. The mined phosphate lands are rendered useless - for habitation, agriculture or any development. The mining of phosphate covers all of the lands on the raised central plateau.

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