
TUVALU NATIONAL REPORT
TO THE
THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND
DEVELOPING STATES

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Acronyms

BPOA	Barbados Programme of Action
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
DCC	Development Coordinating Committee
RTK II	Revised Te Kakeega II
TK II	Te Kakeega II
GER	Gender Enrolment Ratio
GPI	Gender Parity Index
GDI	Gender Development Index
GOT	Government of Tuvalu
HDI	Human Development Index
IMR	Infant mortality rate
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SD	Sustainable Development
SDF	Special Development Fund
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MSI	Mauritius Strategy of Implementation
NGO	Non Government Organization
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
TANGO	Tuvalu Association of Non Government Organizations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational and Social Organization
UNICEF	United Nations International Children Educational Fund
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Family Planning Association
U5MR	Under five mortality rate
WHO	World Health Organization

Introduction

This is the report on the status of sustainable development (SD) in Tuvalu. Good progress has been achieved in the pursuit of sustainable development as the country follows the strategies recommended by the international community for small island developing states (SIDS). Because of its unique situation Tuvalu has selectively adopted into its national development strategy (NSDS) strategies that are relevant and appropriate for Tuvalu. The report is intended for presentation by the government of Tuvalu to the Third International Conference on SIDS in Samoa in 2014.

Global strategies for sustainable development are provided in many international agreements and declarations however this report will focus only on Rio +20, Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI) of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA). Tuvalu is a signatory and party to these international agreements and has been trying to realize the global dream for SD.

Tuvalu has adopted from these agreements those prescriptions that are relevant to its unique situation incorporating them into its national sustainable development strategies (NSDS) *Te Kakeega II* (TKII). Recommendations such as green growth, partnership and others have been incorporated into the TKII, which was crafted through the normal planning processes of integrated planning, investment resourcing, implementation, evaluation and reporting outcomes to the community and stakeholders. SD itself should be seen more as the processes of national planning that produce the SD outcomes rather than just the SD plan document.

Preparations to produce the report began in the second quarter of 2013 with in-country consultations with representatives of island communities, private sector, non-government organizations and government ministries. In a three day meeting convened in May 2013 in the central government office on Funafuti, representatives from the various interests reviewed progress as well as challenges met in implementing sustainable development in the country that are described in the *Revised Te Kakeega II* 2011. The review then identified the gaps and challenges remaining for the country to deal with and include in the report to the government of Tuvalu (GOT) and the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The implementation framework needs to be mentioned because it is essentially the plan of processes that produces the content of SD reporting. The planning cycle for SD starts with the National *Te Kakeega* Summit where the whole of Tuvalu through their representatives assemble every 5 years to review the performance of the active plan, update and/or create a new *Te Kakeega*. The output of the Summit becomes the *Te Kakeega*, after it is considered and approved by government. The plan is amplified in sector and operational plans of the different sectors and ministries that then proceed to implement their plans at the start of the fiscal year. The Ministry of Finance and Planning monitors and coordinates implementation and reports to government, community and development partners.

An important part of the framework is the consultation with Tuvalu's development partners which is ongoing and maintained through visits to Tuvalu and through telecommunication channels. Every year the Ministry of Finance and Planning liaises with donor partners to inform them about progress on implementing *Te Kakeega*, the emerging issues and policies derived from the implementation experience and the resourcing needs of the NSDS. Donor partners and the government of Tuvalu normally agree on a resourcing schedule that guide them in the next aid period.

Taking Stocks of Where We Are

All the four international SD agreements including the TKII have been reviewed recently providing a clear picture of where Tuvalu is on each of them. The Rio +20 review is provided in the Tuvalu Assessment Report to the Pacific Rio+20 Preparatory Process: National Assessment of Opportunities of Greening the Economies of Pacific Island Countries¹. The MDG was reviewed in 2010/11 and is also available online². The Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy were evaluated 2010 in a Report on the Assessment of the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Actions for Small Islands Developing States, and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the BPOA³. The medium term review for the TKII was carried out in 2011 and strategies for the remaining years of the plan recommended by the National Summit on TKII have been approved by government⁴. Other efforts to evaluate the progress of SD in Tuvalu were carried out by the Forum Secretariat

Progress on the implementation of these international agreements has had mixed results only. Tuvalu is one of the countries recognized globally as one of, if not the most vulnerable small island developing state (SIDS) in the world. Through the deliberate policy of its government it continues on the international stage as the spokesperson against climate change and the sea level rise that threatens low lying countries particularly atoll SIDS. It is committed to transforming its national development strategies and policies along the lines of a 'green economy' including the adoption of a 'low-carbon green growth strategies'. In the renewable energy field a target of 100 per cent clean power by 2020 has been set and progress made towards achieving this goal.

Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

Tuvalu has made commendable progress towards fulfilling the MDG goals and targets despite its limited capacities. Of the 8 MDG goals in the updated list, four are on track to be achieved according to the most recent assessment in 2010. This is a 100% improvement over the findings of an earlier evaluation in 2006. The four goals are Goal 2: Achieve universal

¹ ftp://202.62.123.106/Tuvalu_Assessment_Report.pdf (Username : guest.user Password : guest2012user)

² <http://www.undp.org.fj/pdf/MDG%20Report/MDG%28tuvalu%29%20web.pdf>

³ http://www.sidsnet.org/msi_5/docs/nars/Pacific/Tuvalu-MSI-NAR2010.pdf

⁴ http://www.pacificdisaster.net/pdnadmin/data/original/TUV_2011_Midreview_ActPlan2015.pdf

primary school education, Goal 4: Reduce child mortality, Goal 5: Improve maternal health and Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development.

Goals 3: Promote gender equality, Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases and Goal 7: Ensure environment sustainability, are assessed as potentially achievable within the MDG timeframe. Progress on achieving these Goals while satisfactory continues to be marred by limited capacities and the behavioural culture of Tuvalu.

Goal 1: Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger:

Target 1A: Between 1990 and 2015 to halve the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day: The target is assessed as unlikely to be achieved. Extreme poverty or hardship for Tuvalu is defined as household weekly income below the Basic Needs Poverty Line (BNPL), which is the per capita per week cost of the minimum food needs (2100 kilocalories per adult per day) plus the minimum non-food requirements. For the population as a whole the level of basic needs poverty is estimated to have risen from 17.5% of the population in 2004/05 to 24.8% in 2010. In 2012 people terms this is equivalent to 2,728 people half of whom, other things being equal, need to earn an income above the Basic Needs Poverty Line (BNPL)⁵ if Tuvalu is to achieve MGD Goal 1 target 1.

Poverty trend with baseline in 1994 started with 23.2% of the population below the BNPL decreased steadily down to 16.5% in 2003. From 2004 poverty increased and was 19.7% of the population in 2008 according to the last Household and Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES). The reversal is attributed to the global economic crisis and the decline in demand for Tuvalu seafarers in the overseas job market. The economic crisis continued beyond 2008 with slow recovery such that the extrapolated poverty trend by 2012 may well be in the region of 20%-25% of the population.

Income distribution as measured by the Gini Coefficient puts the urban centre (Funafuti) as having a slightly more equal distribution of income (0.37) than the outer islands (0.39) in 1994; the distribution remained largely the same in 2010. However in 2004 the outer islands Gini Coefficient (0.21) showed a more equal distribution than Funafuti indicating probably the effect of higher prices caused by the global food, fuel and latterly the financial crisis. In terms of who beared most of the hardship caused by the global economic crisis, an analysis of inequality found that the share of expenditure by households in the lowest expenditure quintile fell from 10.2% of all expenditure in 2004 to 8.1% in 2010⁶.

Target 1B: Achieve full productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people. The challenge for Tuvalu is to find by 2015 productive employment and decent work for at least half of those considered to have income below the poverty line. Worker Productivity⁷ trends declined from its highest in 1998 of over \$17,000 to its lowest ever in 2003 of \$10,000. In the four years after that, it stabilised around \$12,000. The Tuvalu MDG Progress Report 2010/2011 noted that this target would be difficult achieve given the

⁵ TTFAC Report in October 2008

⁶ TTFAC Report Oct 2008 & 2010

⁷ Defined as GDP/number of people in employment

acute structural constraints on domestic and overseas job creation and the openness of the economy hence susceptibility to external shocks as seen in the recent global economic crisis. Employment to total population ratio was 26.8% in 1991 and increased 32.4% in 2004. Employment in the private sector also has grown mostly in the merchandise retail, construction and lodging businesses. The decline by more than 50% of the seafarers' market that once employed 400 Tuvaluans has been cushioned to some extent by the employment schemes of NZ and soon, Australia as well. In term of remittances back to families, a significant shortfall as high as more than 50% of the seafarer highest earnings continue to exist.

More women are now in full time employment in both government and the private sector. In 1991 the female in employment to total population was 18.4% and grew to 22.7% in 2004. In the public service the employment ratio of female:male is approaching equality and favour females in some levels like in the middle to senior management positions. At the top level of Permanent Secretaries 20% are females. There is one female Member of Parliament out of 15 who is also a Government Minister. Decent work is also needed for youth (15-24 years) as well as people with disabilities. A bigger proportion of female youths were unemployed than male youth, the situation improved in 2002 compared to 1991. Very few jobs are available for youth not in school and even fewer decent work is obtainable for people with disability

The MDG Progress Report 2010/11 noted that the target can be met if an 'enabling environment' is created to support private sector development. Budget allocations for poverty reduction like the Special Development Fund (SDF) also should target income generation projects in rural and the Outer Islands. A welfare scheme is also in operation paying \$70 a month to people 70 years and above. Australian and NZ work schemes and recovery of the seafarer market, are the only employment opportunities that Tuvalu can benefiting from. Training standards in the Maritime Training Institute is currently maintained to allow seafarers to take advantage of work openings as and when the market recovers. GOT continues to monitor the work situation in the seafarer market.

MDG Target 1C: Between 1990 and 2015, halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger: This target has been achieved according to the assessment in 2010/11. The population below food poverty line has been halved from 6.7% of the population in 1994 (baseline) to a projected 3.375% in 2015. The prevalence of underweight children below the age of 5 was noted as an emerging problem. Overweight and obesity are becoming a problem in Tuvalu generally and this is attributed to eating the wrong food (malnutrition) and not enough of it (undernourishment).

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Target 2A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary education. Average school enrolment in 1991, 2002 and 2007 was 98.1% of the total school age population, making Tuvalu's primary school enrolment one of the highest in the Pacific. In the years where enrolment is lower than the average shows higher drop-out levels and non attendance due to poor performance in school.

In Tuvalu many parents send their children to primary and secondary schools in Fiji and they are categorised as drop-outs. Education for the 6-15 year olds is compulsory by law and this also contributes to high enrolment rates. The trend in teacher:pupils ratios has also fluctuated over the years since 1991, was as high as 28.6 in 1996 and down to 19.5 in 2005. Youth Literacy rate was 98.6% in 2007 remaining stable around this rate since 1991 when it was 98.7%.

While this target has been achieved and remains so to 2015, the greatest challenge of all is the quality of education. In some of the primary schools, the prevailing situation indicates weakness in critical thinking, creativity, reading, writing and arithmetic which are the basis for critical learning in all ages. The fall in the pass rate for the compulsory secondary school entrance examination in some primary schools indicates the lack of learning skills in basic subjects such as mathematics, English and basic science. It is critical to develop teachers' skills, reform curriculum to best fit Tuvalu education needs and to improve the students per teacher ratio. The use of computers in the modern era is critical to bridge the gap between Tuvalu and developed countries' classrooms. Finally, expanding and developing cultural and traditional skills outside the classrooms add to the 'quality' agenda. There are people with skills in making handicraft, and those with skills in local fishing and agricultural techniques. These traditional skills will assist people to survive through difficult financial situation.

MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Target 3A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all areas of education no later than 2015. This target is already achieved. There are more females than males in both primary and secondary schools. The long term average Gender Parity Index (GPI) for both primary and secondary schools is 1.05 between 2000 and 2009. The same trend is maintained in the 10 years to 2009 at the tertiary level where the long term average GPI is 1.47, again favouring females. However the gender parity outside schools remain in favour of men.

In 1991 18.4% of those in paid employment in the non-agricultural sector were women, this increased to 26.0% in 2004. Household surveys results showed that while women in employment increased to 41.6% in 2004, this fell back to 36% in 2007 due to more men working on aid funded construction projects. The female average income as a percentage of male income is 103% in 2007/8. There was one woman in Parliament from 1986-1993 and another woman is currently in Parliament since 2011. Both women were and one continues as Minister in GOT.

Few women participate in decision-making at the high level. At the government cabinet level there is one woman out of 7 members of cabinet (14%). On statutory boards only 11% are women. In government boards, committees and task forces including the MDG Task Force females accounted for 37% of members; the committees and task forces with women members tend to be on subjects relating to women and children e.g. UNESCO, CEDAW, HIV/AIDS. At the level of local government very few women ever got elected to *Kaupule*

government. In 2006 there was just 6.3% of women in elected *Kaupule*. There needs to be more awareness raising on gender at the community and local government level.

On the regional Gender Development Index (GDI) Tuvalu is ranked 9th out of 14 with a GDI of 0.691, Cook Islands at the top with 0.829 and PNG 0.437 at the other end. GDI ranges from 0 to 1 with 1 showing equal achievements between females and males.⁸

While this target has been achieved gender disparity remains beyond and outside the school system. The gender parity achievements in education have set off the wearing down of gender bias in society as illustrated by more females getting into paid employment. More work remains to be done to raise women participation in decision-making in government as well as at the level of *kaupule* government or local island government.

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Target 4A: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the child mortality rate. The goal is assessed as potentially achievable and progress is on track for realising this target by 2015. Access to child health care is available free to everyone in Tuvalu and is paid for by tax payers and some assistance from development partners. The three health services provided include intrapartum care, ante-natal care, post-natal care and immunization.

One of the indicators for this is the under five mortality rate (U5MR) which is tracked by the Ministry of Health. This is the number of births dying before reaching the age of five years out of total births for the year and expressing this out of 1,000. Data from the Ministry of Health showed a U5MR of 68.7 in 1991. In 2009 the U5MR was 24.6 out of 1000 which is a reduction by 64.1%. The long term average U5MR based on data collected between 1991 and 2009 is 43.5 and the general trend is expected to continue for the years after 2009. For children 5 years old and older the same downward tendency holds. The infant mortality rate (IMR) decreased from 57.3 (15/262) in 1992 to 14.8 (3/203) in 2005. Based on this data Tuvalu has reduced the IMR by two third by 2005 and has since continued in this direction.

The third indicator measuring child mortality rate is the proportion of one-year-olds immunized against measles. According to the Ministry of Health, a long term average of 90% (1993-2008) of children in this category received immunization against measles. Immunization coverage is reported to have dropped in 2004 due to a confusion in the immunization programme when rubella and measles immunization were combined. The last reported case of measles was in 1997, there has been no incidence of the sickness up to 2013. Healthy children are essential for the country's development because *inter alia* they are the labour force of the future..

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Target 5A: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, maternal mortality ratio: Between 1990 and 2010 there were hardly any maternal deaths in hospitals around Tuvalu. There were just three deaths of mothers giving birth in this period and 98% to 100% of birth

⁸ GDI is calculated from the Human Development Index (HDI) which is adjusted for inequality.

took place in hospitals with skilled health personnel in attendance. This target is therefore achieved⁹.

Target 5B: Achieve by 2015 universal access to reproductive health: This target is assessed as likely to be achieved. Four indicators that track progress in achieving universal access to reproductive health are (1) rate of prevalence of contraception (2) adolescent birth rate (3) antenatal care coverage and (4) unmet needs of family planning.

On the contraception prevalence rate the Department of Health Survey (DHS) in 2007, 31% of married couples (or in a relationship) use family planning methods. 22% of them use modern methods (pill, injection, IUD, implants, male condoms, and female sterilization) and 8% use the traditional withdrawal method. The most commonly used method amongst women is the injection and sterilization.

Teenage pregnancy: According to the 2007 DHS, 8% of the 15-19 age group declared that they either have given birth or were carrying at the time of the survey. The average long term adolescent birth rate (ABR) for Tuvalu is 33.5. The ABR also known as the age specific fertility rate of women 15-19 years old is the risk of child bearing among teenagers in this age group. This is calculated as the annual number of births to women 15-19 years of age per 1,000 women in that age group. DHS insists that there is an ABR trend in Tuvalu starting in 1990 with teenage fertility rate of 62, 1995 rate of 34, 2000 rate of 37 and in 2005 the teenage fertility rate increased back up to 44. In the region Tuvalu is placed 4th in ABR of 36 while Tonga leads at 24 and the Republic of the Marshall islands at the other end with an ABR of 138¹⁰. Relative to other countries in the Pacific this aspect of the MDG may not be serious as the ABR risk is low but every pregnancy, particularly of unmarried mothers brings extra burden to the family, psychological shock on the mother and her parents as well as imposition of a social stigma that will stick with the mother for the rest of her life.

Antenatal care coverage: This is the percentage of women aged 15-19 with live births in a given period of time who received at least 4 four antenatal care by skilled personnel (doctors and nurses) as the percentage of women aged 15-19 with live births a given period of time. The Tuvalu DHS recorded that 97% of all women received care from skilled providers during their last pregnancy. The Ministry of Health in line with WHO guidelines recommended mothers with normal pregnancy should attend at least 4 antenatal care visits to skilled providers. It turned out only 2 out of 3 reported fulfilling this number of visits. 21% of women were unable to recall the number of times they visited the hospital/clinics for antenatal care. Pregnant women were encouraged to begin their antenatal visits earlier in their pregnancy, the first such visit needed to be in the first trimester.

Family planning unmet needs: More than half (54.7%) of women in marriage or consensual relations said in the DHS 2007 that they needed family planning for spacing out their

⁹ Tuvalu MDG Progress Report 2010/2011 p.54

¹⁰ SPC and UNDP 2010, 'Migration, Morbidity and HIV', a rapid assessment of risks and vulnerability in the Pacific

children. The demand for family planning correlates positively with age and the Ministry of Health need to respond positively to these needs. There is anecdotal evidence of husbands or male partners in consensual relationship opposing their wives or partners accepting family planning methods.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Target 6A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and

Target 6B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it. These target are assessed in 2010 as potentially achievable. The three indicators for reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS are (1) HIV prevalence among population aged 15-25 (2) condom use at last high risk sex (3) proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS.

The first indicator is not applicable in Tuvalu because the population is small and the phenomenon is better monitored by tracking real numbers. The first Tuvalu case of HIV occurred in 1995 and since then 11 more cases followed. Three from this 11 who are all males have died one in 2004, 2007 and 2008. Tuvalu seafarers accounted for 72% of the HIV and one is a student who got the disease while studying in Fiji. While total number of cases have stabilised between 2002 and 2009, there is some concern over the rise in the detection rates of sexually transmitted infection (STI). Gonorrhoea for instance was 0.9% of the sexually active cohort in 2006 increased to 3.8%. Syphilis increased from 1.7% to 3.7% in the same period. Chlamydia increases remained constant at around 17% for the same period.

On the second indicator, the use of condom for high risk sex, the DHS 2007, 49% of young men (15-24) having high risk sex, use condoms while young women did not use any condom. 13% of young women (15-24) and 52% of young men had sex before they turn 18. Women on outer islands were more likely to have sexual intercourse before the age of 15 than 18 on Funafuti. Alcohol impairs judgement and can affect the decision to use condom during sexual intercourse. 1% of women and 18.5% of men reported having sex while they were drunk. According to DHS 2007 thirty-nine percent of women in the 15-24 year cohort had comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS and 60.7% men had the same knowledge. On the use of condoms virtually all in this category knew how, with 90.6% for women and 92% for men. 21% of men use condom during sex and just 1.9% women use condom. 14% of men in this category had high risk sex in the last 12 months while the proportion for women was 48.9%. 44.1% of women reported using a condom during high risk sex while none of the men reported on this.

Antiretroviral drugs are provided free to all Tuvaluans with advanced HIV infection and funding is provided by the Global Fund. Patients of STI also receive antiretroviral and other drugs free for six months. One of the 7 people living with HIV, has been receiving treatment since December, 2007, and also receive support and counselling from the hospital.

Finance is crucial for halting and continuing the reversal of HIV/AIDS in Tuvalu. At the moment financial and capacity support has been forthcoming from many sources both locally

as well as outside Tuvalu. According to the Tuvalu UNGASS Report 2010, funding resources came from a number of sources including the Global Fund (GFATM), the IPPF, PRHP, UNICEF, ARC (Fiji & Australia) and GOT. Local support for implementing programs was provided by several NGOs including TuFHA, TRCS, the Red Cross and the Ministry of Health.

Target 6C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other diseases: The diseases afflicting Tuvalu are tuberculosis (TB) and cardiac disease. Malaria is not a problem in Tuvalu. The first of two indicators that track tuberculosis have three sub indicators which are (1) tuberculosis incidence rate – this is the estimated number of new tuberculosis cases arising in one calendar year per 100,000 (2) tuberculosis prevalence – the number of TB cases in a population at a given time expressed as per 100,000 and (3) tuberculosis death rate – the estimated number of deaths due to TB at a given point of time.

Tuberculosis

The records of the MOH show that there were 16 cases of TB in 1991 (188 incidence rate). It reached its highest peak of 39 cases (428/100,000) in the following year and proceeded in peaks and troughs fashion to 2009 where 18 cases were recorded. There were two peaks in 1995 and 2003 which were 30 and 32 cases respectively. The lowest number of TB cases occurred in 2006 where 9 new cases were recorded. The most vulnerable group to TB are the old people in the 75+ years.

According to the South Pacific Community the TB prevalence rate in 2006 was 504 and improved to 203 the year after.

Deaths due to TB was highest in 1991 with 9 deaths for death rate of 102 (per 100,000 population) thereafter average death per year remained at 2 (23 per 100,000). In 2002 4 deaths were TB related. Improvements in the hospital's capacity to detect and treat TB have accounted for the steady decline in the incidence and TB related deaths. In 2005 and 2006 there were no TB deaths.

Heart diseases

This is the leading killer disease in Tuvalu. MOH records show that 9 died due to heart disease in 1992 (prevalence rate of 9.9 per 10,000). In 1995 14 deaths and 1998 16 died from cardiac disease, followed by 13 in 2000 and increased again to 16 deaths in 2008.

Diabetes is the second killer disease in Tuvalu and like cardiac diseases, they are both the result of limited range of food to choose from.

Goal 7: Environment sustainability

Target 7A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and reverse the loss on environmental resources. The four indicators for measuring the integration of the principle of sustainable development into country policies and reverse the loss on environmental resources are (1) proportion of land area covered by forest (2) the total

carbon dioxide emissions including anthropogenic emissions less removal by sinks, of CO₂ (3) consumption of ozone-depleting substance [ODS] as defined in the 1987 Montreal Protocol and amendments thereof in London [1990], Copenhagen [1992], Montreal [1997] and Beijing [1999] (4) total estimate of fish stocks within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS)

NEMS was first developed in 1997 with assistance from the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to guide sustainable development policy and management and reverse the loss on environment resources. It identified a number of priorities and programmes including:

- Keep global warming on the international agenda
- Monitor sea level rise
- Recruit an Environment Officer
- Undertake environment impact assessments (EIA)
- Legislate an Environment Protection Act
- Improve waste management through implementation of the Water and Sanitation Plan
- Fill the Funafuti borrow pits with sediments dredged from the lagoon
- Second phase of the coastal protection projects
- Train meteorological division scientific officer on forecasting tropical cyclones

Many of the NEMS priorities have been acted upon and achieved and according to several reports including the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan 2010 (TNBSAP), the shortfall or gaps in the NEMS that need to be urgently dealt with include:

- Information and data inefficiency still exist
- Lack of a comprehensive land-use plan creates conflict and tensions in the disposal of waste, solids, liquids and necessary clearing of vegetation
- Limited community involvement
- Lack of action on systematic and institutional matters

The percentage of land area covered by forest has declined from 43% in 2000 to 33.3% in 2005 according to SPC data. The loss in forest cover was due to clearance of land for construction. Some 20 acres of land has been lost also in the outer islands due to erosion and saltwater infiltration according to the TNBSAP 2010 report. The Tuvalu UNFAO Global Forest Resource Assessment Report (2010) noted there was about 1000 hectares under forest cover and some 10 hectares of this had been lost between 1990 and 2005.

It is estimated that the area covered by forest will have increased by 2013 as several initiatives at planting trees have been launched after 2005 including Community Tree Care Project, TANG Forest Management Plan 2007, Tuvalu Overview Project 2007 that plant mangroves on the sea shore in Funafuti. Also the Women organizations on the outer islands have been active in planting trees.

Carbon dioxide emissions and ozone depleting substances (ODS). According to the Tuvalu Energy Review 2004 by SPREP, Tuvalu produced 10.3 Gg (gigagramme) in 2004 and if there was no change to using renewable energy then by 2013 production of CO₂ is projected at 13 Gg. A switch to a maximum use of solar energy and biofuels beginning in 2004 could reduce by 17% the GHG production by 2013.

The National Energy Policy was launched in 2009 and aims to provide a national sustainable energy system within the framework of Tuvalu's initial national communication under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The policy is the framework for managing the energy sector in the next 15 years and aims to integrate energy into Tuvalu's overall socio-economic development. It has 7 strategic areas which are: energy sector planning, coordination and management, petroleum, transport, electricity, renewable energy, conservation and efficiency and environment.

Consumption of Ozone-depleting substance: Tuvalu is a party to most of the conventions and protocols dealing with environmental issues including 1985 Vienna Convention, 1987 Montreal Protocol, 1990 London Amendment and the 1992 Copenhagen Amendment. Tuvalu does not produce any ODS and has to import them. Under the Montreal Protocol Article 5, Tuvalu is entitled to assistance from the Multilateral Fund to comply with its obligations under the Protocol. This includes freezing its consumption (freezing import of bulk substances) at the maximum level of 0.328 ODS tonnes from 1st July 1999. Import data indicate that Tuvalu has met its obligation under the Montreal Protocol. The most common ODS used in Tuvalu is CFC-12 which is common in refrigerators and airconditioners.

A National Committee oversees the implementation of the National Compliance Action Plan (NCAP) and has been in existence since 1999. Several targets set in the plan to phase out the use of fossil fuel by 2020 has surprised some countries as its only a short time to that date. The national political commitment to renewable energy while strong can be realized only through the collaboration and cooperation of development partners.

Renewable Energy: The target for the country to be fully dependent on alternative energy by 2020 was set in the First National Energy Policy in August 2009. Tuvalu import all its fuel. In the years 2000 to 2007, diesel took up the bulk of all imported fossil fuel around 70% of all fuel with petrol (20%) and kerosene (10%) a distant second and third behind. With fuel demand expected to grow 3%-4% in the next decade, and fuel price growing by 80% between 2000 and 2007 and continuing to rise, switching to alternative energy makes even more sense.

A number of initiatives are already underway in the alternative energy area, and include a biogas (pig waste) plant set up by an NGO Alofa Tuvalu on the islet where the Tuvalu Maritime Institute is located; a 45kW solar powered system by the Government of Japan provides power to a number of households on Funafuti, and a Italy has a similar system installed on an outer island, Vaitupu. Recently in 2012 a Japanese project installed a solar powered desalination plant at the Public Works Department on Funafuti.

Ocean Fish Stocks: Tuvalu is one of the sea locked atoll SIDS in the Pacific with a land area of just 26 square km and an EEZ of 900,000 square km. The Ocean is truly the source of food for Tuvaluans whose fish consumption at around 113 kg of fish per capita per year exceeds the global average of 13.2 kg by 8.6 times. The distant water fishing nations (DWFN) fish in Tuvalu's EEZ under annual licence issued to them for a fee. Fishing licences is the biggest recurrent revenue item in GOT's budget receiving over \$51 million in the 10 years to 2009 and amounting as high as over half of the total government revenue in 2002.

Tuvalu nationals' participation in the commercial harvesting of tuna within its EEZ is limited to subsistence and artisanal fishery. In 2010 a joint-venture with a Taiwanese fishing company began commercial fishing and their boat *Taumoana* has earned Tuvalu an amount in excess of \$2 million in both tax and dividend in 2012. The methods of commercial fishing or the gear used by the DWFNs are purse seine, long line and pole & line. The first and second are most effective as seen in their reported catch values 2005-2009. Purse seining has far outstripped long lining in catch value and tonnage terms and GOT is concerned about the probability of overfishing especially in purse seining all kinds of fish are wheeled together with tuna in the same net. These fishes are discarded in the ocean.

Tuvalu and some Pacific island countries have signed and ratified a number of agreements (Nauru Agreement 1982 and the FSM Agreement 1997) that aim to stop overfishing, restore depleted resources and ensure their sustainable use. A Tuvalu Tuna Management & Development Plan 2011-2015 is nearing final approval and it will be the high level fisheries policy for guiding the development of the tuna fisheries, conservation, management, exploitation and utilization of the country's marine resources.

Coastal fish stocks are the supply sources for subsistence and artisanal fishery. Funafuti's coastal fish stocks have depleted to some extent although fishermen still catch fish but have to go further out to catch them. A rich biodiversity in marine life still exists but mostly on the outer islands. High population densities on the capital island where more than 50% of the country's populations reside in 2012. According to studies by the Department of Fisheries eutrophication has occurred in the Funafuti lagoon where run-offs from highly populated urban area has polluted the marine environment.

Climate Change and Sea Level Rise: Tuvalu and its people are facing the grave prospect of losing their country because of climate change and sea level rise. The United Nations, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and many other international organizations fully support the view that the sea level will rise. Tuvalu believes that this phenomenon is already taking place with detrimental economic and social effects on people's way of life. Already Tuvalu leaders have gone on the international stage campaigning against sea level rise. Tuvalu signed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 and ratified the same in 1993.

The sea level trend is monitored with equipment from Geoscience Australia and SOPAC that are stationed permanently on Funafuti. Tuvalu's sea level trend adjusted for inverted barometric pressure effects is +4.77mm per year so far and the monitoring continues. A study of foreshore erosion is proposed by Japan to enable the making of short term measures for coastal erosion. The project Eco-technical Management of Tuvalu against Sea Level Rise is aimed at (1) Assessment of ecosystem coastal erosion and protection/rehabilitation of damaged areas (2) make a plan on sustainable measures for coastal protection/rehabilitation and (3) strengthen the capacity of institutions and community for coastal management. The project study was completed in 2010 and it recommended constructing beach nourishment of grained gravel on Funafuti atoll coastline estimated to complete by 2020.

Target 7B: Reduce biodiversity loss achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss. A significant reduction in biodiversity loss is considered to have been achieved. The ratio of protected areas on land and sea to total land and sea (including inland water areas) areas has increased significantly since the mid-1990s. With the setting up of the first Conservation area on Funafuti in 1996, followed by the enabling of the Conservation Act in 1999, all the island governments set up their own Conservation areas and management plans to protect terrestrial and marine species on their islands.

Tuvalu approved its own National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP) in 2010 although it signed the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992 and ratified it in 2002. The report to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in 2009 noted that threats to the environment in Tuvalu arises from deleterious human actions and negative attitude which results in littering, over fishing and hunting, ignorance and climate change.

Target 7C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. This target is potentially achievable as the proportion of the population using and improved water source has increased steadily from 90.5% in 1991 to 97.6% in 2007 and even higher by 2012. The same trend holds for improvements in the use of sanitation facility where 80.7% of the population had access to improved sanitation facilities by 2007.

On Funafuti some 29 million litres of water is held in water cisterns which lasts the population some 13 days if water is rationed at 50 litres per head per day. Double the ration and the water will lasts for just a week. On the outer islands their storage capacity is 9.3 million litres and given their average residential population, water can through drought periods last them 129 days at 50 litres per head per day or 64 litres at double the per litre ration.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

Target 8A: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. It includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally. Tuvalu is committed to good governance.

Tuvalu is an independent monarchy with a west-minister form of government. The national Constitution promotes liberal democracy, the UN Human Rights Charter including the protection of the right to private property and commercial trade. Since independence in 1978 Tuvalu has aspired for a better standard of living for its people and with the help of friends has invested heavily in the education and training of its human as well as economic capital and infrastructure. Poverty reduction is a central concern and both RTKII and MDG feature this as deliberate policy objective.

Tuvalu believes in a non-discriminatory foreign policy and has adopted a friend-to-all foreign policy since 2011. It has established formal diplomatic relations with 100 countries so far and continuing until it has relations with the 190 member countries of the United Nations.

Target 8B: Address the special needs of the less developed countries.

Tuvalu has occasionally afforded to send cash gifts to other Pacific islands and beyond the Pacific that suffered from natural disasters like cyclones, earthquakes and volcanic disruptions, tsunamis and others.

Target 8C: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing states. Tuvalu has occasionally send cash gifts to other Pacific islands and beyond the Pacific that suffered from natural disasters like cyclones, earthquakes and volcanic disruptions, tsunamis and others.

Target 8D: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term. The national debt consists of government foreign and domestic debt in the NBT. There is no private debt. The level of debt benchmarked in TKII to be no more than 30% of GDP has been achieved. The economy is capable of sustaining debt at this level.

Target 8E In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries: Tuvalu, Kiribati, Nauru and Fiji bulk purchase their drugs from pharmaceutical companies in NZ, Australia and India. The World Health Organization (WHO) provide free drugs for TB and HIV/AIDS under the Global Drug Facility and Global Fund respectively. Free contraceptives is provided by UNFPA over the years.

Target 8F: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benerits of new technologies, especially information and communications. Telephones, cellular and internet usage has increased a little only since their introduction with affordability of the service to users being the main determinant of usage. According to SPC and PRISM website 3.79% of the population in 1991 used telephones and this increased to 4.67% in 2009. 39% of households on Funafuti have telephones compared to 8.7% on outer islands.

Mobile phones were first introduced in 2003 and by 2010 there were 837 connections and growth appears to depend on affordability.

Internet arrived in Tuvalu in 1998 and by 2010, 43% of the population were using internet according to the Tuvalu Telecommunication Company (TTC) although there were just 9% subscribers. TTC estimate that there are 24 active subscribers to Sky TV, the sole TV service provider.

A new radio station funded by Japan was opened in 2013 and is on-air transmitting Radio Tuvalu to the world.

Mauritius Strategy of Implementation and the Barbados Programme of Action .

An assessment of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI) and the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) was undertaken to determine how much Tuvalu has achieved since the Mauritius International Meeting in 2005. The assessment report was submitted to a Review Meeting in 2010 on the Assessment of the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Actions for Small Islands Developing States, and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the BPOA. The assessment found that while significant progress has been achieved, implementation is hampered by several cross-cutting challenges, chief amongst which are, but not necessarily in any order of priority, as follows

- i. Lack of knowledge: there is an acute lack of knowledge of SD principles and the inter-linkages between Tuvalu NSDS needs, and regional and international SD processes together with their undertakings for SIDS like Tuvalu. Except for the MDGs process, most of the people interviewed were unaware of the Agenda21, BPOA, Monterrey Consensus, WSSD/JPOA, Brussels POA, and MSI processes, and their inter-linkages to other relevant processes like the Pacific Plan.
- ii. International relations for inter-linkages to NSDS are crucial: Tuvalu joined the UN and formally the Commonwealth in 2000, but there exists a great need to strengthen the management and coordination of Tuvalu foreign relations to enhance the development of partnerships, based on mutual understanding and appreciation.
- iii. Communications is crucial for clarity, coordination and monitoring. However, within GOT agencies there is a need for better communications systems, as well as with island communities, and members of civil society. Infrastructure is lacking and so is publicity material in Tuvaluan language – TKII, the ‘national’ strategy, has not been translated into Tuvaluan language.
- iv. Participation of civil society in SD consultations, planning and implementation has improved, but needs to be properly systematized. For example, in the annual budget preparation, there is no participatory process to involve local communities and civil society in the identification, planning and formulation, and implementation of projects and programmes. There is also a point of separating the ‘wants’ from the ‘needs’. And, despite the concentration of the majority working population on Funafuti, there

is no process for civil servants individually to participate and contribute in policy and legislation formulations.

- v. Integration of regional and international SD programmes into national policies to some extent has been achieved through TKII NSDS. More needs to be done. But there appears to have been no integration of MSI into regional and multilateral SD strategies despite UNGA Resolutions (Res 59/311 of July 2005 and 60/194 of 22 December 2005) to mainstream the MSI on SIDS into all UN agencies programmes activities, with dedicated SIDS focal points of contact.
- vi. There is a need for better coordination mechanisms to facilitate coordinated implementation of SD programmes, projects, and national budgets and policies.
- vii. Evaluation and monitoring systems together with measurable indicators at national level are lacking. At regional and international level, there is also a need to dedicate special bodies with SIDS close involvement in the evaluation and monitoring processes. For example in the UN/CSD process, a working group on SIDS should be established to monitor and evaluate progress of implementation and report to the CSD and UNGA. Experts from SIDS should lead.
- viii. Data collection, analysis and dissemination needs to be improved to better inform policy and actions. The Statistical Division is exerting all efforts, but each line Ministry and Department should also be encouraged to develop own internal database, to be systematically incorporated into national statistics. Regular publication of these is crucial. There is severe limitation of resources to improve human, technological, and financial capacities in Tuvalu. Despite all the rhetoric's on the 'special case' and unique vulnerabilities of Tuvalu, this has not been matched with actions on the ground in Tuvalu.

Te Kakeega II

Delegates at the National Summit on Sustainable Development in 2004 produced a very clear set of strategic directions the nation should take, based on the issues that are considered to be (and are) national priorities. The NSSD defined eight strategic areas (or sectors) setting out broad priorities for development over the next ten years. The Eight Strategic Areas are as follows:

1. *Good Governance.*

Inspired leadership, as well as honesty, transparency and consistency in the application of the rule of law is a pre-condition for the other seven strategic areas to make a difference (i.e., to achieve the vision of Te Kakeega II).

2. *Macroeconomic Growth and Stability.*

Sound economic management, fiscal discipline, the right policy environment (fiscal, monetary, regulatory), strong and well managed institutions that offer a high standard of governance, a cost effective, efficient and customer oriented public sector, are but a few of the desired results to be achieved.

3. *Social Development: Health, Welfare, Youth, Gender, Housing, and Poverty Alleviation.*

Health and social welfare, including issues of nutrition, youth, gender, age and other special needs; good health and ensuring that the social and welfare needs of the various sections of society are catered for will help to ensure a stable social environment; HIV/AIDS, NCDs and hardship and poverty are emerging issues and need to be considered as potential threats to the achievement of the Vision.

4. *Outer Island and Falekaupule Development.*

The outer islands have always been regarded as the heart of the nation, however in the last decade the heart has become weaker as outer island populations have declined and production in the traditional subsistence economy has fallen. To counter this the Falekaupule Trust Fund was established and the challenge now is to identify strategies that will reverse the outward migration and falling output from the outer islands and to help ensure that the outer island economies are sustainable in the long term.

5. *Employment and Private Sector Development.*

Private sector development and employment creation, including in tourism, agriculture and fisheries; creating an environment in which economic opportunity is created forms the core of the strategic framework.

6. *Human Resource Development.*

Education, training and human resource development are essential to the achievement of each individual's own potential and aspirations; they are also central to the nation's ability to

achieve sustainable development. Education and training will target the skill and manpower demands in the different sectors of the economy.

7. Natural Resources: Agriculture, Fisheries, Tourism, and Environmental Management.

Agriculture, Fisheries, Tourism and Environment. The traditional structure of Tuvalu society and its subsistence economy have been built on the sustainable use of the nation's limited, but nevertheless valuable natural resources, and the conservation and careful exploitation of its fragile atoll ecosystems. These are now under threat from changing attitudes in society and from a continuously growing cash economy. With traditional subsistence production in decline, the challenge is to reconcile these conflicting factors to create sustainable growth and greater stability.

8. Infrastructure and Support Services.

Reliable, competitively priced economic infrastructure and utilities are an essential requirement for sustainable development. Without these supporting services it will be impossible to attract investment, create employment, new wealth and opportunities for the people. The strategies will put in place whatever support services are which needed provide the nation with a satisfactory quality of service at a reasonable price.

Cutting across the eight strategies are any number of important issues, for example: outer island depopulation and 22inalization of Funafuti; declining rural agricultural production, food security; increasing youth unemployment; nutrition and the incidence of non-communicable disease (NCD); the threat of HIV/AIDS; and the solutions to hardship and poverty experienced by many families. Good Governance. Inspired leadership, as well as honesty, transparency and consistency in the application of the rule of law is a pre-condition for the other seven strategic areas to make a difference (i.e., to achieve the vision of Te Kakeega II).

Moving Forward

Moving ahead on sustainable development in Tuvalu depends very much on getting the planning functions of monitoring and coordination of TKII working and getting ministries and sectors to implement the system recommended in TKII and RTKII. The system for tracking MDG works relatively better probably because its targets and measures are clearer; the membership of the MDG Task Force consists of people who actually work at the technical level in the MDG sectors and also because MDG is better financed.

Institutional Strengthening, Monitoring and Coordination

The Implementation Framework provided in TKII 2005-2015, that was also underscored by the mid-term review report 2011 is a reasonable system for managing, achieving and disseminating plan results. The framework is capable of making changes to TKII and sector/corporate and operational plans where adjustment is warranted by issues emerging

from the implementation experience. The framework has not worked and the view is mounting that it may not be a system that can work in Tuvalu.

Only a few ministries and departments have sector/corporate plans let alone annual operational plans such that it is difficult to see where progress is at a particular time. The uncertainty is exacerbated by the fact that there is niggling doubt in the public service as to who is responsible for monitoring and coordination of the TKII. The uncertainty is at the heart of the problem, of why monitoring and coordination are weak in Tuvalu as many observers have alluded to in the past.

Linking the higher needs of the country (TKII) through a maze of plans at different lower levels may be too complex for Tuvalu given the modest staff capacities. Plans and planning are for the purpose of letting us know what is supposed to be done, how much progress has been made and what adjustments (emerging policy) are needed as we move forward. These requirements can be equally satisfied by simply having a periodic review meeting of officers responsible for monitoring TKII priorities in various ministries and forwarding reports to the Development Coordinating Committee (DCC).

MDG Challenges and Opportunities

Tuvalu's experience in implementing the MDGs has revealed new challenges for which emerging policies and actions need to be taken in the following strategic areas.

1. Poverty in Tuvalu is assessed to be unachievable by 2015. While the problem can be addressed from many angles the easiest and certainly most common strategy in mixed market economies, is to increase employment both through augmenting existing work avenues such as the flagging seafarer market and seeking additional jobs abroad. Jobs in the domestic economy through small import substitution processing and light manufacturing can be increased through creating an environment favourable for private sector development. In countries like Tuvalu where the extended family culture is still dominant, any additional income through employment for instance has a wider distributional impact on people on the ground than in market economies.
2. The behavioural culture against female is being eroded and women are gaining on their male counterparts within the school system and making inroads into the traditionally male dominated job markets. GOT encourages changing the traditional value system that suppresses female and will ensure that the correct climate to grow gender equality is maintained.
3. While MDG 2 has been achieved the education sector will do well to focus on improving the quality of education of students. Several strategic priorities are provided for Education in the 2010/2011 Tuvalu MDG Progress Report. These include more investment in early education, greater access and use of information technology for pupils and teaching, a curriculum relevant to the countries needs, improving the enabling environment for learning, provision of education services for special needs students and improving the capacity of the Education division to monitor its plans.

4. Achieving the MDG 4 target of Reducing child mortality, allows us to look beyond and to further improve the effectiveness of activities under this Goal. The challenge is to invest in building the capacity of health personnel especially in servicing outer islands where there are no doctors. A second challenge is to improve and extend the immunization programme to other diseases like tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and polio. NGOs like the Tuvalu Family Health Association (TuFHA) and the Tuvalu Association of Non Government Organisation (TANGO) should be treated as development partners and allies, not rivals, for they are better integrated into the local community than the curative-leaning health system. These corrective strategies need resourcing and finance should be secured to implement them.
5. MDG 5: Improve maternal health: While mothers and children are reasonably well taken care of Family planning according to the 2010/11 assessment still has some unmet needs: More than half (54.7%) of women in marriage or consensual relations said in the DHS 2007 that they needed family planning for spacing out their children. The demand for family planning correlates positively with age and the Ministry of Health need to respond positively to these needs. There is anecdotal evidence of husbands or male partners in consensual relationship opposing the use family planning methods by their wives.
6. Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases: The challenges to be faced in halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS from this point forward to 2015 and beyond include:
 - Expand HIV/AIDS education program to Outer Islands and develop testing protocol for outer islands
 - Ensure the security and confidentiality of information rendered in voluntary counselling and testing (VCCT) processes
 - Continue support for those living with HIV (PLWH) to make them feel protected and confident to act as positive ambassadors to encourage greater uptake of testing and treatment
 - Strengthen HIV training for peer educators on stigma and discrimination and expand the same to other groups like parents and to outer islands as well
 - Revise the secondary school curriculum and train teachers to deliver the HIV/AIDS and STI curriculum
 - Since the mandatory testing for seafarers stopped in 2010, MOH to consider the legal and ethical implications of testing for HIV/AIDS beyond the most at risk population
 - Tuvalu National AIDS Committee (TuNAC) to continue to monitor sex workers and homosexuals
 - To tackle the incongruity between knowledge of prevention strategies for HIV/AIDS and continuance of high risk sex, the MOH will develop prevention plans for the specific needs of the high risk groups, also strategy for condom distribution and a national monitoring system to track promotion and distribution as well as a strategy to change the sex behaviour of society

The Gaps in Target 6C can be reduced by addressing the challenges that the implementation experience of the MOH have revealed. The following priorities were identified for implementation in the period leading up to 2015:

- Sustain and optimize the quality of DOTS and go beyond the target sets
 - Strengthen the health system
 - Ensure equitable access to high quality TB care for all people with TB
 - Refocus emphasis on preventive health service
7. Goal 7: Environment sustainability: The challenges and hence opportunities to resolve the challenges are many and GOT has approved the following strategies and priorities for the environment sector:
- Encourage addressing climate change through mainstreaming environment concerns into all sectors
 - Improve awareness programs on the relationship between human activities , climate change and sea level rise
 - Tuvalu should continue to realise its concern on climate change and sea level rise in the international arena
 - Improve international adaptation funding coordination and simplify processes to facilitate easy access to funding

For renewable energy as stated in the Tuvalu National Energy Policy, the following priorities:

- Promote and implement the use of appropriate, proven, affordable and cost effective renewable energy technologies, for both rural and urban areas
- Establish and maintain a knowledge base for all available and appropriate renewable energy sources and technologies
- Ensure Tuvalu's limited biomass, copra bio-fuel and other renewable energy resources are used efficiently, in an economically, environmentally and culturally sustainable manner
- Develop local expertise in the installation, operation, management and maintenance of technically and economically proven renewable energy system
- Develop partnership with potential foreign and local investors, donors and agencies in seeking funding sources for the development of renewable energy programs
- Develop and implementation plan to realize the target of 100% of electricity generation through renewable energy technologies by 2020

For the sustainable use of the ocean and coastal fish resources GOT has approved these priorities:

- Endorse and implement the Tuna Management and Development Plan (2011-2015) with the key focus to improve effective conservation and management of fisheries resources through: Ensuring clear, transparent and robust management policies and guidelines for settling and allocation of management limits, and processing or administering licensing and implementation of a robust licensing system that increases revenue
- Improve staff capacity to monitor and negotiate license agreements

- Formulate and implement a clear, coherent and integrated fishing sector development programme
- There is a need to undertake effective monitoring assessment of coastal fisheries resources, and to develop capacities in these areas
- National Fishing Laws are comprehensive but there is a need to promulgate more regulations to conserve and manage marine resources

Other priorities include

- Improve training at all levels of linkage between human activities and their effect on the environment
- Improve enforcement of environment and marine legislations

For reducing biodiversity loss, development of the water resources and improvement in urban management, GOT has proposed these policies:

- Improve knowledge of available water resources, demand and prediction of extreme events
- Increase water conservation and demand management strategies
- Improve household and communal rainwater storage
- Improve awareness and training on maintenance of gutters, roofs and storage tanks
- Strengthen the institution managing water resources by legislation of the Water Resources Act, training of personnel and better monitoring and coordination of the water resources
- Develop management plans for conservation areas that do not have them
- Conduct base line surveys to identify areas for new conservation areas
- Train of conservation areas, provide necessary equipment and funding for conservation activities
- Review EIA and enforce relevant legislation to ensure protection and conservation of biodiversity
- Conduct comprehensive inventory and assessment of all species; establish management plans for improving and restoring the status of threatened species
- Conduct economic evaluation of biodiversity and mainstream these values into the national policy framework and sector plans
- Develop an Urban Management Plan for Funafuti that can make land available for house construction and a Housing Authority to manage the provision of housing for all residents

8. MDG Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

Tuvalu's dependence on foreign aid and assistance is acute such that achieving the greater part of MDG depends on external aid. Over a third of the government annual budget is funded from foreign grants and capital formation is almost entirely funded by development partners. The Gross National Income (GNI) 75% higher than the Gross Domestic Product

(GDP) an indication of the greater use of external goods and services than domestic sources by Tuvalu. According to the IMF Tuvalu is the second recipient of aid (per capita) in the world.

The establishment and maintenance of good relations between Tuvalu and the rest of the countries in the world is a top priority of GOT. Already 100 out of 190 countries have diplomatic relations established with Tuvalu and the bridge building work continues at the Tuvalu's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mauritius Strategy of Implementation for the Barbados Programme of Action

For the MSI and BPOA, the way forward lay in tackling a number of cross-cutting issues that emerged from the implementation experience of the half a decade prior to 2010. These cross-cutting actions are listed below:

1. Strengthen knowledge of SD principles and inter-linkages between Tuvalu's SD needs as in TKII and relevant regional and multilateral agreements, through workshops, schools, educational programmes, radio and through publicized materials in the Tuvaluan language:
 - Assess and develop knowledge of SD principles and Tuvalu's social, environmental and economic vulnerabilities;
 - Promote understanding of environmental vulnerabilities index as they relate to Tuvalu.
2. Improve the management of foreign diplomatic relations, to:
 - better manage Tuvalu's Vote in the UN, linked to its SD needs;
 - strengthen the staff of Tuvalu Mission to the UN – closer to the CSD, UNDP, GEF, and UNGA – and strategize closer with Suva (FORSEC, SPC, SPREP and FFA);
 - encourage DFA to develop a list of Conventions to which Tuvalu is Party, and make available to all Ministries and members of civil society;
 - develop and update the Diplomatic List of countries and organizations;
 - better resource the DFA, to enhance capacity in MEAs, human rights, SD and UN SD and MDGs processes;
 - include topics on foreign relations and SD processes in any national development workshop.
3. Establish effective communications networks:
 - review communications systems to improve communications between Ministries and Departments, and with Tuvalu overseas diplomatic missions;
 - establish channels of communications between Government agencies, private sector and NGO's, and with the outer islands;
 - upgrade communications infrastructures in all islands;
 - establish focal points of contacts for SD in each Ministry.

4. Enhance further the participation of all people in SD:
 - allow civil servants on Funafuti and on outer islands chance to individually contribute in the formulation of policy and legislations;
 - support participation of all stakeholders and island communities in the identification, planning and implementation of national budgets.

5. Promote effective integration of the MSI:
 - encourage proper integration and mainstreaming of internationally agreed SD commitments into all NSDS sectoral plans and budget activities to ensure local ownership;
 - ensure mainstreaming of MSI into UN agencies and multilateral work programmes, including in bilateral and regional programmes, in line with UNGA Resolutions on SIDS;

6. Improve coordination:
 - rationalize the role and operations of the Development Coordination Committee (DCC);
 - consider the establishment of a national SD council with representation of all stakeholders to oversee NSDS implementation.

7. Support the monitoring and evaluation of implementation:
 - task national SD council to also monitor and evaluate the implementation of MSI and TKII, to report directly to Cabinet;
 - develop and agree on a list of indicators with timelines on implementation;
 - advocate for the establishment of a UN working group with SIDS experts to monitor and evaluate MSI implementation and report to CSD and UNGA each year.

8. Develop data collection and safekeeping systems:
 - require all Ministries and Departments to establish data collection in respective areas, and to synchronize with national accounts with the Department of Statistics;
 - coordinate sectoral data with national data;
 - publicise sectoral data on a regular basis both in English and Tuvaluan languages;
 - support 28inalization2828n of data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

9. Strengthen technological capacity through quality education and training:
 - improve educational standards in all schools by regulating standards and tuition;
 - expand educational opportunities through strengthening vocational training;
 - strengthen informal adults education, include females in Amatuku TMTI.

10. Improve financial capacity of Tuvalu:
 - re-launch TTF world campaign for new injections of capital – new partners;

- improve fiscal management and coordination of local spending to avoid duplications, and launch campaigns for more overseas jobs on ships, NZ, Australia and Guam/USA;
- promote income generating and expenditure cutting activities: copra, fishing, tourism, local food, and 29inalizat.
- advocate strongly at the UN for simplified access to new and adequate international and regional financial resources for SD in Tuvalu, in particular to fundings under the GEF;
- seek for special funding windows for Tuvalu given its ‘special case’, in line with UNGA Resolutions on SIDS in UNFCCC, UNEP, UNCBD, and GEF, etc, and seek for grants;
- establish special financial facilities with bilateral and multilateral partners, to cushion external financial shocks and adverse impacts – foreign exchange, transitional costs of trade liberalization, and hikes in food and fuel prices,
- advocate strongly for the upgrading of the UN presence in Tuvalu from a country programme manager to a residential representative level – as full UN member, it has full rights to the same level of UN presence in-country as other countries have.

Te Kakeega II

52. Te Kakeega II (TKII) Mid Term Review (MTR) was held from the 5th to the 8th October 2011 at the Tausoa Lima Falekaupule, Funafuti, Tuvalu. The Forum provided the opportunity for participants to review the progress and implementation of the TKII since 2005. More than 200 participants representing each island of Tuvalu, civil society organizations, NGOs, private sector and government participated in the TKII MTR. The Speaker of Parliament, the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers, Private Members of Parliament, Permanent Secretaries, Ambassadors of Tuvalu Missions abroad, Heads of Departments, and Tuvalu overseas expatriates also participated in the review. There were also representatives from our development partners who attended the forum as observers. The Tuvalu Governor General was present during the Opening and Closing ceremonies. Of the registered participants, 70 per cent of them were males with the remaining 30 per cent, females. All deliberations and discussions were broadcasted live on radio and also recorded on video.

52. This report highlights the key outcomes of the TKII MTR.

Overview

52. Participants expressed their concern on the targets of TKII which have not been achieved so far and encouraged the Government to ensure that the targets are achieved by 2015.

- 52. Participants also urged the private sector, non-government organization, Kaupules and island communities to strengthen their roles in achieving the objectives of the TKII.
- 52. Participants pledged their commitment to make every effort to achieve the TKII objectives by 2015 and challenged all stakeholders to help in the implementation of TKII strategies and to support each other in achieving TKII targets.
- 52. Participants agreed that all the TKII objectives and the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can be achieved by 2015 through renewed commitments, effective implementation, intensified collective action, and holistic and comprehensive approach by everyone and stakeholders at domestic, regional and international levels.

Strategic Area 1: Good Governance

7. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to continue maintaining and pursuing the principles of Good Governance with full respect to the provisions and requirements of the Tuvalu Constitution, Laws of Tuvalu and related regional and international agreements ratified by Tuvalu. They acknowledged that the principles of Good Governance are vital in achieving TKII objectives by 2015.

- 52. Participants recognized the importance of focusing efforts to identify conflicts between Tuvalu culture and customs, and the Falekaupule Act. They underlined the importance of setting up a Council of Chiefs, comprising of all island Chiefs of Tuvalu to maintain Tuvalu culture and to tackle current and new challenges and obstacles faced by Tuvalu.
- 52. Participants noted the progress made so far on the Strategic Area of Good Governance; however, they accepted the following goal, strategies and priorities to improve the achievement of TKII objectives;

Goal: Strengthen and develop the institutional capacity of the Tuvalu Public Sector

Strategy 1: Reform the Public Sector

Priorities

- a. Prepare and implement Operational Plans (Ops) for Ministries, departments and private enterprises. Ops to derive from TKII.
- b. Promote sound management principles and practices to deliver quality services.
- c. Review and implement government departments and services for 30inalization3030n and 30inalization30.
- d. Revive Public Service Reform Committee.

Strategy 2: Improve Fiscal Management

Priorities for improving fiscal management are under the chapter on Economy: Growth and Stability

Strategy 3: Strengthen Public Administration

Priorities

- e. Implement and enforce the Leadership Code as soon as possible.
- f. Establish Ombudsman Office.
- g. Strengthen Personnel Performance Appraisal process.
- h. Raise Parliament outreached programmes on Tuvalu Constitution, law making process and citizens' rights.
- i. Auditor General Office to carry out its statutory audit responsibilities.
- j. Increase public involvement in Government decision making.
- k. Review and strengthen international relations.
- l. Encourage private and independent media.
- m. Improve transparency and accountability and to draft a Procurement Guideline in line with regional and internal best practices.

Strategy 4: Improve and strengthen Public Enterprise Management

Priorities

- n. Strengthen Public Enterprises management training.
- o. Define clearly Government's Community Service Obligations (CSOs) and send to Public Enterprises for inclusion in Pes annual business plans.
- p. Produce routinely Operational/Business Plans, annual reports and audited accounts.
- q. Comply with provisions of the Public Enterprise Act on roles and responsibilities of Ministers and Boards.

Strategic Area 2: Economic Growth and Stability

- 52. Participants noted and welcomed progress made under the Strategic Area 2 of the TKII of Economic Growth and Stability; and recognized the importance of having a staple and improved economic growth for Tuvalu.
- 52. Participants noted Tuvalu's vulnerability to external forces such as most recent global financial crisis (GFC) and their impacts on Tuvalu foreign reserves, fishing licenses and other revenues from abroad, as well as domestic revenues. Participants also acknowledged and reiterated the need for development partners' increased assistance to Tuvalu during such periods.
- 52. Participants noted the importance and relevance of the concept of 'green economy' to Tuvalu's sustainable development efforts and urged all stakeholders and the Government in particular to pursue the principles of 'green growth'.

13. Participants acknowledged the importance and relevance of the Cairns Compact Review Report (Tuvalu Peer Review Report) recommendations for Tuvalu and urged the Government to implement these recommendations to assist in the achievement of TKII targets and the UN MDGs.

14. Participants recognized the importance of the private sector in expanding Tuvalu economy. They acknowledged the importance of promoting inclusive financial services, particularly microfinance including affordable and accessible credit to all segments of society and those who would not normally be served or are underserved by financial institutions.

15. Participants accepted the following goal, strategies and priorities to improve the achievement of TKII objectives;

Goal: Growth and Stability through sound macroeconomic management of the economy

Strategy 1: Strengthen Macroeconomic Management

Priorities

- a. Budget deficits equivalent to no more than 11% of GDP.
- b. CIF target minimum balance at 16% of TTF's maintained value.
- c. External debt equivalent to no more than 30% of GDP.
- d. Save windfall revenues (if any) in CIF.
- e. Redirect budgetary resources to chosen TKII key sectors of primary education, primary health care and employment oriented technical and vocational training.
- f. Increase share of Private Sector in GDP to 40%.
- g. External debt not to exceed 30% of GDP.
- h. Government subsidy to Public Enterprises not to exceed 5% of GDP.
- i. Implement Tuvalu-PIFS Peer Review recommendations.

Strategy 2: Improve and strengthen partnership and cooperation with development partners.

Priorities

- j. Review and strengthen international relations.
- k. Develop National Foreign Aid Policy.
- l. Change development partners' assistance to Tuvalu from project aid to budget support.
- m. Carefully explore and establish potential and trustful development partners.

Strategic Area 3: Social Development

16. Participants noted and welcomed progress made under the Strategic Area 3 of the TKII of Social Development. However, they stressed the importance of strengthening the overall

health systems to maintain provision of treatment and health care, expanding access to HIV/AIDS prevention and controlling communicable diseases such as TB.

17. Participants expressed their concern on the management and costs associated with Tuvalu Medical Treatment Scheme (TMTS) and the abuse of the scheme by both patients and management. They acknowledged there is more to be done in the area of preventable health through taxation of tobacco and alcohol and awareness in the community. They also acknowledged that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are a problem and a challenge to overcome in Tuvalu.

18. Participants emphasized the need to improve and increase opportunities for young people to gain access to productive employment and decent work through increased investment in youth employment, active labour-market support and public-private partnerships, as well as through the creation of enabling environments to facilitate the partnership of young people in labour markets.

19. Participants resolved to address issues with regard to housing, mainly land area for housing and availability of houses for civil servants. They also acknowledged the importance of reviewing the Building Code and its applicability to Tuvalu to ensure minimum impact on the people, especially the most vulnerable and poorest. Participants acknowledged the need to establish a Housing Authority to address housing issues.

20. Participants recognized that the respect for and promotion of human and women rights is an integral part of effective work towards achieving TKII objectives. They acknowledged the importance of empowering women through; inter alia, social and economic policies that guarantee their full and equal access to all levels of quality education and training and vocational training.

21. Participants acknowledged that there is much more to do for Tuvalu to be more competitive in regional and international sporting events; particularly the need for more financial resources to develop proper sports infrastructure and facilities.

22. Participants expressed their concern on Tuvalu's progress to meet its UN MDGs' poverty targets by 2015. They agreed that the root cause of this was due to the effects of the Global Economic Crisis on household remittances from overseas especially seafarers. They also noted the critical roles of the Government, development partners, private sector, and NGOs in working together to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

23. Participants accepted the following goal, strategies and priorities to improve the achievement of TKII objectives;

Goal: Provide Tuvaluans with the highest attainable standard of health, adequate accommodation and an active life free from hardship and gender discrimination.

Strategy 1: Highest health standard attainable.

Priorities

- a. Update and approve the Strategic Health Plan.
- b. Review the Tuvalu Medical Treatment Scheme and NZ Medical Scheme to improve its policies and to reduce costs.
- c. Develop the Health Infrastructure and Equipment Master Plan.
- d. Review the Health Workforce to assess the gaps in the supply and demand for health services in Tuvalu.
- e. Review working conditions of doctors and nurses.
- f. Execute routine health tours to outer islands.
- g. Participate in regional pharmaceutical Bulk Purchasing Scheme in the Pacific Plan.
- h. Provide society wide support for NCD and CD.
- i. Strengthen Family & Children's health services.
- j. Develop and implement Environment Health Policy.
- k. Develop and implement a National Oral Health Policy.

Strategy 2: Improve the welfare and opportunities available to youth.

Priorities

- l. Endorse the National Youth Policy by Cabinet.
- m. Develop and implement the Youth Operational Plan.
- n. Provide more training workshops for youths in HIV/AIDS and healthy lifestyles.
- o. Train youths in traditional knowledge skills through the TVET Programme.
- p. Provide additional facilities for youths in the outer islands.
- q. Provide micro-finance scheme for youth business.
- r. Increase youth involvement in churches and NGOs youth issues.

Strategy 3: Improve housing standards and availability.

Priorities

- s. Review, approve and enforce the National Building Code.
- t. Assess the possibility of establishing a Housing Authority.
- u. Review land leases under the Home Ownership scheme.
- v. Develop the Funafuti Urban Management Plan (FUMP).
- w. Provide adequate housing for civil servants.

Strategy 4: Promote gender equity and expand role of women in development.

Priorities

- x. Integrate gender and development, and women's role into the TKII implementation.
- y. Review land distribution laws to give custodian rights to women.
- z. Continue entrepreneurial training for women.

Strategy 5: Increase participation and opportunities to participate in sports.

Priorities

- aa. Tuvalu to join the International Olympic Committee, Federation of International Football Association (FIFA), and International Rugby Board (IRB) and others.

- bb. Provide more and better sporting facilities and equipment.

Strategy 6: Poverty and Hardship.

Priorities

- cc. Design and implement poverty alleviation policies.
- dd. Provide and increase assistance for poverty and hardship alleviation programmes.

Strategic Area 4: Falekaupule and Outer Islands Development

24. Participants noted and welcomed the progress made under Strategic Area 4 of the TKII of Falekaupule and Outer Island Development. They also acknowledged the importance of Ois development in achieving the overall targets of TKII.

25. Participants acknowledged Tuvalu culture and traditions and its role in achieving TKII objectives.

26. Participants emphasized the need to apply Good Governance principles in the Outer Islands' decision making process and the need to review the Falekaupule Act. They also expressed their concern over the lack of understanding and awareness in the Laws of Tuvalu among the people of Tuvalu.

27. Participants expressed their concern over the slow implementation of Ois development projects and the need to simplify processes. They acknowledged the importance of commercial projects in the Outer Islands in order to provide income opportunities. They also expressed their concern over waste management issues in the Outer Islands and water management and storage issues.

28. Participants encouraged Non-Government organizations such as the Red Cross, TANGO and TuFHA with Government partnership and support to expand social services in the Outer Islands and to improve access to all including disable people.

29. Participants accepted the following goal, strategies and priorities to improve the achievement of TKII objectives;

Goal: Provide quality public service and create more opportunities for the sustainable development of Outer Islands (Ois).

Strategy 1: Improve OI governance and community participation in development.

Priorities

- a. Encourage community participation in development process.
- b. Integrate modern and traditional governance institutions.
- c. Decentralise services (where feasible) to outer islands.
- d. Improve Community Fishing Centres (CFCs) operational strategy in the Ois.

- e. Provide training to Ois on management & integration business and cultural practices.
- f. Document and promote traditional knowledge and cultural expression.
- g. Do study on 36inalization process on Funafuti with a view to develop policy and the best way forward.
- h. Contract out more services to the community and the private sector.
- i. Offer business advisory services to businesses in the Ois.

Strategic Area 5: Employment and Private Sector Development

30. Participants noted and welcomed the progress made under Strategic Area 5 of the TKII of Employment and Private Sector Development. They also acknowledged the importance of the private sector in creating employment opportunities which lead to improved quality in standard of living for the people of Tuvalu.

31. Participants emphasized the need for the Government to intervene and provide an enabling environment that encourages entrepreneurship and business, especially small and medium-sized enterprises to thrive.

32. Participants also noted the important role of trade as an engine of growth and development.

33. Participants acknowledged Tuvalu's small market, limited natural base, expensive access to international markets and poor capacity for major investments as key constraints to expanding the private sector in the country. However, they accepted and proposed that these constraints shall not prevent national efforts and commitments in expanding private sector development in Tuvalu.

34. Participants accepted the following goal, strategies and priorities to improve the achievement of TKII objectives;

Goal: To be the engine of growth and development providing employment and commercially sustainable service.

Strategy 1: Improve enabling environment for private sector development.

Priorities

- a. Support foreign and domestic investment in economic and commercial development that creates domestic employment.
- b. Facilitate better access to market information for local business.
- c. Provide more affordable credit to private sector.
- d. Explore new job opportunities abroad including Australia and also for seafarers in Taiwan and Swire Shipping Company Hong Kong.
- e. Strengthen consumer protection.

- f. Calculate the value of private sector contribution to GDP each year.
- g. Consult private sector in re-developing a Tuvalu National Strategy for Private Sector Development.
- h. Produce annual business plans for businesses and lodge to the MFED.
- i. Provide just and fair business people onto government leased land.
- j. Provide training through workshop in business finance, management and accounting.
- k. Review Foreign Investment Act to reserve some sectors for businesses and investors.
- l. Carry out study of primary production options for private sector development in Tuvalu.

Strategy 2: Labour protection and rewards.

Priorities

- m. Review Labour and Employment legislation, and enforce labour protection, safety, minimum wages and compensation.

Strategic Area 6: Education and Human Resources

35. Participants noted and welcomed the progress made under Strategic Area 6 of the TKII of Education and Human Resources development. However, they noted and agreed to remove barriers, outside and within the education system, so as to provide equitable and learning opportunities for all children, since knowledge and education are key factors for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and for the achievements of TKII objectives.

36. Participants emphasized the need to improve the quality of education in order to improve results. This requires an increase in the number of qualified teachers and enhancing their quality through comprehensive policies that addresses issues of recruitment, training, retention, professional development, evaluation, employment and teaching conditions as well as status of teachers, through increased national capacity, and building more classrooms and improving materials of school infrastructure and quality and content of the curriculum.

37. Participants also acknowledged the importance of development partners and CROP agencies assistance in achieving TKII objectives for education.

38. Participants accepted the following goal, strategies and priorities to improve the achievement of TKII objectives;

Goal: Provide quality education that equips people with the knowledge, skills and attributes to achieve a higher degree of self-reliance in changing world and one that is consistent with Tuvalu's spiritual values.

Strategy 1: Improve teaching and learning.

Priorities

- a. Continue upgrading teachers' training and skills.
- b. Provide adequate classroom equipment and teaching materials and supplies to all schools.
- c. Continue maintenance of schools and upgrading of school facilities, staff housing, students' dormitories, and school kitchen.
- d. Review curriculum to better meet the needs of students and economy.
- e. Expand technical and vocational education and complete trials of TVET.
- f. Improve education and teaching in science, mathematics and computer Science.
- g. Provide adequate training infrastructure for Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute (TMTI).
- h. Carry out study to reorient TMTI to include officer level training in addition to seafarers' training.
- i. Continue training courses in culture, customs, and traditional skills in schools.
- j. Continue students' 38inalizati.

Strategy 2: Provide equal education opportunities for all

Priorities

- k. Increase Government support to all registered schools and training institutions.
- l. Provide special needs education for pre-schoolers, people with disabilities with support from NGOs.

Strategy 3: Improve management of the education system.

Priorities

- m. Continue the frequency and quality of school inspection.
- n. Continue certify and implement inspection recommendations.
- o. Government to support the EECE Policy.
- p. Continue consultation with the private sector better target teaching to the skills need of job market.
- q. Amend bonding policy for Government sponsored students.

Strategy 3: Improve Outer Islands educational development

Priorities

- r. Provide Ministry of Education with funding for technical and vocational education from Falekaupule Trust Fund (FTF).

Strategic Area 7: Natural Resources

39. Participants noted and welcomed the progress made under Strategic Area 7 of the TKII of Natural Resources.

40. Participants agreed on the value of increasing growth rate of agricultural productivity through promoting the development and dissemination of appropriate, affordable and sustainable agricultural technology and supporting agricultural research and innovation and extension services.

41. Participants emphasized the need to improve capacity-building in sustainable fisheries management as fish is an important source of revenue and protein for all Tuvaluans and essential component of food security.

42. Participants acknowledged the importance of maximizing the economic benefits of Tuvalu from its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the need for enhanced monitoring, control and surveillance of this EEZ.

43. Participants also recognized the valuable contribution of coastal fisheries and aquaculture to improve social and economic development.

44. Participants welcomed progress made by the Lands Department to address terrestrial and sea boundaries and enhancing the use of ICT to store and record all boundaries data. They expressed their concern over land boundaries issues and conflict that still exists in Tuvalu.

45. Participants welcomed and encouraged plans by the Department of Lands to draft a Land Use Plan and Policy to maximize the use of the limited land area on Tuvalu to improve social and economic development.

46. Participants welcomed progress made in Tourism in promoting Tuvalu during the China 2010 Expo and in the Japan 2005 Expo. They also welcomed progress being made to put Tuvalu tourism on the World Wide Web. Participants acknowledged challenges face by Tuvalu to expand tourism because of its location and high transportation costs including lack of tourism infrastructure.

47. Participants expressed their concern over long drought period which have increased intensity, including as a result of climate change, impeding progress towards sustainable development. Reducing vulnerabilities to the effects of climate change is a high priority and they call on the international community for assistance.

48. Participants also expressed their concern over waste management issues on and the need for the Government and development partners to intervene in addressing these issues.

49. Participants accepted the following goal, strategies and priorities to improve the achievement of TKII objectives;

Goal: Improve the management and use of natural resources for the sustainable development of Tuvalu.

Strategy 1: Increase production and consumption of local produce.

Priorities

- a. Expand and improve agricultural extension services.
- b. Provide basic agricultural tools and services.
- c. Assist local and private entrepreneurs to produce and market local produce.
- d. Assist providing more land for agricultural production.
- e. Incorporate more agricultural subjects into school curriculum.
- f. Secure more opportunities for agriculturalists training.

Strategy 2: Improve management of fisheries resources –inshore and EEZ

Priorities

- g. Review management of CFCs operations to reduce Government subsidies either through efficiency gains, transfer to Kaupule, 40inalization40 or closure.
- h. Operate NAFICOT under joint-venture and a new management/business plan and covers costs.
- i. Increase revenue from fishing licence.
- j. Formulate and implement Fisheries Sector Development Programme.
- k. Develop framework for domestic fishery for export and for the local market.

Strategy 3: Develop eco-tourism industry

Priorities

- l. Implement long standing recommendations for tourism sector.
- m. Privatise or lease out the Vaiaku Lagi Hotel.
- n. Support and develop new private sector tourism related enterprises.

Strategy 4: Stop unregulated development and degradation of the environment especially on Funafuti.

Priorities

- o. Improve waste management on Funafuti with development of urban waste management plan.
- p. Adopt, implement, and enforce multilateral environmental agreements including the Kyoto Protocol.
- q. Increase the number of conservation areas with assure regulatory compliance.
- r. Start and implement ‘Green Growth’ programmes.

Strategy 5: Define Tuvalu’s land and sea boundaries.

Priorities

- s. Complete baselines and median line work and 40inalization of archipelagic baselines.
- t. Complete Land use management plan and land assessment study.

Strategy 6: Improve governance in land administration

Priority

- u. Upgrade resources to improve governance in land administration in Tuvalu.

Strategic Area 8: Infrastructure and Support Services

50. Participants noted and welcomed the progress made under Strategic Area 8 of the TKII of Infrastructure and Support Services.

51. Participants stressed the importance of boat services to the islands and the need to improve boat harbors on each island.

52. Participants acknowledged strengthening partnerships at all levels both in the country, regional and international in order to close the large gaps that remain in accessing affordable ICT, which include the upgrading of the quality and quantity of existing telecommunication infrastructure and greatly increase connectivity.

Conclusion

Each of us knows what development is for us. It is when we try to realize our vision of development that we find we do not really know what development means. It's not that nature cannot supply our needs, not even because there is insufficient dollars around to push each person's per capita income in Tuvalu and indeed in the world, above the poverty line. How is it that the needs of future generations have taken precedent over the basic needs of 20% of people who are living now and next door to us. We must share even if that is beginning to be frowned upon in our culture as either a bribe or a weakness.

A higher level of economic and social development is possible for everyone currently living in Tuvalu and indeed in the entire world. The gross domestic product of Tuvalu and the combined GDP of the world is more than enough to give each living human being on the face of the earth at this moment an income far in excess of \$1 a day. The world can afford to make everyone rich and avoid poverty. Why this is yet to be, shows that we are basically weak, greed prone, corruptible and incapable of shackling-off the culture of self.

So it is to the 'self' in you that we look to for the sharing, that is so necessary and much awaited by millions. As we deliberate over these earth-shaking affairs in the various international gatherings, ask the 'self' in you whether it is to be or not to be. Then you can walk out of the Great Halls of Words either a happy man or sad one.

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