



Enhancing the Resilience of Pacific Island Countries through Conservation and Management of Forests and Tree Genetic Resources – Day 3

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SPC's ROLE.....



- **SPC (www.spc.int)**
 - Technical international organisation
 - 26 members (22 member countries + 4 founding members);
 - 9 major divisions;
 - Land Resources Division***
 - 4 programs (S.Plan:2013-17)
 - Forestry Team works under the Sustainable Land Management Program



Role of PITSC of SPC/LRD...



MAIN AIM:

assist forestry development in the Pacific region (22 member countries) through the sustainable conservation and effective use of tree genetic resources

Pacific Tree Seed Centre (PITSC)

- **Established:** 2013
- **Pacific Regional Tree Seed Centre** (Forest/Tree seeds only)
- **ACTIVITIES:** Safe exchange , Research, Capacity building/Training and Information Services for **priority tree species**



Regional Strategy and Action Plan on FGR Conservation and Management

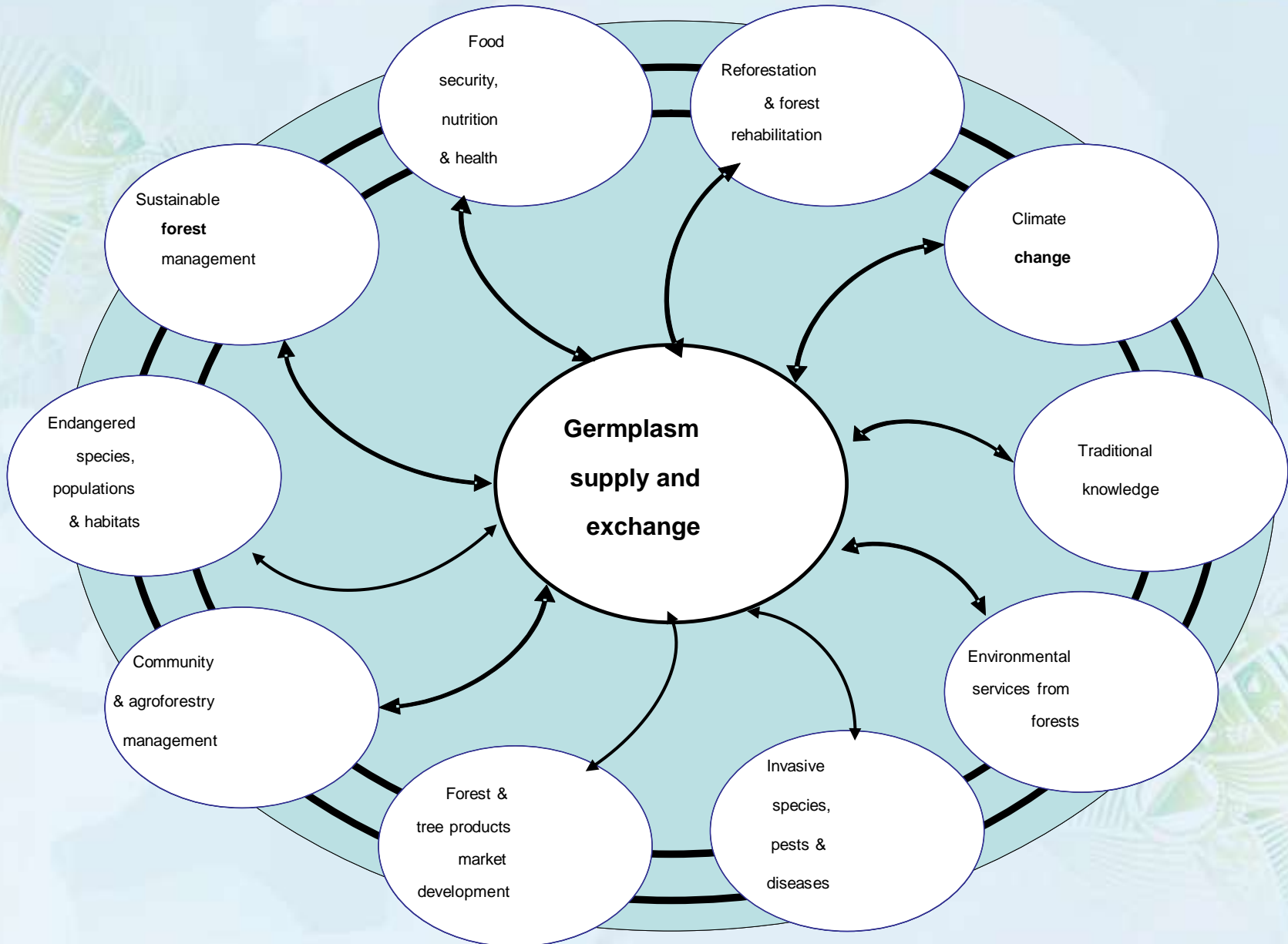


Vision

By 2020, the Pacific Island Countries and Territories are enjoying improved livelihoods, greater food security and increased environmental protection, resulting from enhanced collaboration and coordination within and between them in the conservation, management and sustainable utilisation of forest genetic resources, while maintaining their unique Pacific cultures



Research and Development Priorities and Strategies





Equipment Donated from JICA



Tree Seed Storage

- ❖ Walk-in seed cold storage

Laboratory Equipment for Tree Seed Research

- ❖ Seed Germination Cabinet, drying oven, balances, microscope, water distillation apparatus, etc.

Pacific Islands Tree Seed Centre



- Mainly Forestry/Tree species
- Biosecurity Approved Premises (BAF) for Imported Tree Seeds
- MTA developed for collection and exchange of germplasm in PICTs – 4 PICTs have signed

Common Name	Scientific Name	Origin
Mahogany	<i>S. macrophylla</i>	Honduras
Teak	<i>T. grandis</i>	Solomon Islands
Caribbean Pine	<i>P. Caribaea var. hondurensis</i>	Fiji
Vesi	<i>Intsia bijuga</i>	Fiji
Sandalwood	<i>S.yasi</i>	Fiji

Strengthening Capacities in Tree Seed Technologies in Pacific Island Countries (July 2011-June 2014) – CSIRO Project



Australian Government

AusAID

The three main aims of this project is to enable us to:

- work closely with key groups in the Pacific Island Countries e.g. forestry departments, quarantine & biosecurity personnel, to review and assess the relevant issues, risks and constraints which delay the efficient and safe movement of wild and improved tree germplasm between countries
- build capacities for improved governance and intra-governmental linkages to aid safe movement;
- make practical recommendations to minimise the problems



Country Trainings - Pictures



Solomon Islands



Tonga



Samoa



Papua New Guinea



Fiji



PITSC OPERATIONS MANUAL

- Prepared with the assistance of our colleagues from the Australian Tree Seed Centre, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
- Published end of May 2014 and distributed in the PICTs through our stakeholders
- Aim – to have all the countries in the Pacific using this manual to ensure that the quality of forest genetic resources exchanged is of good quality





Collaborative Research Activity - FFPRI



Research on improving *Calophyllum inophyllum*, especially on tolerance to cyclone strength winds





MOU with Royal Botanic Garden of Kew, England



Under the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership (MSBP)

The objective of this Agreement is to establish a framework for technical co-operation for the purposes of conserving forest biodiversity in the Pacific region with emphasis on sound and scientific tree seed technology



Main Issues and Challenges

- **Lack of Understanding of FGR**
 - *Access and benefit sharing (ABS)*
 - *Forest biodiversity*
 - *Economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits*
- **Regional cooperation** – willingness to exchange and share seeds
- **Biosecurity issues**
- **Lack of financial support**
- **Capacity building\training of SPC and national staff**
- **Research**
- **Monitoring and reporting**



Key to the Success of the Operation of the Regional Forest Tree Seed Centre

- Regional cooperation among member countries to share their genetic resources with other member countries. To date Fiji, PNG, Tonga and Vanuatu have signed the Material Transfer Agreement (MTA).
- Financial and technical support from international and regional partners of its operational and related activities



Vinaka!

Thank you!