



Pacific World Heritage Action Plan 2010-2015¹

Vision for 2015

We share a dream that our Pacific Islands' heritage is protected and enriched for future generations.

Preamble

We the people of the Pacific Islands offer a unique contribution to the World Heritage community, through the enormous wealth of cultural diversity, as well as of the island and marine biodiversity of our region, much of which is endemic, and covers one third of the earth's surface.

For us, indigeneity is inseparable from heritage. Our indigeneity has the following characteristics:

- Heritage in the Pacific defines our cultural identity and remains inseparable from our social, economic and environmental well-being, now and for future generations;
- Our heritage is holistic, embracing all life, both tangible and intangible, and is understood through our cultural traditions;

¹ This Action Plan for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Pacific in the period 2010-2015 was developed by Delegates of Pacific States Parties and territories at the World Heritage Regional Workshops of Cairns (Australia, October 2008) and Maupiti (French Polynesia, November 2009).

- There is an inseparable connection between the outstanding seascapes and landscapes in the Pacific Islands region, which are woven together by the rich cultural, historical and genealogical relationships of Pacific Island peoples;
- The region contains a series of spectacular and highly powerful spiritually-valued natural features and cultural places. These places are related to the origins of peoples, the land and sea, and other sacred stories;
- The Pacific is a region of distinct and diverse responses to oceanic environments;
- Protection of our heritage must be based on respect for and understanding and maintenance of the traditional cultural practices, indigenous knowledge and systems of land and sea tenure in the Pacific.

This extraordinary heritage, moreover, is often managed through traditional practices that reinforce the inseparable relationship between communities, cultures and environment that underpin sustainable development.

Noting our achievements since the creation of the Pacific World Heritage Action Plan 2004 – 2009, including:

- Twelve Pacific islands countries (out of fifteen) have ratified the Convention, including Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- Nine States Parties have submitted their Tentative Lists, including Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- Three properties from Pacific Small Islands State Parties are now inscribed on the World Heritage List, i.e. Kuk Early Agricultural Site, PNG; Chief Roi Mata's Domain, Vanuatu, in addition to East Rennell, Solomon Islands, which was inscribed in 1998.
- Four Properties from Pacific territories of non-Pacific State Parties are now inscribed on the World Heritage List, i.e. Lagoon of New Caledonia: Reef Diversity and Associated Ecosystem, France, in addition to Hawaiian Islands Volcanos, USA; Henderson Island, UK; Rapa Nui, Chile, which had been inscribed prior to 2004;
- A greatly increased awareness and understanding of the World Heritage Convention has been achieved;
- A regional network of heritage practitioners has been developed;
- A shared long-term vision on World Heritage for the region was established and communicated, through the so-called "Pacific Appeal"².

² The *Appeal to the World Heritage Committee from Pacific Island State Parties*, also known as the "Pacific Appeal", was developed by Pacific delegates at the February 2007 Pacific World Heritage workshop held at Waitetoko Marae (Tongariro) in New Zealand. It is annexed to Document WHC-07/31.COM/11C, accessible online from: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/31COM/documents/>

Common Challenges to the Pacific region

We recognise that the Pacific region continues to be the most under-represented region on the World Heritage List. In redressing this imbalance in representation and endeavouring to continue to build on the aforementioned achievements, the Pacific Island States face major challenges. These include:

- Limited awareness of Pacific cultural and natural heritage outside the region;
- Lack of adequate representation of the unique and special heritage of the Pacific on the World Heritage List;
- Large geographic area, isolation and resource limitations that restrict access to information and assistance and the ability of Pacific people to contribute to global forums;
- The character and scope of the UNESCO and the World Heritage Convention administration for the Pacific region, which masks some of the specific important national and regional heritage issues;
- Some people are represented by States Parties outside the region (UK, France, USA, Chile) which can limit their ability to have sites inscribed on the World Heritage List;
- Limited financial and human resources, skills and capacities within communities and institutions to adequately manage the region's cultural and natural heritage;
- A need for increased awareness within communities of the great value that World Heritage Convention contributes to the protection and vitality of cultural and biological diversity;
- Political instability and a lack of good governance, which are significant barriers to heritage conservation in general, and World Heritage implementation in particular;
- Greater external challenges and threats in the Pacific than in most other regions of the world, with less capacity to respond to their impacts. Examples of these external influences include climate change, financial instability, globalisation of society and economy, technological development, commercialisation, energy supply and demand, natural disasters and tourism growth;
- Climate change is of particular concern because the Pacific region is especially vulnerable to its impacts and faces many difficulties in adapting to and mitigating its effects;
- The impacts on the environment and resources (both tangible and intangible) are widespread and sometimes difficult to monitor (e.g. spread of pests and diseases), which can limit our ability to protect heritage;

Goal and Main Actions

In the face of these challenges, our goals are to strengthen the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Pacific Island region and increase local, regional and global awareness, recognition and support for the conservation of the unique cultural and natural heritage of the Pacific in a way that takes into account the traditions, aspirations, opportunities and challenges of its people.

With a view to attaining these goals, and keeping in mind the “Strategic Objectives” (the Five “Cs”)³ adopted by the World Heritage Committee, we have identified the following “Main Actions” as a framework for implementing the Convention in our region:

Main Actions

1. Encouraging dialogue between communities, agencies and organisations within and outside the Pacific region to identify, promote and protect the region’s outstanding cultural and natural heritage to the global community;
2. Enhancing local communities’ awareness of the benefits of preserving their cultural and natural heritage, and encouraging community participation (particularly by youth and women) in all stages of the World Heritage process.
3. Supporting successful nominations for representation on the World Heritage list, by increasing in-country capacity to identify suitable potential sites and prepare nomination dossiers that fully meet the requirements of the World Heritage Convention.
4. Increasing in-country capacity at all levels, inclusive of indigenous people to develop best practices, management plans and arrangements to ensure effective protection of Pacific heritage sites, in a way that takes into account and recognises traditional knowledge and conservation practices for land, air and sea.
5. Assisting in the development of in-country heritage expertise in the Pacific by supporting technical assistance, where requested, including the development of a network of partner institutions within the region capable of providing technical services in the area of heritage conservation in a coordinated and integrated way.
6. Building partnerships between communities, heritage agencies, regional organisations, educational institutions and non-government organisations in the region, including the promotion of multilateral, bilateral cooperation and twinning programs between World Heritage sites and countries of the Pacific and beyond.
7. Assisting communities to develop and implement environmentally sustainable economic growth through heritage-related enterprises
8. Sharing information and data bases related to heritage (through properly informed consensus), through regional strategies and communication networks that link island communities.
9. Supporting the development and implementation of effective policies and legislation for heritage by Governments in the region, including access and benefits sharing within the larger development portfolio.

³ See reference to the five Strategic Objectives in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (version January 2008), paragraphs 25 and 26, accessible online from: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/>

10. Establishing sustainable financing arrangements to support the effective conservation of Pacific heritage and building on other available funding sources and in-kind contributions.

11. Sustaining the ongoing consultative process by bringing together the representatives of the Pacific Islands States and Territories on a regular basis.

Specific and detailed activities to give concrete implementation to the above “Main Actions” - at regional and national level – have been identified by the Pacific Delegates at the Maupiti Workshop in November 2009, and are provided in the annexed table.

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Activities at regional level	Corresponding Main Action	Relevant Strategic Objectives					Initiative taken by:	Intended funding sources	States Parties concerned	Venue	Proposed timeframe	Implementation Status
		Credibility	Conservation	Capacity-building	Communication	Community						
Assess adequacy of existing sustainable tourism guidelines to protect and sustain natural and cultural heritage properties and if necessary develop new version adapted to Pacific context	2,3,4,6,7,10		2	1			Advisory Bodies	World Heritage Funds	ALL	ALL	2013	
Regional workshop to strengthen the capacities for small, low lying islands and atolls in identifying and responding to the impacts of climate change on their heritage places	4		2	1			SPC/ UNESCO Apia Office / UNESCO WHC					
Develop a pilot field program to identify the impacts of coastal erosion on archaeological sites on small, low lying islands to provide data for the development of a conservation kit for communities to identify, record, collect and conserve cultural material eroding from coastal archaeological sites. (linked to Roi Mata) (linked to UNESCO SandWatch Programme)	4		1				UNESCO Apia Office					
Sub-regional training workshop(s) on developing nominations and management plans.	3, 4, 5, 9	2	2	1			(World Heritage Centre / Apia Office / Australia ?)	World Heritage Fund and other	Solomon Islands; Others			
Sustainable funding mechanism - Revise draft feasibility study based on consultations in Maupiti and disseminate it to state parties for review together with proposed steps forward.	10	1	1	1	1	1	UNESCO Apia Office				2010	
Workshop on-site management - Managing sites with the local communities - exchange of experiences Workshop to share experiences on the integration of indigenous and other local communities in conservation strategies for heritage sites, focused on marine sites	1,2,4,5,6,7,8		2	1			Ministry of Heritage French Polynesia / Ministry Environment of New Caledonia	co-funding	Niue, Palau, Samoa, Rapa Nui, FSM, French Polynesia	French Polynesia	2010-2011	

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		Credibility	Conservation	Capacity-building	Communication	Community						
Develop regional network on local and Pacific-wide links of Marae Taputapuātea / Te Po Complex and the Marquesas archipelago through a research on sites connected, followed by a conference with neighboring countries to choose sites to be nominated and discuss how to manage them.	1,3,8	1	2		2	2	Ministry Heritage French Polynesia	co-funding	France, Hawaii and others		2010- 2011	
Polynesian Heritage Conference - WH Nominations in French Polynesia and sharing of knowledge amongst islands - tangible and intangible elements	2,6,8	1		2	2		Different Ministries of French Polynesia	co-funding	France, US, New Zealand, Chile and others	French Polynesia	2010- 2011	
Establish a regional dialogue to enhance links between the World Heritage Convention and the Convention for the Protection of the Intangible Cultural Heritage by establishing a project on traditional navigation and seafaring, canoe building and management of associated heritage places	1, 4, 8	2	2	2	1	2	UNESCO Apia Office				2002- 2015	Ongoing
Develop a 'plain language' publication for public use on the World Heritage Convention for translation by PICTS into local languages.	8			2	1		Cook Islands/ UNESCO Apia Office	Australia			2010- 2011	
Develop World Heritage educational material for communities and schools including the expansion of World Heritage in Young Hands Programme throughout the region and linking it to the Pacific Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Programme/ NB include Web 2.0 - interaction and exchange	1,2, 3,4, 5,8, 9						States Parties/ UNESCO Apia Office	World Heritage Funds	ALL	WHC and State Parties	2010- 2011	
Improving and extending communication between the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States in Apia and Pacific Island countries under non-Pacific sovereignties	1,2, 3,4, 6,8					1	UNESCO Apia Office	World Heritage Funds	ALL	World Heritage Centre	2010- 2015	

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Develop a Pacific Heritage Research program and plan that includes the identification of research themes relevant to the region to provide background material for trans-national, serial nominations	3	1					Aotearoa/ New Zealand/ UNESCO Apia Office					
Establish a Hub for Pacific Heritage to strengthen and increase communication networks, coordinate training opportunities and bring together donors and projects. The Hub would be based on the work of regionally based staff hosted by existing organizations and include a strong online component.	1, 2, 5, 8	2	2	2	1	2	UNESCO Apia Office / Australia	Australia	ALL		2010-2012	
Carry out exchanges and placements using the model implemented through the African World Heritage Fund for individuals involved in the development of nominations and management of World Heritage properties	5, 6		2	1			UNESCO Apia Office				2009-2015	
Establish a Pacific Heritage Academy to provide regional professional and vocational training in cultural and natural heritage management. The Academy should link to existing technical, academy and university education programs in the region. Models to be explored should include 'virtual' academy, locating the academy at USP with partner universities and agencies within and around the region, flexible unit and course delivery, providing both short term accredited intensive training opportunities, work placements and longer term professional education linked to undergraduate and post graduate tertiary education. The Academy will also include a regional mentoring program including exchanges and placements using the model implemented through the African World Heritage Fund for individuals involved in the development of nominations and management of World Heritage properties. Specific activities include: 1) the establishment of a steering committee with representatives from UNESCO Apia, SPC, ICOMOS Pasifika, PIMA, IUCN Oceania, SPREP (UNESCO Apia to follow up); 2) The establishment of terms of reference for a feasibility study (Steering committee). Models for the Academy. Commission a feasibility study (WHC); and 3) The review and implementation as appropriate of the recommendations of the feasibility study (steering committee).	3, 4, 5, 8		2	1	2		World Heritage Centre / UNESCO Apia Office / Australia	Australia (scoping study)	ALL		2010-2012	

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Actor	Activities at National Level	Corresponding "Main Actions"	Corresponding Strategic Objectives					Initiative taken by:	Intended funding sources	Heritage properties concerned	Venue	Proposed timeframe	Implementation Status
			Credibility	Conservation	Capacity-building	Communication	Community						
COOK ISLANDS	Submit Tentative List 1)Complete inventory of national sites 2)National workshop (5 days) inviting ICOMOS 3)Develp OUV statements 4)Draw up List and submit	3,4	1					Ministry of Culture	World Heritage Fund			2010	
	Establish a World Heritage web page 1)Establish a World Heritage web page on the Ministry of Culture website 2)Simplify World Heritage Convention and translate to Cook Islands Masi	1,2,8				1		Ministry of Culture	Ministry of Culture			2010	
	Undertake a public awareness program on World Heritage	2				1	2						
	Train staff on the Focal ministry in the World Heritage process 1)Investigate the development of an exchange programme for information/knowledge including through staff exchanges in NZ (Tongario) and AUS (Kakadu) with Cook Islands heritage managers (3-6 months) 2-4 people. 2)Investigate mentoring programmes using NZ and AUS heritage managers on a 2 weeks attachment to the Cook Islands.	3,4,5			1			Ministry of Culture	New Zealand, Australia, World Heritage Fund			2011-2013	
	Prepare a nomination for a trans-boundary cultural site	3,4	1					Ministry of Culture				2015	
FEDERATE STATES of MICRONESIA	Prepare and submit a nomination dossier (technical expertise / resources)	3	1										
	Undertake a comparative analysis to establish the OUV of Nan Madol and Lelu Ruins	3	1										
	Develop management plans for Nan Madol and Lelu Ruins	4		1									
	Workshop/training on preparing nomination and development of management plan		1	1	1	1	1	Samoa, UNESCO Apia, World Heritage Centre	World Heritage Fund			2010	

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			Credibility	Conservation	Capacity-building	Communication	Community						
FIJI	Preparing and submitting nomination for Levuka by 2010 1) Finalise the nomination dossier for Levuka 2) Review and comment on draft management plan 3) Complete legal statute framework for natural World Heritage policy	3	1					Department of Culture and Heritage/Australia, New Zealand, consultants	World Heritage Fund, Fiji Government			2010	
	Preparing and submitting nomination for 2 nd site 1) Review Tentative List for natural and cultural site by examining sites from cultural mapping and protected area committee inventories 2) National workshop - NGO's, Chiefs, Government 3) Provincial workshop X 3 Confederances 4) Government – sustainable development committee 5) National youth workshop	4	1		2			Department of Culture and Heritage/	World Heritage Fund, Fiji Government			2010	
	Seek technical advice on development of a legislative framework for National World Heritage policy	4,9										2009	
FRENCH POLYNESIA (FRANCE)	Site management workshop – managing sites with the local communities – exchanges of experiences.	1 2 4 5 6 7 8		2	1		2	Ministry of Heritage + Environment + New Caledonia	Co-funding			2010 – 2011	
	Survey of the cultural and natural sites of the Marquises Islands	1.3	1			2	2	Ministry of Heritage + Environment	Co-funding			2010 – 2011	
	Implementing a preliminary consultation process with all the concerned peoples for the inscription on the World Heritage List of two Polynesian heritage sites: Taputapuatea/ Te Pô, Opoa Valley and Marquises Islands	2, 6, 7			2	2	1						
	Polynesian heritage conference, World Heritage nomination in French Polynesia and the sharing of knowledge amongst islands, tangible and intangible elements	2,6 ,8	1				1	Ministry of Heritage	Co-funding			2010 - 2011	
	Structure regional Web on the links (local and Pacific-wide) of Marae Taputapua Tea	1,3 ,8	1			2		Ministry of Heritage	Co-funding			2010 – 2011	
	Investigate the possibility of holding a Pacific Heritage Workshop in a small island country (e.g. French Polynesia)	1, 11					1					2010	
HAWAII (USA)	Exchange indigenous technical expertise and monitoring program design among coral reef sites in the Pacific (New Caledonia, GBRMPA, PIPA, PMNM)	1,5 ,8, 10	1	1	1	1	1	NOAA, PIPA	Co-funding			2012	
	Seek partners to participate in World Sail (2012-2015) to continue voyaging traditions and connections among Pacific peoples and beyond	1,2					1	1	'Ohana Wa`a	Co-funding			2010-2013

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			Credibility	Conservation	Capacity-building	Communication	Community						
NEW CALEDONIA (FRANCE)	Share experiences and information with GBRMPA to share information on marine park management	4, 6		1				Australia & New Caledonia		GBR & NCR		2009	Ongoing
	Develop an inventory of terrestrial natural sites in New Caledonia	3	1					GIP-CEN	Internal & NGOs			2011	
	Seek external support to identify a national heritage list of potential World Heritage cultural sites in New Caledonia and WF	5	1					ICOMOS France, IUCN France, New Caledonia, PR, WF	New Caledonia		New Caledonia, WF	2011	Planned
	Share experiences in the integration of indigenous communities in development and implementation of management plans for World Heritage properties	1, 8		1			1	Australia & New Caledonia	SPREP, SPC, State Parties			2009	Ongoing
	Seek financial support and technical expertise for World Heritage from State Parties with external territories in the Pacific region				1	2		ICOMOS AUS, NC, France		New Caledonia	New Caledonia	2013	
	Share experiences and information with GBRMPA with an extension to Hawaii	4,6	1	1	1		1	New Caledonia steering committee	New Caledonia & AIUS				
NEW ZEALAND	Submit a nomination for a cultural property	3	1									Feb-10	
	Investigate the potential for a serial nomination with Pacific Island states		1										
	Assist the Cook Islands to ratify the World Heritage Convention by July 2009	5, 6	1										completed
NIUE	Financial assistance for Tentative List preparatory ground work	3,5	1					Department of Community Affairs	World Heritage Fund, GEF, UNDP, National Budget			2010	
	Capacity building through a visit by four national heritage committee members to undertake an observation tour to see sites in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands	4,6			1			Department of Community Affairs	World Heritage Fund, GEF, UNDP, National Budget			2012	
	Legislation to cover tangible/intangible cultural and natural heritage, plus policies and guidelines	9	1	1				Department of Community Affairs	World Heritage Fund, GEF, UNDP, National Budget			2010	
	Local workshops to increase awareness of heritage matters	2				1	1	Department of Community Affairs	World Heritage Fund, GEF, UNDP, National Budget			2013	
	Youth group familiarization tour to Tongariro heritage park in New Zealand	2, 4				1		Department of Community Affairs	World Heritage Fund, GEF, UNDP, National Budget			2011	

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			Credibility	Conservation	Capacity-building	Communication	Community						
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Initiate Education and Awareness Activities around sites on PNG's tentative list	3, 5			1	2							
	Develop a two-year mentorship project whereby a DEC Heritage Officer will, under guidance, undertake a management planning process aimed at fulfilling the World Heritage Committee's 2008 recommendations relating to the Kuk Early Agricultural Site.	2, 4, 5, 6, 9		1	1			PNG DEC with funding & mentorship support from DEWHA	DEWHA	Kuk Early Agr. Site	DEC, PNG, Kuk, Varirata National Park	2010-2012	Planned
	With funding assistance from National Stakeholders, DEC through Heritage Secretariat Office will facilitate for a consultant to be engaged to undertake and develop a Management Planning process aimed at fulfilling the World Heritage Management Committee's 2008 recommendations relating to the Management Plan for Kuk World Heritage Site.			1									
	Development of Institutional Arrangements for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention	5	1										
SAMOA	Conduct the comparative analysis for the 2 sites in the Tentative List to determine and confirm the OUVs for nomination process 1) Comparative analysis (natural and cultural) 2) National forum to present recommendations of OUVs of sites to all stakeholders 3) Archaeological study of sites by the national university of Samoa	3	1					Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment				2010	
	Conduct community consultations for all stakeholders (different levels – district, village, national) 1) Consultation with all village mayors, councils (chiefs – Alii me Faipule) and community groups 2) National consultation to confirm views/comments from communities etc. and to present Samoa's nomination and the process of community	2,3, 4,6, 9		2	2		1		World Heritage Fund			2010	
	In-country workshop on the nomination process 1) Preparation of management plans 2) What is involved in the nomination process	3.4	2	2	1				World Heritage Fund/ Australia			2010	

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			Credibility	Conservation	Capacity-building	Communication	Community						
SAMOA	Undertake a comparative analysis of natural values for the two tentative list sites to establish OUV	3,5	1										
	Hold an in-country workshop on preparation of the nomination dossier	3	2		1								
	Hold an in-country workshop on preparation of a management plan	4		2	1								
	Develop WH awareness materials for schools and communities	5				1	2						
SOLOMON ISLANDS	Completion of periodic report on the conservation state of East Rennell World Heritage site, and Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Values	1,2,3,9	1	1	1		1	National commission	National and DEWHA			2010	
	Compile a comprehensive cultural site Data-base	2,3,4,5,8,9	1	1	1	1	1	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	National and World Heritage Fund			2014	
	Establish national and provincial legislation for protection of cultural and natural heritage, including policy frameworks, processes and regulations	9		1				MCT, MECM, RenBel Prov	National, WWF, POWPA, DEWHA			2013	
	World Heritage & Protected Area Governance strengthening at tri levels (National, Provincial, East Rennell community)			2	1		2	Nat. Com.MCT, MECM, RenBel Prov, East Rennell	DEWHA			2013	
	Promotion of heritage through national, provincial and local tourism & marketing plans						1	Nat. Com, MCT, MECM, RenBel Prov, East Rennell	DEWHA			2013	



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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TONGA	Build a strategic plan for culture and national cultural policy	2,4,6,7,8		1				Min. stry of Education and Culture, Tonga Tradition, SPC	Local and World Heritage Fund			2011	
	Develop management plans for heritage sites	2,6,7,9		1	1	1	1	Ministry of Education and Culture, Tonga Tradition committee, Communities				2012	
	Establish a national register of sites and surveys	1,2,6,7		1	1	1	1	Ministry of Education and Culture, Tonga Tradition				2013	
	Seek technical and financial assistance for the development of a nomination of cultural sites	3	1					Australia				2010	Ongoing
	Seek technical and financial assistance for the development of a protective mechanism for the whale sanctuary	4		1									Ongoing
TUVALU	Create World Heritage awareness and educational materials for communities	2				2	1						
	Hold a training workshop in World Heritage for government agencies involved in cultural and natural heritage	5			1								
	Prepare a nomination for a site on the tentative list	3	1										
VANUATU	Strengthen capacity of State Party to implement the World Heritage Convention	2			1								
	Develop a National Heritage Action Plan (technical assistance)	4		1									
	Heritage and tourism training for World Heritage site managers	7			1								
	Assistance for the development of the Roi Mata Cultural Tour to improve income generation	7		2			1		Australia			2010	