

Transition from sectoral to integrated approaches relative to the conservation and sustainable use of environment goods and services

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Supports efforts to advocate science-based policies and mainstreaming integrated [land-sea connectivity] approaches to land, water, forest, agriculture, biodiversity, and coastal/ ocean resource management; and

Thereby, significantly contributing to the vision of “maintained and enhanced ecosystem goods and services” from landscape-seascape continuum that help reduce poverty, sustain livelihoods and build up climate resilience.”

Hereby, request consideration of the following points during discussion and drafting of the next revised and new “Tuvalu National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD).”

1. Effective integration and mainstreaming of ridge to reef landscape-seascape management approaches operate within defined natural and/or governance boundaries in collaboration with and buy-ins of local stakeholders, communities and decision makers alike, as they jointly plan, design, and manage their institutional and environment and natural resources in delineated landscape-seascape continuum.
2. A delineated ridge to reef landscape-seascape continuum provides a unit where integration, complementation, and collaborative efforts could harness and mobilize resources to achieve targets associated with biodiversity, climate change adaptation, climate change mitigation, land degradation, sustainable forest management, and international waters.
3. The landscape-seascape connectivity and management processes must be science-based, simple, replicable, socially- and culturally acceptable, and adaptable in a dominant landscape-seascape continuum in Tuvalu, thereby transitioning away from sectoral approaches for the following reasons.
 - a. Sectoral (e.g. seabed mining, agriculture, fisheries, biodiversity) approaches in a landscape-seascape ridge to reef continuum only exacerbate the negative externalities of land and resource use decisions and actions that may deplete or contaminate common property resources (lagoons, underground and freshwater, fishing grounds).
 - b. Sectoral approaches also tend to marginalize collective efforts to protect, regulate, and manage the landscape-seascape as the “sources and suppliers” of ecosystem goods and services for human wellbeing.
 - c. Sectoral approaches in a landscape-seascape technological continuum may, in the long term, endanger economic growth, sustainable development, good governance, stability, security, and resiliency.
4. That said, as negotiated and documented in UN resolutions, Tuvalu and PICs remain a ‘special case’ with own unique characteristics and vulnerabilities. With a range of domestic priorities sector approaches often play significant roles ensuring national and economic security, and mere survival of local populations as impacted by extreme natural disasters including climate change.

5. While we recognise the fundamental benefits of holistic and integrated approaches, short term gains through agriculture and fisheries sectors maybe the only means of survival and security. Therefore, it is plausible that under dire circumstances, sector approaches may offer quick 'fixes' and solutions to dire circumstances considering the above-mentioned sectors being the top contributors to GDP of weak and vulnerable economy of Tuvalu.

6. Failing to agree choosing integration over sectoral approaches, an alternative approach is to consider a 'hybrid' between sectoral and multi-sectoral integrated approaches to land, water, agriculture, biodiversity, coastal and ocean resource management. This brief recognises best practices and lessons learned in favour of integrated approaches and not sectoral.

7. In conclusion, integration approaches to land, water, agriculture, biodiversity, and coastal/ ocean resource management to achieve the maintenance and enhancement of ecosystem goods and services from landscape-seascape connectivity to reduce poverty, sustain livelihoods and build up climate resilience. This is one important and cross-cutting area that can be considered in the new NSSD.