Workshop on National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS), New York, 4-5th May 2006

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Development Challenges Facing TONGA

• Hardship & poverty
• Governance
• Environmental concerns
• Social Issues
• Financial conditions (revenue base)
National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS)
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1. Current Status of NSDS in Tonga?
   - National Strategic Development Plan 8

   ‘...Looking to the future building on the past ...’

   ‘Vakai ki he kaha’u, makatuunga ‘i he kuo hili’

2. What does Tonga hope to achieve with the NSDS?

   ‘Creating a better society in which all Tongans enjoy higher living standards & a better quality of life through good governance, equitable & environmentally sustainable private sector led growth, improved education & health standards and cultural development’
National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS)

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3. Mechanism for broad participation of stakeholders?

- SDP8 process
- extensive national consultations
- regional & national summits
- regional plans & priorities

National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS)

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4. Major achievements/best practices?

Process
- interactive dialogue
- obtain participation
- political commitment to the process
- national ownership of process
- established partnership & relationship
National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS)
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4. major achievements/best practices? (con’t)

Strategies
- obtain political leadership & commitment to shared strategies (align budgetary & strategic priorities)
- pragmatic vision
- communication & dialogue on strategies
- development realistic strategies

Planning
- extensive dialogue/ consultation
- develop consultation & public awareness programme
- secure finance for consultation
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5. Main challenges?
- lack of enthusiasm from communities
- ensuring broad participation
- mobilising resources
- linking national & local priorities
- adequate data & access to information
- priority setting
- cross cultural & spiritual dimension
- invigorate commitment

5. Main challenges? (con’t)
- utilisation of existing structure
- sustain commitment & dedication spearheading team
- linking national strategies & sectoral plans and strategies (medium/long run)
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6. Next Step?

- Translating concept of sustainable development into working practices
- Financing & capacity building
- Monitoring process

Lessons Learnt from SD P8 Process
Formulating strategies

- realistic and build on existing strategies & processing, instead of adding unnecessary layers
- set realistic and monitorable targets linked to clear budgetary priorities
- identify priority capacity development needs
- build in continuous monitoring and improvement from the outset
- Clearly define and communicate, roles and relationships of key participants in the strategy process;
- COMMUNICATION and raising awareness