

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

TONGA



Development Challenges Facing TONGA

- Hardship & poverty
- Governance
- Environmental concerns
- Social Issues
- Financial conditions (revenue base)

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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 '***

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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 '***

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3. Mechanism for broad participation of stakeholders ?

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

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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

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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

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4. major achievements/best practices ? (con't)

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

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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 SDP8 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