



FINAL OUTCOMES STATEMENT
13th Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation Meeting
5-9 July 2010
Apia, Samoa

Theme: "Natural Solutions to Environmental and Climate Change in the Pacific"

The Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) is a coalition of nature conservation and development organizations, governments, inter-government, donor agencies and community groups created to increase effective conservation action in the Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Region. It was formed in 1997 at the request of Pacific Island countries and territories. The forum enables those organizations working on nature conservation in the Pacific to improve their collaboration and coordination towards effective conservation action. It is the key coordination mechanism for the implementation of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Island Region 2008-2012. These are the final outcomes statement of their 13th Meeting which was held in Samoa 5-9 July, 2010.

The world is in a biodiversity crisis and facing unprecedented environmental and climate change. Together these issues threaten the ecological sustainability of Pacific societies. Even as the world celebrates the International Year of Biodiversity, findings from a recent global review indicate that nations have failed to meet the global 2010 target to halt the rate of loss of biodiversity. The 2008 – 2012 Action Strategy for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Island Region charts a 5 year course for concerted action to protect the species and ecosystems that form the foundation of Pacific culture and livelihoods. To develop a clear focus and identify specific actions for conservation under this Strategy, the members of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation convened a meeting in Apia, Samoa from 5 to 9 July 2010.

The theme of the 13th Roundtable was "Natural Solutions to Environmental and Climate Change in the Pacific". The theme stresses the critical role of biodiversity conservation and sustainability in helping our Pacific Island countries adapt to and mitigate the negative impacts of environmental and climate change. Environmental and climate change are the most serious threats to the health and economies of Pacific island nations and the future existence of Pacific island peoples. Investments in nature, in the form of the conservation and sustainable use of our terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, our plants and animals, are among the most effective ways of simultaneously addressing these threats.

We collectively recognize the increasing threats to the sustainability of island nations and cultures from natural disasters, climate change, habitat destruction, pollution, over-harvesting, invasive species and the breakdown in our traditional and cultural knowledge as well as our agriculture and food systems. We also recognize that small islands nations are particularly

vulnerable to species loss and extinctions, loss of genetic diversity, and ecosystem change. For our Pacific communities, which are dependent on the environment for economic and cultural survival, loss of biodiversity means loss of the Pacific way of life.

Overwhelming evidence indicates that “natural solutions” that lead to the conservation and sustainable use of our island biodiversity are imperative to preparing ourselves for the uncertainties of environmental and climate change.

The time is critical to find creative and practical solutions through innovative programmes, funding and forging stronger partnerships to enable Pacific Island countries to protect this irreplaceable living inheritance.

The Roundtable recognizes:

- The important role of biodiversity in the process of building community and ecosystem resilience to environmental and climate change;
- The urgent need to identify the economic value that biodiversity and ecosystems contribute to health, food security, livelihoods and climate change adaptation in order to raise the profile of biodiversity conservation with Pacific Island decision makers;
- The need for improved and coordinated data and information to guide informed policy formulation and decision making;
- The importance of the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (POWPA) through support given to 9 Pacific countries brought together at this forum to share lessons learned and best practices;
- The value of integrating Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies into the Roundtable process, in particular the CROP Marine Working Group.

The Roundtable commits to:

- Continuing to work in Pacific Island Countries with National Governments and partner organizations to support the implementation of their National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAPS) and other related national strategies.
- Enhance coordination to address the challenge of threatened species conservation in the Pacific; and
- Supporting ongoing efforts to build local capacity towards the implementation of the conservation priorities in the region.
- Working together to form a unified "Pacific Voice" to share the Pacific experience and challenges at the CBD's 10th Conference of Parties meeting to be held in Japan in October

The Roundtable calls on:

- Pacific Island countries and donor partners to recognize the importance of appropriate investment in sustainable funding mechanisms that address the capacity required to manage our unique ecosystems and biodiversity;
- Climate Change adaptation funding to provide new opportunities for innovative approaches to financing natural solutions by investing in our natural infrastructure;

- Leadership of Pacific Island communities to act as stewards of their biodiversity resources as an important component to reduce the impacts of environmental and climate change;
- Pacific Island countries to commit to investing in natural solutions to reduce the impacts of environmental and climate change;
- Pacific Island Countries to recognize the negative impacts of invasive species on island ecosystems and to take the necessary actions to fund prevention, eradication and control; and
- Global investors to continue to support current collaborative, multi-country initiatives, including the: Coral Triangle Initiative for Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security; Micronesia Challenge; and emerging initiatives such as the Pacific Oceanscapes Framework and the Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge.

Lastly, the Roundtable wishes to acknowledge and express sincere appreciation to our hosts: the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); the Hon. Faumuina Titia Liuga, Minister of Meteorology, Natural Resources and Environment; and the Government of Samoa.

Additional Information

The Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation has a current membership of 14 organisations working across the Pacific. These are: the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), IUCN, WWF, University of the South Pacific (USP Conservation International (CI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) network, Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), RARE, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI), Birdlife International, Pacific Biodiversity Information Forum (PBIF) and SeaWeb.

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